

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Twelfth Session  
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, November 28, 2007/Agrahayana 7, 1829  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur) : Sir, I would like to raise an important issue. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All the issues are important; raise it at the proper time.

Q. No.181.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate. Wait for it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are so cooperative; you are a wonderful leader. Why are you doing it?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please wait. I will allow you after Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You only want to speak; you do not want to listen to the Speaker. I will allow you. In one hour, the issue will not become less important.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 181, Shri M. Anjan Kumar Yadav – not present.  
Shri Tukaram Ganpat Rao Renge Patil.

Recognition to Medical Colleges

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\*181 SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :  
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

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

(a) the number of complaints received against the decisions of the Medical Council of India regarding grant of recognition to private medical colleges, particularly in respect of the grant of recognition on the basis of false representations about the staff strength in those colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to streamline the procedure in this regard?

[English]

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

#### Statement

The Medical Council of India (MCI) carries out inspection of medical colleges as per the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, and Regulations made thereunder. Representations have been received against MCI in the matter of inspection and its recommendations in regard to grant of permission/recognition of degree. In some cases, it has been stated that permission/recognition has been given despite lack of faculty and there are other cases where it has been stated that though the faculty meets the requirements, they are not accepted by the MCI for grant of permission/recognition. The Central Government, however, takes decisions on the recommendations of the MCI after obtaining necessary clarifications/inputs from the MCI/institutions and, if necessary, getting it verified through its team of experts.

In order to ensure that teachers are submitting correct documents in regard to their qualifications and experience and are not employed in more than one institution, the MCI has introduced a system of Smart I.D. Card for the faculty in which important details like academic qualifications, registration particulars and teaching experience along with a thumb print and signature of teacher are embedded in the chip of the Card itself. The introduction of the system is likely to ensure correct strength of faculty and their qualification in various institutions.

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked in Question No.181 whether the medical colleges were required to meet the criterion of required staff and infrastructure laid down in the guidelines before grant of permission/recognition of degree by the Medical Council of India. But there are several such medical colleges in the country which have been recognized by the Medical Council of India (MCI) in spite of lack of required facilities and trained teaching staff. I have specifically asked the number of complaints received by the MCI in this regard but it has not been mentioned in the reply of the hon. Minister. My question is regarding to the specific number of complaints received by MCI in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Can we count them?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Every year, we get at least a few, may be 50, 60, or 70 complaints. There is no specificity of dates also. I would be happy to share with the hon. Member that some of these complaints, in fact all the complaints, we address to and some we send back to the Medical Council of India. For some complaints, we send our team. Then we call the institutions which have grievances on these issues. We take cognizance of almost all the complaints which come and we try to sort out these issues.

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir there are some colleges which have been granted recognition on the basis of wrong information and the names of those institutions have not been mentioned in the written reply. I want their names also.

MR. SPEAKER : Whose names do you want to know?

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL : The institutions which have been granted permission. . . .

MR. SPEAKER : How many names he will give.

[English]

You send the list to him. How can he give all the names!

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : The hon. Member has not asked the question about the colleges which have produced false information; he has asked about the number of complaints received. Anybody could make a complaint against any college. The list, definitely, I will be able to provide to the hon. Member. But when the issue is about complaints, it does not mean that it is only about faculty or infrastructure; there are other issues involved also in these complaints. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Some of these complaints are based on false statement of infrastructure or false statement of faculty. Some of the complaints say that faculty members work in two different colleges. A lot of such complaints have been received. We address each and every complaint. Sometimes we process it back to the Medical Council of India and still if the complaint persists, then we send our own team from the Government of India to go and verify. After taking due cognizance of that verification, we give the renewal or reject the renewal accordingly.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM : Sir, medical profession is considered to be a sacred one and a noble one but this nobility and sacredness are now being marketed.

Especially the private medical colleges are getting recognition by faculty means. They just put some colourful boards, there is no infrastructure at all within the college, the faculty members are not there, and the physical infrastructure is not there. In this situation, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister considers appointing a national level third party inquiry into the process or recognition given to these medical colleges.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, if you permit, I would like to enlighten the hon. Member about the process of recognition of a college. Firstly, they get the permission from the State Government, then they get affiliation of the local University and then they apply to the Government of India. We send compliance reports to the Medical Council of India. They go and inspect it, then they approve or reject it, they recommend it, and finally we give the permission.

The hon. Member is also partly right. Some of the complaints which we have got also prove to be right. These complaints say that faculty members are not there, there is no adequate bed strength, there is no patient care load, infrastructure and all these things. The inspectors of the Medical Council of India go and inspect and then they say that all these were rectified but when we send our inspectors it is on the contrary. A lot of on-going issues are there.

I also brought to the notice of the hon. Members in this august House about the functioning of the Medical Council of India. I have brought it about a number of times. We have been trying to have an amendment to the Medical Council Act for quite some time. It had gone to the Standing Committee and finally it had been recommended to the Government of India. We are processing it. We would have brought this amendment in this Session itself but this Session has been advanced. So, in the next Session of Parliament, we will be bringing a comprehensive Bill for amending the Medical Council Act so that there will be

more transparency, and there will be more responsibility and accountability to everybody, not only to the Government but to the general public as well.

In the meanwhile, we are also restructuring a lot of procedure. We are making a lot of changes in the regulations and rules as such to make it more transparent as well as to make it easier in some of the difficult areas like the North-East and the National Rural Health Mission areas such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. There is a lack of medical colleges in these areas. We are definitely trying to have a comprehensive policy. We are trying our best to streamline it and make it more functional.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Many students from America are coming and studying in our medical colleges. That goes to prove that the standard of medical education in India is very high. We must appreciate the efforts taken up by the Medical Council of India.

When you compare the Dental Council of India with the Medical Council of India and also when you see the Anil Dev Singh Committee Report, you will find that the Dental Council of India is not doing well.

Here, I would like to mention about the Manipal Academy of Higher Education. In one campus, two medical colleges are there. This is against the Act of Parliament and against the law. The Medical Council of India has given its Report, and the Government has given its permission to go ahead. How do you justify that your actions are correct?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I do not want to compare the Dental Council of India with the Medical Council of India. We are in the process of restructuring all the Councils. As soon I joined, the hon. Prime Minister called me and said that he had also been hearing a lot of complaints, and he had asked me to rectify it, clean it up and make it transparent, rational and workable.

Sir, the hon. Member has said about the Manipal College. It is one of the oldest colleges, it is a reputed

college and it has a lot of reputation. The Councils have their right to go and inspect the college at any point of time, even after recognition. Recognition process is up to nearly about five and a half years. When the first batch of MBBS students pass out in the final year, after that the college is recognised. Till such time, each year, the Council goes for renewal of inspection. After the recognition, at any point of time if the Council or the Government feel that the college is not following the procedures, they can go and have an inspection as such.

In one such inspection of Manipal Medical College, it was found that there were some minor deficiencies, which we have written to them; and the State Government of Karnataka has also said that these deficiencies would be rectified. They also asked us to please permit it, and under the guidance of the State Government of Karnataka, we have permitted it. But there are still some deficiencies, which they said that they would comply with it.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Medical Council of India carries out inspection and other related works in respect of private medical colleges but it has been observed that the students are subjected to pay hefty fees. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any criteria have been laid down regarding the fees.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I am sorry, I could not follow his question.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you asking about the norms for students for admission in the Medical Colleges?

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : This does not come under the main Question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, he is asking about the norms for admission.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Private medical colleges are charging hefty fees. Some norms should be laid down in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the issue about both the fee structures as well as the admission procedures, has been going on for quite some time, and then it had been taken to the hon. courts. The judiciary had intervened and finally said to set up committees in each respective States under the Chairmanship of retired Judges. So, a lot of Committees were set up in different States. These Committees were represented by these individual institutions. According to the infrastructure, capacity and expenses in the individual institutions, they were categorized; and the fees were graded for each different institutions in different States.

Sir, along with the HRD Ministry, we, in the Health Ministry, are also trying to bring in a comprehensive law to regulate the fee structures as well as the admission procedures. In due course, we would be bringing it. But till such time, these committees put up by each different State Governments, are responsible for fixing the fee structures of individual institutions. It varies from institutions to institutions, and States to States according to the facilities they have.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri C.K. Chandrappan.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, Q. No. 182.

#### Millennium Development Goals

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\*182. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN :

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the salient features of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the progress made so far in the

execution of the stated goals and the achievements made so far particularly in regard to access to sanitation and safe drinking water by the people; and

(b) the efforts made/proposed to be made by the Government to achieve the targets outlined in the MDGs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) The Millennium Declaration adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2000 adopted achievement of 8 development goals by 2015. The eight goals are as under.

- MDG 1 : Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- MDG 2 : Achieve universal primary education;
- MDG 3 : Promote gender equality and empower women;
- MDG 4 : Reduce child mortality;
- MDG 5 : Improve maternal health;
- MDG 6 : Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- MDG 7 : Ensure environmental sustainability; and
- MDG 8 : Develop a global partnership for development.

These are goals pledged by 189 Heads of States to adopt measures in the fight against poverty, hunger, illiteracy, gender inequality, disease and environmental degradation. The eight goals are divided into 18 targets comprising 48 indicators.

The achievements with regard to various goals for India are given below:

Goal. 1 : As per Planning Commission estimates, the

poverty ratio declined from 36% in 1993-94 to 27.5 percent in 2004-05. Regarding hunger, according to Report of the NSSO entitled, "Perceived Adequacy of Food Consumption in Indian Households 2004-05", in the rural areas, the percentage of households where all the members reported enough food everyday throughout the year rose from 94.5% in 1993-94 to 97.4% in 2004-05. For urban areas the percentage of households who reported enough food everyday throughout the year increased from 98.1% in 1993-94 to 99.4% in 2004-05.

Goal. 2 : The number of out of school children declined from 32 million in 2001-02 to 7.1 million in 2005-06. The literacy rate increased from 52.2% in 1991 to 64.9% in 2001. The gross enrolment ratio in primary education crossed 100 % mark for both boys and girls.

Goal. 3 : Female-male proportion in primary education improved from 71:100 in 1990-91 to 88:100 in 2004-05. Similar proportion in secondary education improved from 50:100 to 71:100 during the same period. The gross enrolment ratio of girls increased by nearly 20 percentage points in the period, 2000-01 to 2004-05.

Goal. 4 : Under five mortality rate (U5MR) declined from 125 deaths per thousand live births in 1988-92 to 98 in 1998-2002. The infant mortality rate (IMR) declined from 80 per thousand live births in 1990 to 58 in 2005.

Goal. 5 : The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declined from 407 per 100,000 live births in 1998 to 301 during 2001-03. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel increased from 33% in 1992-93 (National Family Health Survey -I (NFHS -I)) to 48.3% in 2005-06 (NFHS-III).

Goal. 6 : The prevalence of HIV among pregnant women declined from 0.74 per thousand pregnant women in 2002 to 0.68 in 2006. The death rate

associated with TB declined from 42 deaths per 100,000 population in 1990 to 29 in 2004. The prevalence of Malaria declined. The proportion of TB patients successfully treated increased from 81 per cent in 1996 to 86 per cent in 2005.

Goal. 7 : As per assessment made in 2003 the total land area under forests is 20.64%. The reserved and protected forests constitute 19% of the total land area. The percentage of households having access to safe drinking water (water supplied from a tap, hand-pump/tube-well) increased from 62.3% in 1991 to 78% in 2001. The proportion of households having toilet/bathroom facilities within the house increased from 23.7 per cent in 1991 to 36.1 per cent in 2001.

Goal. 8 : The overall tele-density increased from 2.86% in 2000 to 18.31% in March 2007. Use of personal computers increased from 5.4 million in 2001 to 19.6 million in 2006 and there are 3.5 internet users per 100 population in March 2006.

(b) The Government has not drawn any separate programme to meet the Millennium Development Goals. However, the Millennium Development Goals are quite similar to the objectives and targets laid down in the Five Year Plans. In fact, some of the targets as specified in the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan relating to poverty alleviation, infant mortality, maternal mortality, school enrolment, etc. are more ambitious than the ones specified in the Millennium Development Goals.

MR. SPEAKER : There should be a proper discussion on this issue instead of a Question. Okay, carry on.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, the Minister has given a very detailed statement. Probably, he is depicting a very shining picture of the achievement in regard to the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals.

But, Sir, yesterday, there was a Report published by the United Nations, UNDP and it does not share with the optimism expressed by the hon. Minister. Due to time constraint, I am not going into the details of this Report.

But it says that in several of the Millennium Development Goals' achievement, India is far behind, especially in relation to children, their nutrition standard and their educational achievement. In that Report, it is also said that half of the poverty in the world will be eliminated.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please put your Supplementary.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, the Government is saying something so rosy about the achievements whereas the United Nations is contradicting it in their Report, which has been published yesterday. So, I would like to ask the Minister why this contradiction, whether you are correct or whether the United Nations' Report is correct.

MR. SPEAKER : How can you say that he is incorrect?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : But then this is what the United Nations is saying.

MR. SPEAKER : Very well, already we have found a comment in today's newspapers.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : The parameter for the Human Development Index Report which has been published by the UNDP is quite different from the Millennium Development Goals. Sir, if you look at the achievements which our Government has made for the last three years, the figures are very much revealing. It is not just the shining of the NDA Government. This is the shining of the UPA Government. If you take the various figures. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have mentioned the details in the written answer.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Most of the goals and targets for the Millennium Development Goals have been internalised in our development process for a long time. Most of the goals and targets mentioned in the Millennium Development Goals get reflected in the various Five Year Plans prepared by the Planning Commission. While some of the targets are expectedly specified in quantitative terms, mention has been made about other qualitative

terms. In fact, for certain targets mentioned in the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan are more ambitious than the goals and targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, I am very sorry that the Minister failed to answer the question at least to my satisfaction. I do not know whether you are satisfied. Now, the point is that if India is taken in Human Development Index, we are gradually going down. There is an Arjun Sengupta Commission Report published recently, and the Report says that—I need not quote the statistics—out of 35 crores of Indian unorganized workers, 83 per cent of the people of that sector is living with a meagre income of Rs. 8 or Rs. 20. The Millennium Development Goal is to uplift those people who are getting less than a dollar income. They should be developed to a stage where they are much better than that. Here, Arjun Sengupta says that most of the Indian unorganized people are living not even with one dollar income. So, when that is the case, how can we believe in these rosy pictures depicted by the Government?

I would like to ask another thing. The *Forbes* magazine published the World's Millionaire Report and India is quite successful in achieving its number in producing millionnaires. They even claim that our four billionnaires will be even bigger than the 80 billionnaires of the world put together. But the tragedy is this. The Minister said about the rosy picture of UPA and the shining picture of UPA. They also produced a very, very shining picture.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not a debate. If you want a debate, I will allow a debate on this. Please put the question.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : So, I am only asking him whether he would go again to the details of this and present a picture which is realistic. I would also request you to allow a discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER : I have been offering myself but you are putting the question.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, the statistics would give the clear picture where the UPA Government has done its best to improve the quality of life of the poorest of the poor. Look at the various flagship programmes which have been launched for the last three years. The Bharat Nirman is targeted to bring down and provide facilities and services to the rural poor.

Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, we have targeted the people who are living in the slum areas in providing good drinking water facilities, housing, roads and other things. So, if you look at the monitorable socio-economic targets of the Eleventh Plan, it will give you the details. I can quote the details here.

MR. SPEAKER : Not here.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : If I can quote the details here, then I shall be most happy to convince our hon. Member how we are able to target the poorest of the poor and improve their quality of life through various programmes.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister feels to be on a very strong ground.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta is not present. He has informed me that he has some important conference.

Shri N.N. Krishnadas. Put a relevant question and do not restrict it to Kerala.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, it is a global matter only. In the statement given by the hon. Minister, eight Development Goals are mentioned. Among these eight Development Goals, unemployment is the very important challenge which we are facing in our country. So, among these eight Development Goals, there is no mention at all about the generation of employment in the country for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Our hon. Prime Minister being an eminent scholar in economic affairs, he may be aware that as part of economic development, employments are generally generate automatically, but in our country, we are indicating the growth

only in our economic field. So, growth and development are quite different. We are talking about the growth. Now, the phenomenon is the jobless growth. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister why the generation of employment for meeting the Millennium Development Goal is excluded and what the concrete plan is to generate employment to meet the challenge of unemployment.

MR. SPEAKER : Government has not framed those goals. These goals have been framed by the General Assembly. What can they do?

Hon. Minister, would you like to respond to it?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, poverty is very much prevalent in rural India. To target that, we have launched one of the most unique schemes which you do not have anywhere in the world and that is National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. We have been able to generate 116 crore man-days and this is a very unique programme which no Government had ever envisaged to do. This is the way in which we are tackling it and encouraging employment to the rural poorest of the poor who are in a very bad condition. This is one thing.

In the coming years, under the Eleventh Plan, we are targeting to create 70 million jobs. Now, these are the definite steps which have been taken by the UPA Government under the inspiring leadership of our Prime Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If anybody is shouting, he will be disqualified immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Sir, I am asking questions regarding both - sanitation and water. If you think that this question is not appropriate, you may reject it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Connect it somehow to the Millennium Goals.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I would like to request that waterlines are also laid along the sewer lines in the cities and due to this water is contaminated there. There is a place named Lakshminarayanpur in Jaipur, where several children died and many others fell ill after drinking contaminated water. I, therefore, request the Government to lay the waterlines at some distance from the sewer lines and make arrangements to check hump caused by drinking water containing fluoride.

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, as far as Jaipur is concerned, I do not have the figures with me. If the hon. Member can send a separate question, I would be most happy to answer. As far as water supply is concerned. . .

MR. SPEAKER : Do not go into the details; you look into it because it comes under Millennium Development Goal No. 7. You are also looking after Goal No. 7.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I thank you Hon. Minister has mentioned in his reply relating to Goal No.7 that according to an assessment made in year 2003 the total land area under forests is 20.64%. The reserved and protected forests constitute 19% of the total land area. The percentage of households having access to safe drinking water (water supplied from a tap, hand-pump/tube well) increased from 62.3% in 1991 to 78% in 2001. The proportion of households having toilet/bathroom facilities within the house increased from 23.7% in 1991 to 36.1% in 2001.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not go into the details, only ask your question.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : It has been given in the written reply. The hon. Minister has not given the latest position. He has mentioned the position of year 2001 only in his reply. Even today there are several villages and cities in our country where there is no provision for pure

drinking water and toilets. I think there is not only one such place but there are many such places. I hail from Bihar and in Bihar at many places people get contaminated water and water containing arsenic. The results of the efforts of the Government of India are not reaching the people. Independence has no meaning if even after sixty years of independence people do not get pure water.

MR. SPEAKER : Ask question only, please.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am asking question only. The women have no option but to defecate on roads at many places. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what efforts have been made by him so as to provide pure drinking water to the people along with the goal fixed in order to deal with the problem of defecation in public for women especially in villages, the achievement made therein and special campaign started therefor?

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, I would like to share with the hon. Member that as far as the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is concerned, we have been able to provide substantial allocation in it. It has been increased from Rs. 1,715 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs. 2,900 crore in 2004-2005. Out of the total number of 14.22 lakh rural habitations in the country, water supply has been extended to most of the habitations till 31 December 2003, and only 8,686 habitations are still classified as habitations that are not covered.

MR. SPEAKER : Please give all those details to the hon. Member separately.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Sir, I have all the details with me, and I would be most happy to share further details with the hon. Member if he needs them.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar – not present.  
Shri K. Virupakshappa.

### Shortage of Medicines for Dog Bites

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\*183. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA :

SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR :

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

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of medicines for dog bites in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

### Statement

There is no shortage of Anti Rabies Serum (ARS) and Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) required for the treatment of dog bites.

The production capacity of the institutions manufacturing these vaccines within India is sufficient to meet the requirement in the country. The State Governments can obtain the vaccines by placing advance supply orders with the institutions manufacturing these vaccines.

[Translation]

\*SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA : Hon'ble speaker Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in his reply said there is no shortage of Anti-Rabies-Serum in the country. But in the country poor people and downtrodden are not being provided the Anti-Rabies Vaccine. This vaccine is not available even in the Government hospitals. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government proposes to

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

provide Anti-Rabies-Vaccine to the poorest of the poor free of cost.

If so what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard. Please give details.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the Anti-Rabies Vaccine does not come under the routine immunization, which the Government of India sponsors. It is the responsibility of the State Government to pick up the Anti-Rabies Vaccine as well as the Anti-Rabies Serum (ARS). There are enough of vaccines as well as serums manufactured within this country to be supplied to each State Government. The problem is actually with the State Government. They do not pick up these vaccines, and they do not have a planning of logistics to say that : "All right, this season there is going to be a lot more of dog bites or animal bites." This is why the problem is there, but enough of vaccines are present in this country.

I would also like to share that the Government of India is now going ahead with a pilot project in the Eleventh Plan. This is a new initiative where, in the first phase, the project is being implemented in Delhi, Pune, Ahmedabad and Bangalore on the study of rabies vaccine.

Nearly about Rs. 26 crore is going to be spent, which is further going to extend it to other cities. But then, today, this is the problem of the State Government, which we are trying to address. We have asked the State Governments repeatedly to tell beforehand about the logistic support, and we have the public sector also manufacturing these vaccines and serums.

[Translation]

\*SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA : I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government proposes to

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

provide more funds to Karnataka to purchase Anti-Rabies-Vaccine. If so details there of?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, I have already said that this is a State issue. The Central Government does not have any funds for this initiative. The State Governments have the funds, and it is their responsibility to help them. Since there is a responsibility on the Centre also, we will consider, in future, certain efforts to streamline and centralize it. We will try to support the State Governments' initiative in the future.

MR. SPEAKER : Only one supplementary is sufficient, and that will be put by Shri Ramdas Athawale.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of cases of dog-bites in the country are on the increase. He is talking of resolving this problem with the help of anti-rabies vaccines. But has he got any vaccine for those anti-social elements who are creating animosity and dividing the society. You should develop a medicine which helps create unity and equality in the society.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What type of dogs? Mr. Minister, have you understood the question?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : I do not know what type of dogs he is talking about.

MR. SPEAKER : He is talking of some dogs in human shape.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : If there are dog bites, not only dog bites, but animal bites per se, including monkey bites, there are three things which should be done immediately. One is that the wound should be washed off with running water and soap for minimum ten minutes. Second, this virus is very vulnerable to any antiseptic or alcohol, so it should be washed off with it. Third is that the anti rabies serum which should be applied at the spot

where there is a bite, and then the virus will be eliminated. Also, a vaccine should be inoculated through the infected tissue. These are the procedures followed which has been prevalent from earlier times, and the doctors as well as the trained professionals in the country are aware of this.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, for Lutyen's Delhi, you should give special training for treating monkey bites.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got the reply.

MR. SPEAKER : You have got enough reply. Please sit down.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 184, Shri Sukdeo Paswan -- not present. What shall we do? I will request the hon. Leaders to suggest what should be done. Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy:

#### **Inadequate Port Facilities**

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\*184. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY :

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :

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

(a) whether the existing port facilities in the country are inadequate to handle the International trade; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken for the improvement of the port facilities to meet the demand completely?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to increase the capacity of major ports a total of 276 projects involving an estimated investment

of Rs. 55,804 crores have been identified in the Major Ports under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) to be taken up for implementation by 2011-12. Out of the above an investment of Rs. 34,505 crores is expected from the private sector and the balance through public funds. These projects cover the entire gamut of activities in the ports including construction of new berths, upgradation of existing berths, deepening of port channels to receive large size ships, equipment upgradation and modernization, rail/road connectivity and other associated projects. While Public funds will be utilized for creating common user infrastructure, private sector investment is envisaged in commercially viable projects like development and operations of berths/terminals etc.

To facilitate smooth flow of traffic through the Major Ports, during the 11th Five Year Plan period, the aggregate capacity in the Major Ports is planned to be enhanced to 1001.8 MTPA to cater to increasing traffic by the year 2011-12. The Non-Major Ports are under the control of respective State Government under whom the responsibility for their development vests. The State Governments have also drawn up plans to expand their port capacities.

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Keeping in view the spiralling oil prices at almost 100 dollars per barrel, shipping has taken more importance and is going to play a major role in the development of the country. In the reply given by the hon. Minister, it has been stated that the port facilities in the country are inadequate. So, it is the right time that the hon. Minister must take up this issue on war-footing basis to start more facilities in the country.

In this context, I wish to know from the hon. Minister as to how many ports under public-private participation are nearing completion and are under construction, particularly what is the status of the port at Nellore District at Krishnapatnam and what is the time by which it is expected to be completed.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : To my surprise, when I took over

the Ministry, there was no specific policy as to the maritime activities. There was no comprehensive development plan for the business activities of the ports. Now, under the guidance of our hon. Prime Minister, we have established a development programme. We have identified 276 projects which will be completed within seven years. We have also identified the policy which is under discussion at the inter-Governmental level. It will be approved very shortly by the competent authority of India. Out of 276 projects which have been identified in the port sector alone, the estimated investment involved in this is to the tune of Rs. 55,000 crore. About 26 projects have already been completed; 63 projects are in progress; 18 projects were approved by the competent authority; 41 projects are in the process of approval; and 19 projects are in the planning stage. As far as Krishnapatnam Port is concerned, I am sorry to say that it comes under the purview of the State Government and not that of the Central Government.

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Sir, in my State of Andhra Pradesh, it is said that the historical sea port at Machilipatnam was the entry point for the import of goods for over thousand years, and it is being rebuilt. I wish to know from the hon. Minister about the status of the port. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has recommended the name of this port also. Along with Machilipatnam Port, some other Ports have also been recommended. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the status of these ports.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : If the development of minor ports per se is proposed by the State Government, definitely, we will consider the development of those minor ports, and we will provide whatever financial assistance they want to have. In each and every maritime State, we are going to take up one minor port for development.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Increase of capacity of major ports is an on-going process. As trade and commerce activities have increased considerably, there is an urgent need to develop and increase the capacity of major ports in the

country. I would like to know, after due investment of Rs. 34,505 crore through private sector and Rs. 20,299 crore from public funds, and thereby increasing the aggregate capacity in the major ports to 1001.8 MTPA, will we be in a position to meet the demand during 2011-12 or will we still be far behind? I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating to develop some deep sea ports to cater to the ocean liners.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as the port sector is concerned, we are not having adequate capacity. As far as 12 major ports are concerned, the capacity available is 505 million metric tonnes, and the utilization is 464 million metric tonnes, that is, we are making use of 92 per cent of the capacity, but still it is not sufficient. As far as minor ports are concerned, 200 minor ports are there, and the capacity available is 230 million metric tonnes out of which, 185 million metric tonnes capacity is being utilized, which roughly constitutes 82 per cent. However, we should have at least 30 per cent cover for having a perfect port capacity. If there is a cover, we can utilize it at the time of demand in a particular port. The question pertaining to their completion by 2011-12, we have envisaged a programme so as to have a capacity of 1500 million metric tonnes. Out of these 1500 million metric tonnes, major ports capacity will be increased to handle 1000 million metric tonnes and the minor ports capacity will be increased to handle 500 million metric tonnes.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Sir, considering the need of the hour, would the Government of India provide any assistance for developing small and medium ports all over the country in general and in Kerala in particular? The Minister has talked about the major Ports only. What about the position of minor and medium ports?

MR. SPEAKER : Minor Ports are a State Subject.

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN : Does the Government of India have any plan to provide assistance for the development of minor and medium ports?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : As advised by the hon. Prime Minister of India, we are having a programme to give financial assistance to minor ports if they come forward with a specific Proposal.

*[Translation]*

SHRI REVATI RAMAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government had started work on introducing ferry services from Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh to Hooghly four to five years ago and work was also being carried out on the said project but it is going on at a very slow pace. Will the hon. Minister tell the time by which ferry services between Allahabad and Hooghly is likely to start?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : This is about ports.

*[Translation]*

SHRI REVATI RAMAN SINGH : It is also a port.

MR. SPEAKER : Not Hooghly, not Allahabad is a port.

*[English]*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The particular waterway is receiving attention. However, this is beyond the ambit of the Question. I will pass on the message to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : Please send him the information. Very good! Thank you.

#### **New National Highways**

\*185. SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to declare any new stretch of the roads as a National Highway;

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

(c) the funds required for upgrading the newly identified stretches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) and (b) At present, the total length of National Highways in the country is 66,590 km. Huge resources are required to develop the existing National Highways. Due to constraints of resources, the declaration of National Highways is of low priority. However in order to complete the East-West Corridor of the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) (Phase II) and to give connectivity to the new International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Vallarpadam in Kerala, the Union Government has decided to declare following two stretches as National Highways:

- (1) The highway starting from NH-31 near Siliguri and joining NH-31C near Salsalabari via Fulbari, Mainaguri, Dhupguri, Falakata and Spnapur in the State of West Bengal having a length of 110.00 km.
- (2) The highway starting from NH-47 near Kalamassery, crossing NH-17 and terminating at Vallarpadam in the State of Kerala having a length of 17.2 km.

(c) The identified route in the East-West Corridor of the NHDP (Phase II) in West Bengal is a realigned route. The cost of upgradation to 4 lane standard is likely to be Rs. 1000 crore based on the average cost of Rs. 8 to 10 crore per kilometer.

The project cost for construction of the stretch to provide connectivity to the new ICTT at Vallarpadam in Kerala has been assessed as Rs. 557 crore.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 191 is similar to this question. I think I can take it up along with this question.

**Four-Laning of NH**

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\*191. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :  
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :

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

(a) the details of stretches of National Highways (NH) converted/likely to be converted into four-lanes, State-wise;

(b) the present status of work on each of these NHs, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated/released and spent therefrom for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise?

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

**Statement**

(a) and (b) The State wise details of the stretches of National Highways (NH) converted/likely to be converted into four-lanes and the present status of work on each of these NHs, are given in the enclosed Annexure I and II respectively.

(c) Funds are not allocated work wise but State wise. The State-wise allocation for development of National Highways including four-laning entrusted to the State Public Work Departments during the last three years are given in the enclosed Annexure-III. Funds to National Highways Authorities of India are not allocated State-wise.

**Annexure-I**

Status as on 31.10.2007

Sl. No.	Name of State	4-Lane converted (in kms.)	4-Lane likely to be converted (in kms)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1209.39	1288.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	22.00
3.	Assam	36.50	1328.80
4.	Bihar	240.04	1591.88
5.	Chhatisgarh	36.40	178.69
6.	Delhi	51.10	20.00
7.	Goa	20.00	208.00
8.	Gujarat	1391.01	667.10
9.	Haryana	298.00	351.85
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	117.69
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	17.90	482.57
12.	Jharkhand	184.69	272.06
13.	Karnataka	556.45	801.03
14.	Kerala	53.60	789.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	182.00	1465.83
16.	Maharashtra	829.60	858.26
17.	Manipur	13.00	116.50
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	198.00
19.	Mizoram	0.00	95.00

1	2	3	4
20. Nagaland		0.00	28.00
21. Orissa		383.84	694.41
22. Pondicherry		3.57	0.00
23. Punjab		280.76	379.02
24. Rajasthan		1007.48	1328.15
25. Tamil Nadu		576.27	2617.16
26. Tripura		0.00	195.00
27. Uttar Pradesh		949.21	1773.81
28. Uttrakhand		7.24	130.63
29. West Bengal		443.50	832.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>8699.55</b>	<b>18830.89</b>

**Annexure-II**

Status as on 31.10.2007

Sl. No.	Name of State	NH No.	4-Lane converted (in kms.)	4-Lane likely to be converted (in kms)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>			
		5	1015.76	0.00
		7	46.63	724.30
		9	117.00	272.00
		18	0.00	198.80
		202	30.00	36.60
		205	0.00	56.50
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>1209.39</b>	<b>1288.20</b>

1	2	3	4	5
2.	<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>			
		52A	0.00	22.00
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>22.00</b>
3.	<b>Assam</b>			
		31	0.00	164.80
		31C	0.00	93.00
		36	0.00	154.50
		37	36.50	124.00
		44	0.00	116.00
		52	0.00	314.00
		52A	0.00	9.00
		54	0.00	353.50
	<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>36.50</b>	<b>1328.80</b>
4.	<b>Bihar</b>			
		2	198.74	7.26
		19 and 77	13.00	60.00
		28	0.00	184.52
		28A	0.00	67.00
		30	0.00	53.00
		31	18.30	279.85
		57	10.00	482.00
		57A	0.00	13.00
		77	0.00	89.00
		80	0.00	70.00

1	2	3	4	5
		84	0.00	130.00
		85, 19	0.00	153.00
		98	0.00	3.25
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>240.04</b>	<b>1591.88</b>

**5. Chhattisgarh**

		6	31.40	127.69
		43	3.00	23.00
		200	2.00	28.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>36.40</b>	<b>178.69</b>

**6. Delhi**

		2	12.00	0.00
		8	13.00	0.00
		10	17.70	20.00
		24	8.40	0.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>51.10</b>	<b>20.00</b>

**7. Goa**

		4A	0.00	69.00
		17	7.00	139.00
		17B	13.00	0.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>20.00</b>	<b>208.00</b>

**8. Gujarat**

		6	0.00	113.00
		8	435.20	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
		8A	300.69	91.40
		8B	180.50	33.50
		8C	44.42	0.00
		8D	0.00	127.00
		8E	0.00	6.80
		14	104.20	47.90
		15	97.00	9.20
		15, 8A	62.00	28.30
		59	0.00	210.00
		NE-1	93.40	0.00
		113	1.60	0.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>1319.01</b>	<b>667.10</b>

**9. Haryana**

		1	116.00	10.00
		2	74.00	0.00
		8	78.00	0.00
		10	2.00	143.49
		21, 22	0.00	6.00
		22	2.00	20.00
		64	0.00	0.48
		65	14.00	0.00
		71	3.00	98.88
		71A	0.00	73.00
		71B	4.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
		72	1.00	0.00			63	2.00	4.40
		73	4.00	0.00			206	0.00	11.50
Sub-Total			298.00	351.85			209	0.00	1.30
<b>10. Himachal Pradesh</b>					<b>14. Kerala</b>				
		1A	0.00	11.00			17	0.00	451.00
		22	0.00	106.69			47	53.60	338.00
Sub-Total			0.00	117.69	Sub-Total			53.60	789.00
<b>11. Jammu and Kashmir</b>					<b>15. Madhya Pradesh</b>				
		1A	17.90	482.57			3	109.00	166.80
Sub-Total			17.90	482.57			7	3.00	105.83
<b>12. Jharkhand</b>							12	21.00	297.00
		2	184.69	7.06			25	15.00	50.00
		33	0.00	265.00			25, 76	25.00	138.00
Sub-Total			184.69	272.06			26	0.00	275.70
<b>13. Karnataka</b>							59	0.00	169.00
		4	519.25	152.87			69	0.00	13.00
		4A	0.00	84.00			75	3.00	168.50
		4 (MKB)	2.20	1.60			75.3	0.00	42.00
		7	33.00	71.36			86 Extn.	6.00	40.00
		13	0.00	194.00	Sub-Total			182.00	1465.83
		13, 17, 48	0.00	37.00	<b>16. Maharashtra</b>				
		17	0.00	89.00			3	147.80	190.00
		48	0.00	154.00			4	427.55	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
		4B, 4	30.00	0.00
		6	32.30	263.06
		7	34.80	235.20
		8	121.40	0.00
		9	26.00	170.00
		50	7.25	0.00
		69	2.50	0.00
Sub-Total			829.60	858.26
<b>17. Manipur</b>				
		39	2.00	116.50
		150	11.00	0.00
Sub-Total			189	13.00
<b>18. Meghalaya</b>				
		40	0.00	62.00
		44	0.00	136.00
Sub-Total			0.00	198.00
<b>19. Mizoram</b>				
		54	0.00	95.00
Sub-Total			0.00	95.00
<b>20. Nagaland</b>				
		39	0.00	28.00
Sub-Total			0.00	28.00

1	2	3	4	5
<b>21. Orissa</b>				
		5	277.35	113.05
		5A	48.64	28.36
		6	0.84	88.00
		60	53.41	0.00
		200	0.00	137.00
		203	3.00	59.00
		215	0.60	269.00
Sub-Total			383.84	694.41
<b>22. Pondicherry</b>				
		66	3.57	0.00
Sub-Total			3.57	0.00
<b>23. Punjab</b>				
		1	175.10	106.22
		1-A	21.77	73.00
		10	5.56	0.00
		15	13.08	106.00
		21	0.00	72.90
		21, 22	15.00	15.00
		22	5.77	2.00
		64	14.56	3.90
		64A	5.37	0.00
		70	1.62	0.00
		95	22.93	0.00
Sub-Total			280.76	379.02

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
<b>24. Rajasthan</b>							45	93.00	292.27
		3	20.00	9.00			45, 4 and 5	15.20	16.80
		8	319.10	82.00					
		11	78.80	225.25			45 Ext.	0.00	73.00
		11A	2.50	0.00			45B	9.00	244.00
		12	26.70	328.00			46	145.00	0.00
		14	0.00	288.00			47	0.00	254.04
		15	18.00	0.00			47B	0.00	0.00
		65	11.10	0.00			49	0.00	186.00
		76	225.68	322.90			66	0.00	208.61
		76, 14	0.00	43.00			67	0.00	369.10
		79	171.87	0.00			68	0.00	136.36
		79, 76	0.00	30.00			205	0.00	81.50
		79A	36.23	0.00			205, 4 and 45	0.00	4.00
		89	4.00	0.00			207	0.00	0.00
		112	35.00	0.00			208	0.00	0.00
		114	5.00	0.00			210	0.00	200.00
		11C	53.50	0.00			219	0.00	0.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>							220	0.00	57.00
<b>25. Tamil Nadu</b>					<b>Sub-Total</b>				
		4	92.60	0.00				576.27	2617.16
		5	41.80	0.00	<b>26. Tripura</b>				
		7	179.67	447.28			44	0.00	195.00
		7A	0.00	47.20	<b>Sub-Total</b>				
								0.00	195.00

1	2	3	4	5
<b>27. Uttar Pradesh</b>				
	2	701.54		52.95
	2, 3	0.00		32.80
	2, 25	0.00		92.80
	3	23.00		0.00
	11	0.00		24.75
	24	61.76		412.25
	24-A	10.79		0.00
	25	53.12		313.60
	25, 26	0.00		49.70
	25, 76	0.00		20.00
	26	0.00		87.30
	27	6.00		0.00
	28	0.40		438.11
	29	0.31		1.00
	56	1.35		0.00
	56A and B	10.00		12.85
	58	34.60		79.00
	58, 72	0.00		21.00
	73	8.40		0.00
	75	0.00		11.50
	75-E	3.00		0.00
	86	3.05		4.00
	91	29.89		120.20

1	2	3	4	5
		93	1.00	0.00
		119	1.00	0.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>949.21</b>	<b>1773.81</b>
<b>27. Uttrakhand</b>				
		58.72	0.00	56.00
		72	3.24	71.33
		72-A	0.00	3.30
		74	2.00	0.00
		87	2.00	0.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>7.24</b>	<b>130.63</b>
<b>28. West Bengal</b>				
		2	215.46	0.00
		6	115.33	1.25
		31	46.85	51.00
		31 and 31C	0.00	201.00
		31C	0.00	32.00
		34	0.00	434.00
		35	0.00	60.00
		41	0.00	53.00
		60	65.86	0.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>443.50</b>	<b>832.25</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>8699.55</b>	<b>18830.89</b>

**Annexure-III***Allocation and Expenditure of funds for the development of National Highways during the last 3 years.*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Allocation (Rs. in Crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)	Allocation (Rs. in Crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)	Allocation (Rs. in Crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	90.00	89.86	70.00	69.65	58.41	58.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	5.91	6.00	6.00	8.30	8.00
3.	Assam	78.00	78.00	58.00	58.00	77.25	76.94
4.	Bihar	66.07	47.11	65.00	64.92	97.20	97.20
5.	Chandigarh	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.89	1.00	0.97
6.	Chhattisgarh	35.00	34.89	49.85	49.34	37.00	36.75
7.	Delhi	4.00	3.95	1.00	0.51	3.00	1.50
8.	Goa	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	2.95	2.64
9.	Gujarat	60.00	53.64	94.50	94.50	60.00	60.00
10.	Haryana	46.00	37.87	57.42	57.42	64.00	64.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	45.00	40.48	39.00	39.00	39.50	39.44
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.22	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	35.00	14.04	40.00	39.97	34.86	34.86
14.	Karnataka	76.91	76.90	84.00	84.00	85.00	84.90
15.	Kerala	60.00	58.38	65.00	65.99	55.00	54.96
16.	Madhya Pradesh	83.00	82.86	74.07	73.61	84.09	82.93
17.	Maharashtra	70.00	65.64	112.00	111.93	148.75	148.75
18.	Manipur	14.00	13.78	20.00	20.00	14.65	14.65
19.	Meghalaya	28.00	28.26	24.00	24.18	24.50	20.00
20.	Mizoram	25.00	24.91	15.75	15.75	15.53	13.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
21	Nagaland	16.00	16.00	11.25	11.25	11.82	9.00
22	Orissa	72.75	72.33	66.00	65.77	72.00	71.99
23	Pondicherry	2.13	2.13	2.65	2.64	5.00	5.00
24	Punjab	53.00	50.72	62.50	62.50	72.00	72.00
25	Rajasthan	60.00	46.45	83.00	83.00	75.00	74.29
26	Tamil Nadu	85.00	65.31	86.00	81.80	82.00	80.95
27	Uttarakhand	27.00	26.48	40.00	40.00	52.75	52.43
28	Uttar Pradesh	172.00	171.99	186.00	185.97	91.40	91.33
29	West Bengal	70.00	71.90	56.00	55.75	47.00	46.56
30	National Highway Authority of India (NHA)*	3848.00	6301.00	7019.74	6305.56	8662.15	8917.22
Total		5234.08	7587.00	8495.73	7775.90	10082.11	10321.16

\*Statewise allocation are not made for NHA.

SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Himalayan States in general and the State of Uttarakhand in particular have got tremendous potential in the field of tourism, floriculture and horticulture. In this context I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal under consideration for the construction of a Himalayan Highway connecting the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has 66,590 km of National Highways.

MR. SPEAKER : That is already there in the reply.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : We have plan to develop 50,000 km of National Highways by 2015 by investing Rs.2,40,000 crore. Until work on the declared National

Highways is completed there is no necessity to take up new highway projects.

MR. SPEAKER : That is quite proper.

SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA : Sir, in the reply the hon. Minister has said that due to the constraint of resources the declaration of national highways is of low priority. That being so I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is considering increasing the fund allocation to the hill States for maintenance and widening of the existing highways.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that priority will be given to hilly States wherever it is necessary. We have already planned to develop hill roads on priority. We have planned to

complete the existing highways in the hill areas and then only take up new highways. We will provide assistance for the hill roads.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : As the hon. Minister has stated in reply to the Question No. 185 just now that a huge sum is required for the development of the national highways. In addition to this, he has stated that on an average the cost of construction of four laning of highways is atleast eight to ten crore rupees per kilometre. The Government had spent Rs. 5234 crore on national highways in 2004-05.

Similarly, the Government spent Rs. 1082 crore in 2006-07 i.e. it spent almost double amount in three years but unfortunately while Rs. 172 crore were spent in Uttar Pradesh in 2004 and 2005 only Rs. 91 crore were spent in 2006-07. Uttar Pradesh is a large State and you have proposed four laning of 1772 kilometres of national highways which will need rupees one lac crore as the hon. Minister had replied. Several national highways and proposals for four laning of several highways, particularly between Delhi and Lucknow is pending for nearly ten years. I would like to know if any time limit can be fixed for completion of four laning of Lucknow-Delhi national highway which is pending since 1997-98 and which needs overbridges 3-4 places. A demand for this has been made many times earlier? Could more funds be allocated for Uttar Pradesh, as it is a large State?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : We should have brief and specific questions.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : As far as four-laning of National Highways is concerned, there are seven programmes – the Golden Quadrilateral project, about which my friend is aware of; the National Highways Development Programme; the East-West Corridor; four-laning of 12,109 kms.; six-laning of 6,500 kms.; the Expressway of 1,000 kms.; the

Grade Separator, ROB and so many other projects are there. As far as Lucknow-Delhi is concerned, it is receiving particular attention of the Ministry. Definitely we would complete it in time.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that according to the figures given by him for the three years, total allocation was Rs. 5234 crore in 2004-05 but expenditure was Rs. 7587 crore. I want to know from where did he bring the rest of Rs.2352 crore? Wherefrom this money was spent when it was not even allocated? This has to be understood.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : How did you spend money when you did not have. That is what he is asking.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : We cannot stop some of the on-going projects mid-way. We have to spend money to complete those projects.

MR. SPEAKER: From here to there.

Are you sorry for yesterday, Shri Kiren Rijju?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. I will call you.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU : Thank you, Sir. First of all, I congratulate the hon. Minister for starting SARDP for North-East. That is very ambitious but we need to keep our spirits up. But my question is that because he has started his answer with a negative note that due to constraints of resources, declaration of national highway is a low priority. Hon. Prime Minister had stated earlier that for building the infrastructure, resources will not be a problem. Now, there is a contradiction in the statement of the Minister with the policy stated by the hon. Prime Minister.

You did not answer to the question of Shri Bahuguna.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Put your own question.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU : Are you not going to declare any road as National Highways? What about those strategically important roads in the borders areas of Himalayan region. Can you have a specific programme for the Himalayan region or do you contemplate to declare some of the roads as National Highways?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : North-East is the soul and heart of our hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India. Under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, we are definitely considering the North-East as a priority area. I never said that there is constraint of funds as far as North-East is concerned. I never said that. It is not like that. Some of the priorities are there. In that particular priority, North-East is given the first priority.

More than 8,700 kms. of stretch has been identified by the UPA Government. In some places, there will be two-lane roads; wherever the PCU of the total number of unit that plies is less, definitely we will go for two-lane roads. When the number of units is more than 15,000 – car or trucks, etc. – that is plying in a particular area, definitely we will be doing it as four-lane roads.

The North East is receiving a lot of attention as far as the UPA Government is concerned; whatever may be the programme, this is going to be done by the UPA Government and by Dr. Manmohan Singh alone and not by anybody else.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sonowal, another Member from the North-East.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister regarding the proposed four-lane road construction from Dibrugarh to Jairampur and to Steelwel Road. In this connection, what is the progress that has been made so far? I want to know specifically from him.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Steelwel Road is the most important road connecting the rest of India. It is in progress; definitely it will be completed in time.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khagen Das, yet another Member from the North East.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Sir, the hon. Minister is aware of this. Tripura is connected with the rest of the country by the one and only National Highway No. 44. During the rainy season, the road becomes inundated; landslide creates road blockade, resulting in total suspension of traffic for months together. Consequently, the movement of food grains and other essential commodities remain totally stopped. There is no proposal to declare any stretch of road as a National Highway in the North-Eastern States. The people of Tripura have been agitating for long for an alternative National Highway from Kukital in Assam to Subroom in Tripura. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider declaring this stretch of road as a National Highway?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Declaration of National Highways is not the only thing which can develop a particular stretch of road. As far as the North East is concerned, a special programme has already been launched and more than almost 9,000 kms. and this particular stretch of that road forms a part of this programme. It need not necessarily be declared as a National Highway.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Sir, I specifically asked a question whether he would consider declaring that stretch of that road as a National Highway. The hon. Minister knows that very well.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, he asked about Tripura.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : In that particular stretch of road on the National Highway 44, the embankment was not properly laid previously. In the new construction, we have to have a proper embankment so that it will not be eroded during inundation. Moreover, the sub-soil has to be identified – what sort of data is there in the subsoil areas, by borehole details and other things. Now, with proper type

of engineering, we will construct a particular road without having any further damage. But announcing a particular stretch as a National Highway is not the only thing which will help solve the issue.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, Tamil Nadu deserves a supplementary. Shri Krishnaswamy.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, about the proposal to construct a road connecting Delhi-Hyderabad-Bangalore-Kanyakumari. It was stated that these are being made as four-lane roads and six-lane roads. Would the hon. Minister come out with the details of these important National Highway connecting two major Metros in the South?

MR. SPEAKER : No details can be made available now.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Is it Delhi-Hyderabad?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Delhi-Hyderabad-Bangalore-Kanyakumari.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is a corridor road on National Highway No. 7. This particular road is almost nearing completion. It will be completed within a year. The hon. Member can wait for some time.

MR. SPEAKER : For the safety of the Speaker, Bihar needs attention.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : These are matters fit for a fuller discussion provided hon. Members are little more concerned. Members' concern will be responded by the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to tell the hon. Minister that the Central Government is biased in giving funds to the States for

maintenance and upkeep of old national highways. This question is not related to the main question but is about the construction of new national highways. I, therefore, want to ask the question related to that only i.e. what are the norms for taking decision, by the Government for construction of new national highways? Is the decision is taken on the basis of State Government's recommendations or the survey conducted by the Central Government or on some recommendation or on the importance of the roads? If the decision is taken on the basis of the importance of the roads then I want to know whether the Guwahati to Gorakhpur N.H. via Gopalganj and the road connecting the Chhapra - Hajipur - Ghajipur National Highway known as Link National Highway. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : There will be no time left for the Minister's reply.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is yet to be named. Would you like to include the N.H. between Mohammedpur to Chhapra via Masrakh and Gaura which is just 60 kms. long and connects two States and which will shorten the distance between the N.H. substantially in the N.H. Link.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Your question must be brief and specific.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : In February 2004 about 7457 kms. of road has been identified and declared as National Highways. During the UPA regime 1551 kms. of the road has been declared as National Highways. Declaring National Highways is not any solution for the improvement of any road. You will be surprised to know even the paddy field has been declared as National Highways.

MR. SPEAKER : Or probably National Highways has now become a paddy field.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : People could not find even the alignment of the particular road near the Kosi bridge. These things have already been taken. Things which were not correct, we are correcting them. This particular question regarding the criteria which my friend has asked, I will pass on the information to him. There are about 11 criteria.

MR. SPEAKER : You may pass on the information to him.

*[Translation]*

#### **TB Control**

\*186. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) TB-related Millenium Development Goals;
- (b) the impact of the 'new Stop TB Strategy' taken up for implementation in 2006;
- (c) the mechanism available to test the quality of anti TB medicines being supplied to the patients; and
- (d) the total number of patients who have not completed their full treatment in 2006 and the special efforts made on this front as these persons constitute the potential to spread the disease further?

*[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**

The Millennium Development Goal related to Tuber-

culosis control is to halt and begin to reverse the incidence of TB by 2015. The indicators are as follows:

- Indicator 23: between 1990 and 2015 to halve prevalence of TB disease and deaths due to TB
- Indicator 24: to detect 70% of new infectious cases and to successfully treat 85% of detected sputum positive patients

The WHO recommended TB Control strategy, better known as DOTS, is being implemented in the entire country. The WHO recommended 'New STOP TB Strategy' launched in 2006, in addition to pursuing quality DOTS, seeks to place further emphasis on the steps to be taken to address drug resistant TB, TB-HIV coordination issues and involvement of other sectors in the programme. The RNTCP is already addressing these issues. The country has been consistently achieving the target of 85% treatment success of new sputum positive patients put on treatment for the past several years. It is also detecting 70% of the new estimated infectious cases. It is estimated that the deaths due to TB have declined to less than 5%. The number of deaths has been brought down from 5 lakh annually in 1990 to 3,70,000 currently. Recent studies conducted by Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai, suggest that there has been a 12% annual decline in the prevalence of TB. Therefore, there has been a substantial reduction in the deaths due to TB and prevalence of TB disease which suggests that the programme is likely to achieve the aforesaid targets.

Anti-TB drugs are procured through International Competitive Bidding mechanism. All batches of drugs are inspected prior to dispatch at the premises of the suppliers. Random samples are selected by central and State level drug inspectors from the medical store depots for testing. RNTCP has contracted an independent laboratory approved by regulatory authority, through which the quality of RNTCP drugs is monitored. In addition, Central and State Drug Inspectors also pick samples randomly on receipt of specific complaints.

Approximately 6.5% of the 14 lakh cases put on treatment, have defaulted in 2006. Although a certain percentage of TB patients is always likely to default, the programme recognizes this challenge and is taking adequate steps to reduce the same. Due stress is laid on address verification prior to commencement of treatment for all cases of TB. TB patients and their family members are counseled on all aspects of treatment and follow-up. The programme has involved NGOs, Self Help groups, panchayats and other community leaders for reducing default and strengthening default retrieval. To address the issue of migration which is a leading cause of default, strategies like referral and feed back along with strengthened supervision and monitoring are being implemented at the district and State level. The programme is committed to provide patient friendly DOT services and improve access by providing flexi-time DOT.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has said that 3,70,000 persons die of TB every year in the world over. A large number, out of the total number of people dying of TB in the world are from India. Is it true that the medicines distributed by the Government are having little effect and TB patients are becoming incurable. What are the measures being taken by the Government to reduce the number of people dying of T.B.?

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, as clearly mentioned in the answer the quality of drugs is being monitored frequently by various organisations both national and international organisations. Definitely, there is not even one per cent truth in saying that the quality of drugs is not according to the standards. The revised National Control Programme of TB is one of the best performing programmes of the Health Ministry. We have been getting a lot of appreciation both nationally and internationally. The WHO has said that this is an inspirational success story from India and has also said that this is the largest and

the fastest expanding programme in the world in the public health sector. WHO has even given us a Caution Award in 2007 for this programme. In fact, the entire country is covered under this programme. There have been a lot of activities. I could say, Sir, the death rate which was 29 per cent has come down to four per cent. In fact, the success rate was 25 per cent and it has gone to 86 per cent. The detection rate is about 70-71 per cent. Globally it is 70 per cent and we have reached 71 per cent. So, we are achieving more. This is an expanding programme where the entire country is covered. I am sure the hon. Member will appreciate the efforts this Government is taking.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked whether it is true that many patients undergoing treatment are becoming incurable and medicines are not working on them and their immunity is going down, to which hon. Minister did not give a reply. Have some new medicine been developed in India for that or some action is being taken in this regard? Why the government is not taking it seriously?

**12.00 hrs.**

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Sir, the hon. Member says that some patients have been given treatment but it is not effective. There are two types of resistance in patients. One is the primary resistance where literally three per cent people of the country who are taking this drug have primary resistance where they are primarily resistant to the first line drugs. Some of the patients who discontinue the drug, they have secondary type of resistance. Nearly 12 to 16 per cent of the patients have secondary type of resistance. For secondary resistance, we have second line of drugs and also what we call Multi-Drug Resistance Therapy in which we are spending nearly Rs. 1.20 lakh for one patient whereas for primary patients who require first line drugs, we spend Rs. 500 per month for six months and we have to treat them for 24 months.

We are rolling this out in Maharashtra and Gujarat in the first phase. There would be nearly 24 centres in this country which are going to have these DOTS plus, i.e. Multi-Drug Resistance Therapy for tuberculosis. So, we are addressing the concerns of the hon. Members.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

### **Corporate Social Responsibility of Government Coal Companies**

\*187. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the water level has gone down in various coal mining areas in the country due to coal mining activities that has affected the supply of drinking water to the people in those areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the coal companies of the Union Government have taken any steps as a part of their corporate social responsibility to provide this facility to the affected people;

(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) During the course of mining the water table in and around a coal mine gets affected but the same gets recharged during the monsoon period and as a result the drinking water sources in such areas are not adversely affected. Various studies conducted for assessing the impact of mining on water levels revealed that underground mining operations do not affect the top water table from where normally the local people draw the water. The studies also proved that impact of opencast mining on ground water level is only a temporary phenomenon.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Under community and peripheral development activities of national coal companies, provision of drinking water to the local people is one of the prime activities. This is being done by means of installation of hand pumps, tube wells and through pipelines/mobile tankers etc.. Further, water pumped out from the mines is being treated in water treatment plants and supplied for use of local population wherever it is feasible.

Apart from the above, recharging of ground water table is being facilitated through large scale plantation in the overburden dumps, colonies, sites of rehabilitation and adjoining villages. Construction of check dams along the course of water streams is also being done for harvesting rain water.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer to the point (c) above.

*[English]*

### **Discharge of Industrial Waste Into Rivers**

\*188. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of industrial waste discharged into the rivers Ganga and Yamuna; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to check untreated discharge of industrial waste into the rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), an estimated quantum of 365 million litre and 149 million litre of Industrial wastes are discharged everyday in Ganga and Yamuna rivers respectively by the Grossly Polluting Industries.

(b) The measures taken by the Government to check the industrial pollution into the rivers include the following:

- (i) Notification of industry specific standards, promoting setting up of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) by industrial units, encouraging waste minimization through adoption of clean technology, recycling and re-use of treated effluent, conducting regular environmental monitoring and surveillance through the CPCB, State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).
- (ii) Stipulation of conditions for pollution control, mitigation and monitoring for the industrial projects requiring environmental clearance.
- (iii) Identification of Grossly Polluting Industries discharging into rivers by the concerned SPCBs and PCCs and ensuring compliance of prescribed effluent discharge standards. Action is taken against the defaulting units as per the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (iv) Undertaking centrally sponsored scheme with financial assistance for enabling the small scale industries (SSI) to set-up new Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) for their wastes and upgrading the existing ones.
- (v) Adoption of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection (CREP) for 17 categories of polluting industries and its implementation through various task forces.
- (vi) Strengthening capacity of National and State Level Institutions for effective environmental regulation, improved enforcement for pollution prevention and improved industrial compliance.

#### **Pre-Import Inspection of Vaccines**

\*189 CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether his Ministry has prescribed any pre-import tests for importing various vaccines from abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any violation of this prescription has come to the notice of the Union Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) Quality control of import of vaccines is regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and rules made thereunder. The manufacturing facilities of the vaccine abroad as well as individual vaccines are required to be registered under the said rules prior to their import. The manufacturer is required to provide information in Drug master file containing details of manufacture and testing procedures followed by him as pre requisite to ensure that vaccine from qualified manufacturer is permitted to be imported into the country. Each batch of the imported vaccine is required to be accompanied with the test report and batch release certificate duly signed and authenticated by the manufacturer and National Regulatory Authority of that country. The protocols of test of each batch of the imported vaccine are examined by the National Control Laboratory i.e. Central Drugs Laboratory, Kasauli, before it is released for marketing in the country. However, import of small quantities of vaccines for test and analysis purpose is exempt from system of registration.

No violation of this prescription has come to the notice of the Government.

#### **International Conference on Poverty**

\*190. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a three-day International Conference on Poverty attended by National and International experts was recently held at Patna in July, 2007;

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

(c) whether the Conference had concluded that the criteria/methodology applied by the Planning Commission for determining the extent of poverty in this country are deeply flawed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to change the criteria/methodology to determine the extent of poverty in the light of the decisions of the aforesaid Conference; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. A three-day international conference on 'Revisiting the Poverty Issue: Measurement, Identification and Eradication', was organized jointly by Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, A. N. Sinha, Institute of Social Studies and Asian Development Research Institute, Patna, during July 20-22, 2007 in Patna.

The conference discussed the issues relating to measurement of poverty and identification of poor. A consensus statement circulated in the conference noted the method of poverty estimation by the Planning Commission and the BPL (Below Poverty Line) census conducted by the State Governments to identify the poor households, and suggested their review.

The Planning Commission in December 2005 constituted an Expert Group to review the methodology for estimation of poverty under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar. The report of the group is awaited.

[Translation]

#### **Air and Noise Pollution**

\*192. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any awareness campaign to check air and noise pollution in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the works undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board in each State in this regard;

(c) whether there has been a sharp rise in the quantity of suspended particles of sulphur dioxide in the air on the occasion of Deepawali, particularly in Delhi, during this year;

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

(e) the measures taken by the Government to check air and noise pollution in country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are organising mass-awareness programmes periodically through banners, posters, mobile exhibitions, print media etc. in respect of prevention and control of air and noise pollution. SPCBs and PCCs in the union territories were requested by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to undertake air and noise monitoring in their respective areas during Deepawali 2007. In addition, monitoring of air and noise pollution were also carried out directly by CPCB in Delhi, Bangalore, Bhopal, Vadodara and Lucknow.

(c) and (d) While the level of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) during Deepawali 2007 when compared to Deepawali 2006 is uneven showing an increase in some places and decrease in others, the general trend in the levels of suspended particulate matter (SPM) and respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM) in Delhi show an increase. Under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), monitoring of SO<sub>2</sub>, SPM and RSPM alongwith other parameters is undertaken to ascertain ambient air

quality. Suspended particles of sulphur dioxide are not monitored under this programme.

(e) The measures taken to abate air and noise pollution include:

- Standards for control of noise pollution from various sources have been notified.
- Noise and emission standards for Diesel Generator (DG) Sets have been notified.
- Ambient air quality standards have been notified.
- Ambient noise quality standards have been notified.
- Noise standards for fire crackers have been notified.
- Testing of firecrackers for noise levels for compliance of noise standards is undertaken by CPCB for the last five years.
- Emission standards for various categories of industries have been notified.
- Mass emission norms for the vehicles at the manufacturing stage as well as for in-use vehicles have been notified.
- Pollution under Control (PUC) Certificate System is in place for in-use vehicles.
- Unleaded petrol has been introduced throughout country.

[English]

**Revamping of National River Conservation Programme**

\*193. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the National River Conservation Programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Governments to create proper sewerage infrastructure to prevent pollution from entering the rivers. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing one time grant for capital works for identified polluted stretches. The National River Conservation Plan is a major programme of the Government under which pollution abatement works of major rivers in the country are undertaken.

Preliminary meetings have been held for discussing the revamping of the National River Conservation Programme with concerned Ministries, independent experts in the field and Non Government Organizations (NGOs). The proposals discussed to revamp the strategy include among others, focusing on quantity of river waters as much as on quality, redesigning institutional arrangements at the national and State level, developing suitable indicators for measurement of water quality, integration with urban development Plans, social mobilization and independent oversight.

**National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board**

\*194. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Afforestation and Eco Development Board is involved in the development of forest villages;

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

(c) the details of the existing schemes to provide minimum facilities to the Scheduled Tribes dwelling in the forest areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) to (c) A specific scheme for development of forest villages titled "Development of Forest Villages" is being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) of the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). Under the scheme, funds are provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the Tribal or Social Welfare Department of States which in turn provides funds to the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs). The scheme aims to provide basic infrastructural facilities like approach roads, drinking water, healthcare, minor irrigation etc. and support to the livelihood of the villagers. The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) does not directly implement this scheme, it assists the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in examination of the proposals received from States under this scheme. The NAEB has also issued guidelines in April 2004 to assist the formulation of projects under the scheme.

As per information provided by the Ministry of Tribal affairs, proposals covering 2388 forest villages/habitations in 11 States have been approved and a total amount of Rs. 45924.71 lakhs have been released during 2005-06 to 2007-08 (as on 15-11-2007) under the Development of Forest Villages Scheme. The State wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

S. No.	State	Total No. of forest villages	Total No. of forest villages supported	Total fund released so far (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	499	475	5876.42

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Chhattisgarh	425	422	9554.37
3.	Gujarat	199	199	4007.00
4.	Jharkhand	24	24	303.58
5.	Meghalaya	23	23	390.71
6.	Madhya Pradesh	893	867	19492.07
7.	Mizoram	85	85	1710.00
8.	Orissa	20	20	290.60
9.	Tripura	62	62	930.00
10.	Uttarakhand*	61	41	566.96
11.	Uttar Pradesh	13	0	0.00
12.	West Bengal	170	170	2803.00
Total		2474	2388	45924.71

\*Forest Habitations

**Standardisation of Ayurvedic Drugs**

\*195. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major hurdle in the wide acceptability of ayurvedic drugs is the absence of standardization and the lack of acceptable procedure to establish standards;

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken by the Government to establish standards for ayurvedic drugs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, Standardization of Ayurvedic and other traditional medicine

compound drugs is more complex than standardization of single or combination pharmaceutical drugs. Government of India set up the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia Committee for laying down pharmacopoeial standards. So far pharmaceutical standards of 418 most widely used single crude Ayurvedic drugs have been laid down. First Volume of Pharmacopoeial Standards of 50 most commonly used Ayurvedic compound drugs has also been published in October, 2007. The science of standardization of botanicals is constantly evolving and the pharmacopoeial monographs are accordingly revised from time to time. The Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia Committee is following international norms for pharmacopoeial monographs of single and compound Ayurvedic drugs. Scientific work for laying down Pharmacopoeial standards for another 200 most commonly used Ayurvedic formulations as well as the work of preparation of pharmacopoeial standards for Ayurvedic plant based extracts has also been undertaken by the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia Committee in collaboration with laboratories of Department of AYUSH, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research as well as other reputed laboratories.

[Translation]

#### **Integrated Forest Protection Scheme**

\*196. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the norms for providing grants to various States under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS);

(b) whether the Government is contemplating to allocate grants on the basis of the proportion of forest land in a State under the IFPS;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when this norm is likely to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS) was initiated during Xth plan. This scheme provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments on sharing basis for protection of existing forests. The financial assistance is made available for forest fire control and management, strengthening of infrastructure, preparation of working plans and other protection related measures.

The allocation of funds to States/UTs is determined by various factors; such as, availability of funds, demand projected by States, past performance in terms of utilization of funds, etc.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Eco-City Project**

\*197. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State :

(a) the status of the 'Eco-City Project' taken up by the Central Pollution Control Board for demonstrating verifiable environmental improvement in the core area of some selected towns;

(b) whether the Government proposes to include some more places in the country under this project;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has undertaken six towns for the 'Eco-city Programme', namely, Kottayam, Tirupati, Ujjain, Puri, Thanjavur and Vrindavan. The main objective of the Programme is to demonstrate visible change in the environment around the

core-area in the selected towns. The status of environmental improvement schemes undertaken in these towns on 50:50 sharing basis is as under:—

- (i) Tirupati: The Eco-city Project in Tirupati aims to bring environmental improvement around Govinda Raja Swami Temple, which is the core area of the town. The activities sanctioned under the Programme cover storm water drains, connecting water pipeline from Konneru to Narshimha Tirtha, cleaning/de-silting of drains in the core area. The works sanctioned are in an advanced stage of completion.
- (ii) Puri: Eco-city development in Puri is around the Jagannath Temple for undertaking improvement of drinking water at Lion's gate, improvement of public toilet near 'Narendra tank' and construction of cement concrete drains with cover slabs along the roads around the Lord Jagannath Temple. The feasibility study for undertaking the works has been completed and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under formulation.
- (iii) Vrindavan: The Eco-city Programme aims at improvement of the core-zone of Vrindavan, where improvement of 2 kms stretch from Kaliadaha Ghat to Kesi Ghat on 'Parikrama Path' and improvement of Banke Bihari Temple surroundings have been sanctioned. For implementation of the above activities, the Vrindavan Municipality is to identify funding agencies to meet their financial contribution.
- (iv) Ujjain: The work includes improvement of the area around Mahakal Temple and the cleaning of Rudra Sagar lake. The activity of excavation and embankment of Rudra Sagar has been sanctioned. In addition, traffic and transportation, road improvement, sewage and drainage, laying of the water-supply line for Rudra Sagar, underground electric cabling and plantation and landscaping are to be taken up.

(v) Kottayam: The works under the Programme include rejuvenation of Mudar river and renovation of Kacherikadavu Boat Jetty Canal and the same are in an advanced stage of completion.

(b) There is no proposal for inclusion of more places under the Programme at present.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

#### **Setting Up of Blood Storage Centres**

\*198. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up blood storage centres at block level health centres to reduce the maternal mortality rate in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is supporting the State Governments by providing essential equipment and mobile vans for transportation of blood, training personnel and financial assistance to establish 3 blood storage centres at block level CHCs to reduce maternal mortality rate in the country.

[Translation]

#### **Funds to Panchayats**

\*199. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) the basis for allocation of funds to the village panchayats;

(b) whether any talks have been held with the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome 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) There is no uniformity in State Governments implementing Panchayati Raj and hence no universal basis for the allocation of funds to village panchayats. Panchayati Raj is a State subject.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The performance of elected rural bodies all these years has been constrained by a crunch of resources. Panchayats can perform effectively only if there is an appropriate devolution of adequate untied funds to enable them to deliver on their assigned public responsibilities. The "sound finances" of the Panchayats is a Constitutional obligation enjoined on the States by Article 2431. State Finance Commissions are specifically charged with preparing recommendations to ensure this. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been repeatedly urging State Governments to scientifically organise the devolution to Panchayats of the Functions, Finances and Functionaries on the basis of detailed Activity Maps so that the devolution of functions is matched by the devolution of finances on the same pattern and supported in turn by the devolution of functionaries. The Minister of Panchayati Raj has thus far concluded 22 Memoranda of Understanding (Joint Statements of Conclusions) with Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories concerned.

Typically, finances flow to Panchayats from the Central Government and agencies authorized by Central Government (Finance Commissions, for instance), State Governments and agencies authorized by State Governments (State Finance Commissions, for instance) and through the mobilization of own revenues. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been continually in dialogue with the Union Government's Ministers, State Governments and agencies over the devolution of finances to the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

At the First Round Table Conference of the State Ministers of Panchayati Raj convened in Kolkata in July

2004, consensus was reached that State Governments would specify in their respective State Budgets the domain of Panchayati Raj as this would clarify the devolution of tied funds and untied funds. State Governments were to include a component on PRIs in their State Budget, and this would be reflected in each sector. Consensus was also reached during that meeting that State Governments would encourage Panchayati Raj Institutions to mobilize their own resources. It was also agreed that the basis of allocation of funds to village panchayats ought to be guided by the principle of subsidiarity which says that any task/activity that can be assigned to a lower level need not be assigned to any higher level.

The Committee of Secretaries constituted in 2005 has had nine meetings so far with the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments as well as with Secretaries of Panchayati Raj Departments of all State Governments repeatedly urging each State Government to speedily devolve functions, finances and functionaries to Panchayats. The Council of Ministers of Panchayati Raj headed by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, which has been convened three times, has constantly urged State Governments to expedite the devolution of functions, finances and functionaries.

The Empowered Sub-Committee of the NDC, chaired by the Minister of Panchayati Raj, has also repeatedly addressed these issues and their directions have been communicated to State Governments. Compliance remains uneven.

During July 2007, Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized a National Seminar on "Panchayat Level Resource Mobilization and Efficient Fiscal Transfer". State Governments as well as State Finance Commissions participated in the deliberations and it was decided that State Governments would assist the State Finance Commissions on policy work to explore more appropriate tax and non-tax revenue assignments to Panchayat Raj Institutions such, that each level of Panchayat is assigned a basket of at least one or two critical tax handles.

*[English]***Child Obesity**

\*200. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

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

(a) whether there is an alarming rise in the incidence of child obesity, especially among the school going children in the country and most of such children also suffer from liver disorders;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up any Committee to identify the reasons for the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check obesity amongst children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the overall cross sectional study suggests an increase in the prevalence of obesity. A cross sectional study undertaken in Delhi Schools showed that the prevalence rate of overweight and obese children is 29% this is an increase from previous studies which showed it as 16% (2002-04, adolescents). The reasons attributed to the rising prevalence of over-weight and obesity include reduced level of physical activity/increase in sedentary life as also increased consumption of calorie dense nutrient deficient food items. Since creating awareness through information, educational and communication is the main strategy to tackle this issue, this component has been incorporated in the proposed National Programme for Control of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD). School health programme, which would among others deal with healthy life style, is also an integral part of National Rural Health Mission.

*[Translation]***Time Schedule for Issue of Passports**

1616.SHRI MOHD. TAHIR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any limit has been prescribed for submitting applications and issue of fresh passports or in cases of reissue/renewal of passports by the Passport Offices under normal or Tatkal Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Under, normal category, time target for issue of fresh passports is 30 days subject to receipt of clear Police Verification Report and completion of all formalities. In re-issue cases, time target for issue of passports is 15 days from the date of application subject to completion of all formalities. Under the "Tatkal Scheme", passports are to be issued within 7 days or within 14 days depending upon the payment of prescribed fees and submission of documents required under the Tatkal Scheme. The re-issue of passports under the Tatkal scheme is within 3 working days on payment of prescribed fee and submission of prescribed documents.

**Questionnaire on NFHS**

1617.SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Questionnaire prepared for National Health Survey have some objectionable Questions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government has taken any action to prevent the re-occurrence of such incidents in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (e) The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-III) conducted in the year 2005-06 has collected information on mortality, marriage and fertility, family planning, maternal and child health, immunization of children, treatment of nutritional status of children and adult, prevalence of anemia among children and adults, knowledge, attitude and behaviour with regard to HIV/AIDS and its prevalence as well as several emerging issues such as perinatal mortality, male involvement in maternal health care, adolescent reproductive health, higher risk sexual behaviour, domestic violence and knowledge and treatment seeking behaviour about tuberculosis and malaria.

The questionnaire for the survey were designed and prepared in consultation and wider discussions which included representative from the Central Ministries and Departments like M/o Women and Child Development, M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation, Registrar General of India, National AIDS Control Organization, State Governments, Donor Partners and experts in the field of demography, health etc. field work for the survey was conducted by 18 Field organizations.

Decisions about policies and procedures including design, methodology, questionnaire, contents etc for NFHS-3 were reviewed by three project committees, namely; (i) Steering Committee, (ii) Administrative and Finance Management Committee and (iii) Technical Advisory Committee.

[English]

#### Setting Up of New Body for Promotion of Drugs

1618. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal for setting up of new Body to streamline the

manufacture, licensing, import, storage, promotion and use of drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to set up Zonal Offices for such Body;

(d) if so, the time by which the Body is likely to be set up;

(e) whether there is lack of adequate staff in the Drug Control Division;

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha for setting up of Central Drug Authority of India to upgrade National Regulatory system for drugs and cosmetics and providing technical vision and policy direction in respect of quality of drugs marketed in the country. The authority would have ten main divisions at Head Quarter to discharge functions as envisaged under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The centralization of grant of manufacturing licenses is proposed to be done in a phased manner.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The Central Drug Authority of India will come into existence after the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is amended by the Parliament as proposed.

(e) Yes, Sir

(f) The infrastructure for regulating Drug Control will be suitably augmented under the authority to discharge functions assigned under the Drug and Cosmetic Act for regulating quality of drugs marketed in the country.

- (g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**XDR and MDR form of T.B.**

1619. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the XDR form of T.B. is fatal and incurable and more dangerous than Multi Drug Resistant T.B. (MDR, TB);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether World Health Organisation has asked to be vigilant in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for treatment and control of both the types of TBs namely XDR and MDR, TB; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is disease by an isolate of *M. tuberculosis* resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampicin. Extensively-drug resistant TB (XDR-TB) is a sub-set of MDR-TB which is further resistant to at least two more drugs which are second line drugs and is thus virtually incurable. XDR TB was first described in March 2006 following a joint survey of laboratories by the WHO, IUATLD, and CDC, Atlanta.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, XDR-TB is a serious emerging threat to public health and TB control, raising concerns of TB epidemics with severely restricted treatment options that could jeopardize progress made in TB control. To combat this threat. WHO has recommended MDR-TB prevention through sustained high quality DOTS implementation, improvement of laboratory capacity for diagnosis of MDR and XDR TB, prevention of emergence of XDR

TB through effective treatment of MDR TB, and to address indiscriminate use of second line anti-TB drugs.

(e) and (f) The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in the country. The objective is to achieve cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases.

The country has been consistently achieving the target of 85% treatment success of new sputum positive patients put on treatment for the past several years. It is also detecting 70% of the new estimated infectious cases. It is estimated that the deaths due to TB have declined to less than 5%. The number of deaths has been brought down from 5 lakh annually in 1990 to 3,70,000 currently. Recent studies conducted by Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai suggest that there has been a 12% annual decline in the prevalence of TB. As per the latest estimates, the MDR TB incidence in new cases is less than 3%.

The programme is establishing a network of quality assured accredited laboratories at least one in each large State capable of undertaking culture and drug sensitivity testing for diagnosis of MDR TB and treatment as per DOTS Plus guidelines. MDR TB treatment has been started in the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat and will be extended to entire country in a phased manner by 2010.

[English]

**Measures to save Leopards**

1620. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of leopards at present, State-wise;
- (b) the number of leopards deaths that have come to the notice of Government during the year till date, State-wise;
- (c) whether some cases of skin seizure have come to notice in various States of the country;

- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to save the leopard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) As per the information available, the State-wise details of the number of leopards present, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Details of death of leopards that have come to the notice of the Central Government during the current year are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) As per the information available, the State-wise details of poaching/seizure incidents (including skins) involving major species, namely, tiger, leopard, elephant, rhino, star tortoise, bear, musk deer and otter during the year 2003, 04 and 05 are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(e) The measures taken by Government of India to ensure protection of leopards, inter alia, include the following:

1. Leopard has been included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thus according them the highest degree of protection.
2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife including leopards.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crimes.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – *Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant*, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.

5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wild animals including leopards:

1. Development of wildlife habitat to increase the population of wild animals.
2. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
3. Deployment of Ex-service men for patrolling.
4. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
5. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.
6. Training to frontline staff.
7. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.

**Statement-I**

*Number of leopards – State-wise*

S.	Name of State	No. of Leopard No.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	550
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	98
3.	Assam	243
4.	Bihar and Jharkhand	164
5.	Goa and Daman and Diu	41
6.	Gujarat	1070
7.	Haryana	25

1	2	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	785
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7
10.	Karnataka	620
11.	Kerala	16
12.	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	2206
13.	Maharashtra	717
16	Mizoram	200
17.	Nagaland	14
18.	Orissa	487
19.	Rajasthan	587
21.	Tamil Nadu	360
22.	Tripura	18
23.	Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand	2168
24.	West Bengal	331
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14
26.	Chhattisgarh	1293

**Statement-II**

*State-wise details of death of leopards that have come to the notice of Central Government during the current year*

S.No.	Name of State	No. of leopard Death
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Assam	8
3.	Bihar	2

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	37
5.	Haryana	1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	12
8.	Jharkhand	1
9.	Kerala	4
10.	Maharashtra	23
11.	Orissa	7
12.	Rajasthan	5
13.	Sikkim	2
14.	Tamil Nadu	3
15.	Uttarakhand	58
16.	Chhattisgarh	2
17.	Madhya Pradesh	10

**Statement-III**

*Number of important cases of poaching/seizure of wildlife and its products*

S. No.	Name of State	Year		
		2003	2004	2005
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	2	-	11
2	Assam	1	2	4
3.	Bihar	1	1	2
4.	Chhattisgarh	-	2	5

1	2	3	4	5
5. Gujarat		2	—	—
6. Haryana		2	4	—
7. Himachal Pradesh		1	3	3
8. Jammu and Kashmir		1	—	—
9. Jharkhand		6	9	2
10. Karnataka		8	10	3
11. Madhya Pradesh*		11	11	11
12. Maharashtra***		15	14	9
13. Manipur		—	—	1
14. Meghalaya		—	—	1
15. Orissa		17	19	20
16. Punjab		—	—	10
17. Rajasthan		2	4	—
18. Sikkim		—	—	3
19. Tamil Nadu		24	14	—
20. Tripura		—	—	1
21. Uttar Pradesh		13	10	6
22. Uttarakhand**		23	14	3
23. West Bengal		39	11	6
24. NCT of Delhi		13	8	21

\* In Madhya Pradesh, three skin seizures during 2007 have been made.

\*\* In Uttarakhand, five skin seizures during 2006, and two in 2007 have been made.

\*\*\* In Maharashtra, two cases of skin seizure were reported in 2007.

[Translation]

**Condition of Health Services**

1621.PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of people die every year due to poor health services in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to include the health services in the concurrent list to monitor the health services in different States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Despite improvements recorded in the health sector, deaths still occur from disease like TB, malaria, and HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Cardio Vascular disease etc in different parts of the country. The Government is implementing various disease Control Programmes namely National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, AIDS, Cancer and Mental Health which have contributed to improvement of situation.

Launching of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in 2005, is another major step taken in the direction of improving the health care services specially in the rural areas. The mission aims to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal.

(e) The Government provides funds for the public health system and extends assistance to States in implementation of Centrally Sponsored Health Programmes like Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), Vector Borne

Diseases, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. The continuance of health as a State subject allows the States to take the leadership role, which is required for a good functional health system.

#### **Non-Compliance with CIC Instructions**

1622. SHRI KIREN RIJUJ :

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Ministries/Departments have failed to comply with the instructions of the Central Information Commission (CIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give more power to the Central Information Commission for initiating contempt proceeding against such Ministries/Departments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received any recommendations from the Commission in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) The action taken by the Government 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) The Central Information Commission has informed that some Ministries/Departments failed to comply with their instructions.

(b) The information is not centrally maintained. However, when such an instance is brought before the commission, it addresses the matter.

(c) to (g) The Central Information Commission in its Annual Report for the Year 2005-06 has stated that the Commission should be given powers of contempt of court.

*[English]*

#### **Treatment for Cleft Lip Palate Defect**

1623. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 2.5 million children are suffering for cleft lip;

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

(c) whether any medical facilities are available in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e): No large studies have been carried out in India to establish the prevalence of cleft lip. However, as per rough estimates, the incidence of cleft lip and palate is approximately 1 per 700 to 1000 children. Considering the population of the country, it is estimated that approximately 1.5 million children are having cleft lip and palate.

The facilities for management of such deformities required surgical interventions and these are available both in public and private hospitals in the country. More than 1500 plastic surgeons are available to operate the cleft lip and palate children in the country. Such facilities are available at Central Government Institutions, namely Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, New Delhi; Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi; Kalavati Saran Children hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi; AIIMS, New Delhi; PGIMER, Chandigarh and JIPMER, Pondicherry.

*[Translation]*

#### **Increasing Quantity of Nitrogen in the Air**

1624. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a sharp increase of Nitrogen level in the air as reported in the Dainik Jagran, dated October 25, 2007.

(b) If so, whether the Government endorses the estimates prepared by the European Space Agency; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to keep the quantity of Nitrogen Dioxide within permissible limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The news item in Dainik Jagran, New Delhi, dated 25th October, 2007 and entitled The Rising Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in Indian Ambient Air refers various estimates pertaining to NO<sub>2</sub> and its trend. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality including NO<sub>2</sub> at 339 locations across the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The monitored data from 1989 onwards in various cities indicates that annual average concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> is within the permissible norms and showing uneven trend.

(c) Various steps taken to keep the quantity of Nitrogen Dioxide within permissible limits are:

- notification of general and source specific environmental standards;
- implementation of Bharat Stage-III emission norms, for vehicles at manufacturing stage;
- introduction of improved Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certification system for in-use vehicles;
- encouraging the use of low NOx burner in thermal power plants; and
- regular monitoring for environmental compliance.

[English]

### Oral Substitute Therapy Programme

1625.SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated an Oral Substitute Therapy (OST) programme for Intravenous Drug Users (IDUs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated number of IDUs in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early implementation of OST programme especially in North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) The Government under the 3rd phase of the National AIDS Control Programme has developed comprehensive guidelines for injecting drug users consisting of package of service: abscess management, needle/syringe exchange, oral substitution, condom provision etc.

(c) The estimated number of IDUs in the country is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Assessment of institutional capacities for the implementation of the harm reduction strategy has been undertaken.

### Statement

#### Estimation of IDUs (State-wise)

S. No.	Name of the State	Mapped
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	No data is available

1	2	3
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	No data is available
3.	Andhra Pradesh	2640
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	864
5.	Assam	2000
6.	Bihar	5890
7.	Chandigarh	3000
8.	Chennai	No data is available
9.	Chhattisgarh	No data is available
10.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	No data is available
11.	Daman and Diu	No data is available
12.	Delhi	17000
13.	Goa	1050
14.	Gujarat	11300
15.	Haryana	7300
16.	Himachal Pradesh	1000
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	No data is available
18.	Jharkhand	No data is available
19.	Karnataka	4819
20.	Kerala	12000
21.	Lakshadweep	No data is available
22.	Madhya Pradesh	3530
23.	Maharashtra	9000
24.	Manipur	39334
25.	Meghalaya	1500

1	2	3
26.	Mizoram	12800
27.	Mumbai	622
28.	Nagaland	27774
29.	Orissa	7750
30.	Pondicherry	1040
31.	Punjab	15860
32.	Rajasthan	3780
33.	Sikkim	1000
34.	Tamil Nadu	12620
35.	Tripura	7000
36.	Uttar Pradesh	17200
37.	Uttaranchal	2135
38.	West Bengal	17300
Total		249108

#### Study on Glaciers Conducted by ISRO

1626.SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has conducted any study on glaciers in the Himalayas; and

(b) if so, the details of the key findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has carried out investigation of selected glaciers in the Parbati basin, using satellite images. The results of the study show a reduction in aerial extent of the glaciers to

the tune of 5.4% during the period 1998-2004. Statistics on reduction in aerial extent of the glaciers studied is given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*Loss in Glacial Area*

Name of Glaciers in Parbati Basin	Year of Observation and Area in sq. km.		Loss in area (sq. km)
	1998	2004	
Parbati	38.21	36.17	2.04
52H08005	1.21	1.20	0.01
52H12001	27.29	27.13	0.16
52H12004	0.63	0.62	0.01
52H12005	2.62	2.54	0.08
52H12006	0.44	0.40	0.04
52H12008	21.80	19.27	2.53
52H12009	9.70	8.93	0.77
52H12010	8.68	8.25	0.43
52H12011	2.81	2.75	0.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>113.39</b>	<b>107.26</b>	<b>6.13</b>
<i>%loss in area</i>			5.40

[Translation]

**Supply of Sub-Standard Coal to Power Plants**

1627.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various coal companies are supplying sub-standard coal to the Thermal Power Plants;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any complaint in this regard;

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

(d) the action taken by the Government against these companies for supplying sub-standard coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) Sometimes complaints are received from power houses against the poor quality of coal supplied by subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL). Details of the complaints received by CIL, company-wise is given as under:-

S. No.	Name of the Company	Number of Complaints
1.	Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	16
2.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	11
3.	Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	73
4.	Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)	0
5.	Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	19
6.	South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)	20
7.	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)	13

*The above complaints of 152 rakes is against despatches of about 110.02 million tonnes i.e. about 0.05% by weight and slightly more than one complaint per million tonnes of despatch. Thus the number of complaints are extremely small.*

(d) CIL has been advised from time to time to take remedial actions in respect of specific complaints. CIL has also taken following initiatives to improve the quality of coal:-

(i) Selective mining of bands of greater than 1 meter thickness.

- (ii) Appropriate positioning of OB and coal benches to avoid contamination.
- (iii) Scrapping/cleaning of coal benches before blasting.
- (iv) Installation of metal detectors/magnetic separators over running conveyors before coal loading.
- (v) All the major projects having high capacity coal handling plants to despatch sized and uniform quality of coal to suit the requirement of the consumers.
- (vi) Establishment of well equipped laboratories at all the projects for regular quality assessment.
- (vii) Arrangement for joint sampling and 3rd party sampling with consumers, based on which consumers are compensated.
- (viii) Shale picking, if any, at mine face, stocks sidings and from the wagons.

[English]

#### **Air and Water Pollution in Orissa**

1628. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has identified the industrial units which are causing Air and Water Pollution in Orissa, particularly in Keonjhar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken against such polluting units; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (d) The Orissa State Pollution Control Board has identified various industrial units which were causing air and water pollution in Keonjhar District. As per

information provided, during the last three years 78 industrial units mainly in the sectors of mining and sponge iron plants were issued show cause notices by the Orissa State Pollution Control Board due to noncompliance. Presently, closure order is in force for two units namely, Tikarapada Pyrophyllite Mine, Tikarapada, Keonjhar and Malati Minerals (P) Ltd., Keonjhar.

#### **Study on Cholera**

1629. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a Central Member Team was sent to Assam to study the recent outbreak of Cholera;
- (b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made by the Central Team; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Yes, a Central team comprising of officials from National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) and National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICE), Kolkata visited Assam to investigate an outbreak of Acute Gastroenteritis in Padumphukuri area of Uznabazar, Guwahati.

The main observation of the Central Team was that the outbreak of Cholera was due to contaminated water and unsafe disposal of excreta in the affected area. The team suggested improvement of surveillance activities and provision of safe drinking water.

(c) Health being a State subject, the action by State Government of Assam included:

- Response by the civil authorities/local health authorities by setting up a 24 hour Medical Camp in the affected area including ambulance facilities.
- Investigation for water and stool samples by the Local Agencies which yielded, *Vibrio cholerae*

from the affected cases. All 3 water samples failed in presumptive coliform testing.

- Repair/replacement of defective pipelines of water supply of Guwahati Municipal Corporation in the affected areas.
- Super chlorination of drinking water source.

[Translation]

**Effect of Climate Change on People  
Residing in Forests**

1630.SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the adverse effect of Climate Change on the people residing in the forests;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to bring any device for reducing the effect of climate change;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any long term scheme for the rehabilitation of the people dependent on the forests; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (e) Preliminary assessment of impacts of projected climate change on forest ecosystem undertaken for the preparation of India's Initial National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change during 2001-2004, indicates shifts in forest boundaries, changes in species composition (forest types), changes in net productivity, loss of biodiversity, forests die back in the transient phase and adverse socio economic implications. More comprehensive research and in depth studies are required to validate these preliminary results. Several existing policies and schemes of the Government seek to address the similar impacts of current climatic variability.

**Over Bridge at Mehar Railway Crossing**

1631.SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether approval for construction of over-bridge at Mehar Railway Crossing on NH-7 in Madhya Pradesh has been granted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The construction of Road Over Bridge at Mehar (Maihar) Railway crossing as a part of two lane Maihar bypass from km.299/6 to 304/6 on NH-7 has been approved on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

(c) Documents for pre-qualification of bidders are under finalization.

**Collection of Toll on Banas Bridge**

1632.SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has requested for discontinuation of toll collection on Banas bridge;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In May 2006, Minister, Public Works and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Government of Rajasthan and in March 2006, Chief Engineer (National Highway), Public Works Department, Rajasthan had requested for terminating toll collection on Banas bridge.

(c) As per the National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highways Section and Permanent Bridge-Public Funded Projects) Rules, 1997 made pursuant to the National Highways Act, 1956, the fee for this bridge is being collected in perpetuity by the executive agency. As such toll collection on this bridge is not to be stopped.

[English]

**Regional Research Centre for Ayurveda**

1633.SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has agreed to establish a Regional Research Centre for Ayurveda at Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has acquired the land required for the construction of the proposed building for the centre;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) A Regional Research Center for Ayurveda Drug Research is already functioning at Thiruvananthapuram.

(b) to (d) The State Government has allotted land measuring 1.54 acres in Thiruniala Village for construction of a building for the Regional Research Center (Drug Research), Thiruvananthapuram. The land has been taken over by the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) and the design and estimate for construction of the building has been finalized in consultation with CPWD.

**Introduction of Business Visa between  
India and Pakistan**

1634.SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Pakistan have signed a new business Visa agreement that is likely to address the problems faced by the entrepreneurs travelling between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the broad features of the agreement and the time by which the agreement is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) In October 2005, the Government of India had proposed to the Government of Pakistan that the existing visa agreement be revised and had also handed over the draft of a revised visa agreement.

(c) The draft agreement proposes liberalisation in issue of different categories of visas including business visas. The matter is being discussed with the Government of Pakistan

[Translation]

**Pension for Unmarried Daughter**

1635.SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether unmarried daughters are entitled to avail family pension after death of their parents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the age upto which they can avail family pension alongwith the percentage of pension to be paid to them;

(d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines in this regard recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the procedure laid down for availing the pension by unmarried daughters?

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) The unmarried daughters are entitled to avail family pension after the death of their parents as per the instructions issued by Government on 6.9.2007 which, inter-alia stipulate that the unmarried daughter beyond 25 years of age shall be eligible for family pension at par with the widowed/divorced daughters subject to other conditions being fulfilled. Grant of family pension to unmarried/widowed/divorced daughters shall be payable in order of their date of birth and younger of them will not be eligible for family pension unless the next above her has become ineligible for grant of family pension. The family pension to unmarried/widowed/divorced daughters above the age of 25 years shall be payable only after the other eligible children below the age of 25 years have ceased to be eligible to receive family pension and there is no disabled child to receive the family pension.

[English]

#### **Plantation along Agra-Gwalior Expressway**

1636.SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether plantation of trees along the National Highways are being undertaken;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether plantation of trees and their maintenance is being undertaken on contract basis;
- (d) if so, the National Highway-wise details thereof;
- (e) whether large number of trees have died or dried down due to negligence of contractor, particularly on Agra-Gwalior NH; and
- (f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken 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. Trees are provided on either side as avenue plantation based on availability of land within Right of Way (RoW). The plantation of trees is generally taken up by the State Forest Department. In some of the projects under BOT, the tree plantation is being undertaken by the concessionaire.

(c) and (d) Plantation of trees and their maintenance is generally not included in the civil works construction contracts. In some stretches entrusted to National Highways Authority of India, maintenance of trees is included as a part of ongoing Operation and Maintenance contracts. The details are as under:

- (i) NH-8: Jaipur bypass.
- (ii) NH-79A: Kishangarh – Kanwalias-Jajaro Ka Khera section (km. 0 to km. 35) and NH-79 (km. 15 to km. 163.90).
- (iii) NH-76: (Udaipur-Chittorgarh (km. 113.825 to km. 220.00).
- (iv) NH-5: Bhubaneswar-Jagatpur-Chandikhole (km. 0 to km. 61).

(e) No, Sir. The trees on Agra-Gwalior section are being maintained through State Forest Department.

(f) Does not arise.

#### **Streamlining Passport Offices**

1637.SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN :  
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN :  
SHRI UDAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some passport offices have issued passports of same number to many persons as reported in the *Times of India*, dated November 12, 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any nexus between the passport issuing staff and travel agents in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to streamline the functioning of passport offices throughout the country;

(e) whether any complaints have been received regarding hardships faced by the passport applicants; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) India Security Press Nashik had printed Jumbo passport booklets bearing numbers from Z-000001 to Z-056000 in 2006. The booklet numbers were a 'repeat' series of an earlier series issued by India Security Press, Nashik in 1995. As this resulted in problems at immigration counters for some citizens, the Government have instructed all Passport Issuing Authorities in India and abroad not to issue any of the 'repeat' series printed in 2006. The Passport Issuing Authorities were also instructed to recall the passport booklets already issued to citizens and to issue to them new passports gratis.

(c) and (d) As regards corrupt practices between the Passport issuing staff and travel agents, whenever such instances come to the notice of the Government, action against errant officials is taken immediately by sanctioning prosecution by the concerned agencies or through disciplinary proceedings, as required. The Government have also been taking a number of corrective measures to check malpractices and deficiencies in Passport Offices, such as regular and surprise inspections including vigilance inspections of Passport Offices, strengthening of vigilance mechanism in the Central Passport Organization and ensuring greater accountability in the working of Passport Offices.

(e) and (f) Whenever complaints are received by the Government regarding hardships faced by passport applicants, suitable remedial measures are taken immediately.

The Government are aware that the applicants at times face some delay in issuance of passports. The reasons include delays in receipt of Police Verification Reports (PVRs) and adverse or incomplete PVRs, incomplete information and/or documents furnished by the applicants. Rapidly growing workload of the Passport Offices is also contributing to pendencies. The number of passports issued by Central Passport Organization went up by 24.4% in 2006 as compared to the corresponding figure of 2005 (from 35.7 lakhs in 2005 to 44.41 lakhs in 2006).

Passport Offices have been instructed and offered assistance from time to time to clear any backlog resulting from rush of applications. The pendency figure is being closely monitored by the Ministry on a weekly basis.

#### Utilisation Certificate

1638. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has expressed concern over delay in reporting of fund utilization in various health programmes including the National Rural Health Mission which has led to large pendency of utilization certificates;

(b) if so, whether addressing the two-day meeting of the State Health Secretaries in July 2007, the Minister has felt that there is an-urgent need for improving the capacity for fund utilization by the States;

(c) whether the delayed reporting of fund utilization has led to a large pendency of utilization certificates; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to urge upon the States to provide utilization certificates of the funds used for health?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to weed out the pending UCs of preceding years, the position of outstanding UCs against the Grantees was brought to the notice of Chief Secretary/

Secretary and copy endorsed to Resident Commissioners of States by Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, for their early settlement. Subsequently, a reminder is issued by Chief Controller of Accounts to all State Resident Commissioners for early settlement of outstanding UCs.

[Translation]

#### **Excess Payment to Coal Contractors**

1639. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries have given excess payment to contractor without any R and R policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof including excess payment made company-wise and Project-wise of CIL during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has identified the officers to whom excess payment has been made under the schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) R and R benefits are provided only to eligible displaced persons as per Coal India Limited's Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R and R) policy only and there is no scope for such payment beyond the R and R policy.

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

#### **Study of Sports Science in Training Programme**

1640. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

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

(a) whether study of Sports-science has been made compulsory in the training-programme of the sportspersons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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) Yes, Sir. Sports Sciences are an integral part of the training of sportspersons. Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centres at the National Institute of Sports (NIS), Patiala and Bangalore have well-established sports science facilities in Sports Medicine, Sports Psychology, Anthropometry, Bio/Mechanics, Exercise physiology and training methods which are managed by highly qualified and experienced teams of Sports Scientists. Besides, the latest fitness equipment and recovery methods facilities are also available at these centres. The scientific support to National Campers is an essential part of the system of preparation for international competitions.

(c) Yes, Sir. Scientific support is being provided to National Coaches in the form of scientific analyses of sportspersons and providing scientific inputs in sports training, especially in the fields of Sports Medicine, Sports Psychology, Sports Bio/Mechanics, Sports Physiology and methods of sports training to enhance the performance of athletes. In the two-year Master of Sports Science with Coaching Course, Research Project are compulsory along with the theoretical knowledge.

#### **Trauma Centres in Delhi**

1641. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of NCT, Delhi has sent any proposal to the Union Government for setting up of Trauma Centres in Delhi;

- (b) if so, the present position of the proposal; and
- (c) the funds allocated for said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received for setting up of Trauma Centre in Delhi from the Government of NCT of Delhi.

**Naxalites and Mafia Caught in Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves**

1642. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Naxalites and Mafia have been caught in several sanctuaries and tiger reserves in the country;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to drive them out of those areas;
- (c) the sanctuary and tiger reserve-wise details of the villages falling under their areas; and
- (d) the success achieved by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) to (d) Information in this regard is being collected from States and would be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

**Auction of Coal Blocks**

1643. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the move of the Government to auction coal blocks has been strongly opposed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) Reservations were expressed from certain quarters against the proposed system of allocation of coal and lignite blocks through competitive bidding on, inter-alia, the following grounds:

- (i) There would be increase in the cost of coal and thereby in the cost of power generation;
- (ii) The prerogative of the States Government in the selection of a lessee will get diluted,
- (iii) Allocation of lignite blocks through competitive bidding would place the lignite bearing State at a disadvantage while negotiating other terms and conditions with the power project developers;
- (iv) The proposed system of allocation through competitive bidding would not provide higher priority to power sector.

The view of the Government has been that rational bidding is unlikely to increase the cost of coal when compared to notified price of CIL. Through competitive bidding, prerogative in the selection of a lessee will be exercised in a more transparent and objective manner. Allocation of lignite blocks and award of power projects could be done in a planned and coordinated manner between the concerned State Governments and the Central Government. There would be no bar on holding separate auction of coal blocks to different sectors as per the proposal under consideration. The power utilities in the public sector will still have access to coal blocks through the Government company dispensation, without necessarily participating in the competitive bidding.

**Pollution in Delhi**

1644. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the pollution in Delhi has gone back to pre-CNG level;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring ambient air quality at seven locations in Delhi including residential areas, industrial areas and traffic intersections. The monitored data indicates that the levels of Sulphur Dioxide concentration in ambient air are showing a decreasing trend and the Nitrogen Dioxide levels increased in the year 2006 in comparison to 1996 and 2001 data. The concentration of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) in residential and industrial areas in 2006 indicated that it was below the levels recorded in 1996. The increase in the levels could be attributed to adverse meteorological conditions, which prevent dispersal of pollutants.

(c) The steps initiated for mitigating pollution in Delhi include:

- Introduction of Bharat Stage III norms at manufacturing stage for vehicles;
- Introduction of cleaner fuel in public transport;
- Use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants;
- A Source Apportionment Study has been initiated in Delhi for ascertaining contribution from various sources to air pollution.

#### **Non-Payment by various Contractors to SECL**

1645. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether various contractors are not making payments to the South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) on account of lease rent, electricity, maintenance and water supply;

- (b) if so, the Company-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been any audit objection in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Allocation for North East**

1646. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state :

- (a) total accrual and current balance in the non-lapsable pool of resources created out of the unspent balance of the ten percent budgetary allocation of each Ministry for the North Eastern Region showing the year-wise accrual and actual disbursements made to the Ministry of DONER;
- (b) the Ministries, which are exempted from making ten percent budgetary allocation for the North Eastern Region;
- (c) whether some mega projects are directly funded from this pool; and
- (d) if so, the project-wise allocation made and balance amount available with the Ministry of Finance ?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Information on the year-wise accruals in the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and allocations made under the NLCPR Scheme in the budget of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M/DoNER) since the inception of the Scheme is as given below:

S. No.	Year	Unspent balances accruing to the Non-Lapsable Fund during the year (Rs. crores)	Budget allocated under NLCPR Scheme to M/ DoNER (Rs. crores)
1.	1998-1999	1189.85	₹ 106.34
2.	1999-2000	1571.78	₹ 409.96
3.	2000-2001	1440.60	₹ 309.25
4.	2001-2002	1603.84	₹ 491.57
5.	2002-2003	1339.70	550.00
6.	2003-2004	657.24	550.00
7.	2004-2005	663.35	650.00
8.	2005-2006	1960.12	679.17
9.	2006-2007	₹ 1329.53	700.00
10	2007-2008		600.00

# Provisional

@ In addition, an amount of Rs. 1605.38 cr, i.e., the expenditure incurred by the North Eastern Council in the initial 4 years, i.e., 1998-99 to 2001-02, was also deducted from the Pool. Ministry of Finance has been requested to reconcile the discrepancy of an amount of Rs. 29.60 cr.

The balance in the NLCPR, as on 1.4.2007 is Rs. 5074.74 cr (Provisional)

(b) Ministries/Departments which are exempted from making Lump Sum budgetary allocation for the North Eastern Region (as on 1st January 2007) are:

- (i) Atomic Energy, (ii) Company Affairs, (iii) Economic Affairs, (iv) Expenditure, (v) External Affairs, (vi) Legal Affairs, (vii) Earth Sciences, (viii) Official Language, (ix) Personnel and Training, (x) Petroleum and Natural Gas, (xi) Planning, (xii) Revenue, (xiii) Social Justice and

Empowerment\*, (xiv) Steel, (xv) Space, (xvi) Science and Technology and (xvii) Scientific and Industrial Research.

In respect of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, only 2% of the funds for Scheduled Caste Division (SCD) of the Ministry are allocated to the NE. The norm of 10% allocation is applied to sectors other than SCD.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No mega projects are directly funded from this pool. The balance in the NLCPR, as on 1.4.2007 is Rs. 5074.74 cr (Provisional).

#### Matching Contribution required from States

1647.DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the poor and small States have financial difficulties in providing matching grants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the matter has been taken with the Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (e) States of North Eastern Region had represented about financial difficulties in contributing their stipulated share (25%) under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. They have also demanded a uniform pattern of 90:10 for all Centrally Sponsored Schemes. These States were provided one-time special dispensation during the last two years of the Tenth Plan (2005-06 and 2006-07) whereby they contributed only 10% and the remaining 15% was made available from the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

In view of the demand from the many States about the difficulties in changing over to 50:50 funding pattern

under the SSA in the Eleventh Plan, this pattern has been modified to a tapering ratio of 65:35 for the first two years of the Eleventh Plan, 60:40 for the third year, 55:45 for the fourth year and 50:50 thereafter. The special dispensation for NE States during 2005-06 and 2006-07 would continue for the Eleventh Plan whereby each of the NE States would contribute only 10% as State's share and the remaining portion would be met by the Government of India.

#### **Vacancies of Coaches in SAI**

1648. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of vacancies/posts in the selection grade of Coaches in the Sports Authority of India are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time since when these posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons for keeping these post unfilled;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to fill up these posts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and 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 (e) Yes, Sir. Around 500 posts of coaches in different sports disciplines are lying

vacant. Based on a report submitted by the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) in July 1998 recommending large-scale reduction in the sanctioned strength of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), including coaches, the Ministry made it incumbent on SAI to seek prior approval of the Government before the creation of any post. However, as an interim measure SAI has been permitted to engage coaches on a contract basis, whenever required. SAI doing so.

[Translation]

#### **Persons affected by Hepatitis-E**

1649. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons affected by Hepatitis-E in the country so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Viral Hepatitis is the infection of the liver. Hepatitis-E is water born disease caused by Hepatitis-E virus. It is a self limiting acute disease and no case of chronic Hepatitis-E has been reported.

The data regarding number of cases of Hepatitis-E is not separately maintained, however number of cases and deaths due to Viral hepatitis including Hepatitis-E for period from the year 2005-2007 is given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

#### *Reported Cases and Deaths Due to Principal Communicable Diseases in India VIRAL HEPATITIS - 2005*

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	15835	30	43447	9	29282	39	Dec., 05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	235	2	208	2	443	4	Dec., 05
3.	Assam	15938	0	991	0	16929	0	Dec., 05
4.	Bihar							NR
5.	Chhattisgarh							NR
6.	Goa	11	0	8	0	19	0	Apr., 05
7.	Gujarat	5775	5	3875	7	9850	12	Dec., 05
8.	Haryana	2437	15	1021	5	3458	20	Dec., 05
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1432	0	1237	0	2889	0	Dec., 05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir					7908	1	Dec., 05
11.	Jharkhand	17	0	6	0	23	0	Dec., Ex- cept Jan. to Mar., 05
12.	Karnataka	10144	20	7769	26	17913	46	Dec., 05
13.	Kerala	5539	12	3366	3	8905	15	Dec., 05
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3792	115	3255	13	7047	128	Dec., 05
15.	Maharashtra	27490	39	11677	43	39167	82	Dec., 05
16.	Manipur	106	0	100	0	206	0	Dec., 05
17.	Meghalaya	122	0	147	0	269	0	Dec., 05
18.	Mizoram	343	1	299	1	642	2	Dec., 05
19.	Nagaland	37	0	15	0	1117	0	Dec., 05
20.	Orissa	1543	12	979	9	2522	21	Dec., 05
21.	Punjab	1086	6	729	1	1815	7	Dec., 05
22.	Rajasthan	1484	43	777	7	2261	50	Dec., 05
23.	Sikkim	148	2	102	0	250	2	Dec., 05
24.	Tamil Nadu					8263	20	Dec., 05

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
25.	Tripura	185	2	158	1	343	3	Dec., 05
26.	Uttaranchal	616	1	268	0	884	1	Nov., 05
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1143	5	999	6	2142	11	Dec., 05
28.	West Bengal	3269	89	2357	46	5626	135	Aug., 05
29.	Aadaman and Nicobar Islands	172	5	95	2	267	7	Dec., 05
30.	Chandigarh							NR
31.	Dadra and Nagar Heavli	97	7	62	2	159	9	Dec., 05
32.	Daman and Diu	6	0	5	0	11	0	Nov., 05
33.	Delhi	6276	59	4326	44	10602	103	Dec., 05
34.	Lakshadweep	22	0	18	0	40	0	Dec., 05
35.	Pondicherry	448	0	341	0	789	0	Dec., 05
Total		105748	470	58637	227	181621	718	

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.

### 3.1.1.15 States/UTs wise Cases and Deaths Due to Viral Hepatitis (All Causes) in India 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	9154	18	8692	10	17846	28	Dec., Except Aug., 06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	272	4	281	2	553	6	Dec., 06
3.	Assam							NR
4.	Bihar							NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	885	2	606	0	1491	2	Dec. Except Jan. and Sept., 06
6.	Goa	10	0	5	0	15	0	Dec., 06
7.	Gujarat	5874	10	3522	6	9396	16	Dec., 06
8.	Haryana	2303	8	1680	3	3983	11	Dec., 06
9.	Himachal Pradesh	452	6	383	5	835	11	Dec., 06
10.	Jammu Div.	1470	0	999	0	4393	0	Dec., 06
	Kashmir Div.	819	0	670	0	1489	0	Dec., 06
11.	Jharkhand	30	0	21	0	51	0	Dec., 06
12.	Karnataka	8674	19	6306	5	14980	24	Dec., 06
13.	Kerala	4206	5	2812	1	7018	6	Dec., 06
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1578	6	921	3	2499	9	July, 06
15.	Maharashtra	30608	75	12607	56	43215	131	Dec., 06
16.	Manipur	192	0	154	0	346	0	Dec., 06
17.	Meghalaya	156	2	138	0	294	2	Dec., 06
18.	Mizoram	314	8	232	3	546	11	Dec., 06
19.	Nagaland	150	0	85	0	235	0	Dec., 06
20.	Orissa	1641	22	1046	16	2687	38	Dec., 06
21.	Punjab	2385	11	1444	6	3829	17	Dec., 06
22.	Rajasthan	2470	49	1399	29	3869	78	Dec., 06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
23. Sikkim		157	2	133	0	290	2	Dec., 06
24. Tamil Nadu						10075	15	Dec., 06
25. Tripura		1602	10	1166	5	2768	15	Dec., 06
26. Uttaranchal		1914	0	1467	0	3381	0	Dec., 06
27. Uttar Pradesh		2451	3	1265	3	3716	6	Dec., 06
28. West Bengal		4275	131	3158	74	7433	205	Dec., 06
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		176	1	37	3	213	4	Dec., 06
30. Chandigarh								NR
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		86	3	40	0	126	3	Dec., 06
32. Daman and Diu		1	0	2	0	3	0	Feb., Apr., Nov. and Dec., 06 Only
33. Delhi		2339	29	1741	13	4080	42	Dec., 06
34. Lakshadweep		53	0	33	0	86	0	Dec., 06
35. Pondicherry		385	5	230	2	615	7	Dec., 06
<b>Total</b>		<b>87082</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>53275</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>152356</b>	<b>689</b>	

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.

*No. of reported Cases and Deaths Due to Principal Communicable Diseases in India*  
**VIRAL HEPATITIS - 2007**

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	3932	19	2947	10	6879	29	Aug., 07
2.	Arunachal Pradesh							NR
3.	Assam							NR
4.	Bihar							NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	63	0	38	0	101	0	Feb., 07
6.	Goa							NR
7.	Gujarat	1638	1	1018	1	2656	2	Aug., 07
8.	Haryana	832	1	602	0	1434	1	Aug., 07
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1601	2	1278	1	2879	3	Aug., 07
10.	Jammu Div.	2301	0	1751	0	4052	0	Aug., 07
	Kashmir Div.	427	0	270	0	697	0	Aug., 07 except Jan.
11.	Jharkhand	85	0	53	0	138	0	July, 07
12.	Karnataka	3524	19	2684	2	6208	21	July, 07
13.	Kerala	2989	9	1972	2	4961	11	Aug., 07
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1496	8	1062	1	2558	9	May, 07
15.	Maharashtra							NR
16.	Manipur	106	2	52	0	158	2	June, 07
17.	Meghalaya	7	0	22	0	29	0	July, 07
18.	Mizoram	122	3	109	1	231	4	Aug., 07
19.	Nagaland	2	0	0	0	2	0	May, 07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
20. Orissa								NR
21. Punjab		1732	6	1161	2	2893	8	June, 07
22. Rajasthan		482	10	269	2	751	12	July, 07
23. Sikkim		63	1	63	2	126	3	July, 07
24. Tamil Nadu						200	0	May, 07
25. Tripura		752	3	505	0	1257	3	July, 07
26. Uttarakhand		770	7	517	4	1287	11	June, 07
27. Uttar Pradesh		1272	10	799	2	2071	12	June, 07 except May
28. West Bengal		1231	34	838	10	2069	44	June, 07
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		108	2	63	0	171	2	Aug., 07
30. Chandigarh						320	33	June, 07
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		39	0	23	0	62	0	Sept., 07
32. Daman and Dju		15	0	8	0	23	0	July, 07
33. Delhi		1643	37	939	18	2552	55	Aug., 07
34. Lakshadweep		45	0	41	0	86	0	June, 07
35. Puducherry		154	1	78	0	232	1	Aug., 07
<b>Total</b>		<b>27401</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>19162</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>47083</b>	<b>266</b>	

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 from Directorate of Health Services of States/UTs.

*[English]***T.B. Eradication Programme**

1650. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to launch a TB eradication programme with the help of World Bank; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) The Government has already launched a revised TB Control Programme (RNTCP) based on WHO recommended DOTS strategy in the entire country. Under RNTCP diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 78.00 lakh patients on DOTS treatment, averting more than 14.00 lakh deaths. Every month more than 1.0 lakh patients are placed on DOTS. In 2006 alone, India placed around 14.00 lakhs cases on DOTS, more than any country in a single year in the world. Overall performance of RNTCP has been excellent with cure/treatment completion rate consistently above 85% and death rate reduced to less than 5%. To increase accessibility of the masses to the facilities provided under the Programme, special emphasis is laid on the IEC activities, involvement of NGOs, private sector and medical colleges in the revised strategy

*[Translation]***Funds for Construction of NH**

1651. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA :  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

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

(a) the length in kilometers of the National Highways constructed/proposed to be constructed during the current year and the funds allocated/sanctioned for the same, State-wise;

(b) the details of major road projects undertaken for the last three years, State-wise, and the present status of the ongoing projects;

(c) whether any new NH Road Project has been undertaken/proposed to be undertaken during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Shortage of Medicines in Hospitals**

1652. SHRI PUSP JAIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether medicines for critical diseases are not available in adequate quantity in all the Central Government hospitals of the country;

(b) whether the patients have to purchase these costly medicines from the open market;

(c) if so, the total amount made available to these hospitals for the purchase of medicines and diagnostic tests; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to bring these medicines within the reach of poor patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) Adequate quantity of life saving medicines are available in Central Government hospitals in Delhi. There is also a provision of imprest money kept with the Medical Superintendent of the hospitals for local purchase in case of non-availability of any essential medicine. The details of budget allocation under the head 'Supplied and Material' which includes the expenditure on medicine and disposable diagnostics tests are as under:-

(Rupees in thousand)

Name of Institute	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
	Actual	R.E.	B.E.
S.J. Hospital	205671	197435	195000
Dr. RMLH	107852	99240	119200
LHMC	69427	71590	71590

*[English]***Fuel Efficiency Norms for Automotive Sector**

1653. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether the Committee to formulate fuel efficiency norms for automotive sector has been set up;

(b) if so, the details of terms of reference along with composition thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(d) 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee is required to analyse the type approval and conformity of production (COP) data on CO2 and fuel consumption for diesel and gasoline vehicles. This Committee is functioning under the Chairmanship of Dr. G.K. Sharma, Director (Technical), National Automotive Testing and R and D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) and includes representatives from Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune, Society of Indian Automobiles Manufacturers (SIAM) and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP and NG).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Definition of Forest**

1654. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has finalized the definition of forests as reported in the Times of India dated October, 10, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new forest definition is likely to affect tribal rights; and

(d) if so, the measures taken up by the Union Government to protect the tribal rights ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise

**World Bank Assistance for Afforestation Programme**

1655. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKR :  
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the World Bank has provided any assistance for Social Afforestation Programme and National Afforestation Programme; and

(b) If so, the details of financial assistance provided by World Bank during the last three years along with the actions taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) Yes, World Bank has provided loan assistance to Government of Andhra Pradesh under the project "World Bank Assistance for Afforestation Programme".

(b) Details of Financial assistance provided by World Bank during last three years is as under:

Sl. No.	Years	Amount (Rs. in Millions)	Action thereon
1.	2006-07	1115.445	Statement enclosed
2.	2005-06	1300.00	-do-
3.	2004-05	1263.749	-do-

**Statement**

*Physical Achievements from inception till 31-03-2006:*

*The following are the achievements under Forest Treatment component till 31-03-2006.*

Sl. No.	Activity	Project Target	Achievement till 31-03-2006	% of achievement
1	2	3	4	5
<b>A. Forest Treatment (31-03-2005):</b>				
1.	Teak	1,50,000	147910	98.61
2.	Non Teak	1,00,000	77586	77.59
3.	Bamboo	50,000	27230	54.46
4.	Red Sanders	5,000	1142	22.84
5.	SRWP/NTFP (Plantations)			
	(i) Slopes	5,000	12655	253
	(ii) Plains	4,000	8708	218
	(iii) MP	1,800	504	28
Total		10,800	21867	202.47
Grand Total (Upto 31-03-2005)		3,15,800	275735	87.31

1	2	3	4	5
<b>B. Plantations (2005-06)</b>				
1. Under Planting Bamboo		—	31074	—
2. Afforestation of Barren Hills		—	3646	—
3. Afforestation through Semi Mechanical Method		—	9927	—
4. Inter Planting		—	4566	—
Total (2005-06)		—	49213	—
Grand total (upto 31-03-2006)		3,15,800	324948	102.81

\*Appraisal for the year 06-07 has not been done till date.

#### **Prime Minister's visit to Russia**

1656. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY :  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :  
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :  
SHRI KIREN RIJUJU :  
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has recently visited Russia;

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

(c) the details of the agreements signed on the occasion; and

(d) the extent to which bilateral agreements are likely to be beneficial for both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, the Prime Minister visited Russia on 11-12 November 2007.

(b) to (d) During the visit, the Prime Minister held wide-ranging discussions with the President of the Russian

Federation, Mr. Vladimir V. Putin on strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in the areas of trade and economy, energy security, defence, high technology and culture. Additionally, the two leaders exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. The Prime Minister also met with the Russian Prime Minister Mr. Viktor Zubkov to discuss economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. The following agreements/documents were signed during the visit to enhance cooperation in respective fields: (i) Agreement on cooperation in development and production of multi role transport aircraft; (ii) Agreement on cooperation to combat illicit trafficking in narcotics, psychotropic substances and their precursors; (iii) Agreement on cooperation in the field of joint moon exploration; (iv) Letters of Exchange for utilising rupee debt funds for Russian investments in India.

[Translation]

#### **Inspection of Passport Offices**

1657. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the passport offices in various States are inspected regularly;

(b) if so, the details of inspection of passport offices conducted during each of the last three years alongwith the outcome thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government on the basis of the findings of the inspection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED) : (a) and (b) Yes. A list of passport offices inspected during the last three years is enclosed as Statement. During the inspections of Passport Offices, shortcomings falling in the following major categories have been noticed:

- i. not conducting proper scrutiny of applications at the time of receipt of the same;
- ii. not making special arrangements for Tatkal cases;
- iii. delays in despatch of Personal particular forms to Police Authorities;
- iv. instances of delays in the granting and issue of passports after receipt of clear Police Verification Reports;
- v. wrong 'Emigration Clearance Required' (ECR) endorsements;
- vi. delays in despatch of passports;
- vii. absence of prompt redressal of grievances of passport seeking public;
- viii. absence of requisite amenities for passport applicants.

(c) After each inspection, a list of shortcomings noticed is sent to the concerned Passport Office with the instructions to take prompt remedial steps. Major shortcomings are also brought to the notice of all Passport Offices through periodic circulars so that suitable steps could be taken to avoid the same.

**Statement**

*Details of inspection of various Passport Offices in the last three years*

S. No.	Passport Office	Date of inspection
1	2	3
1.	Ahmedabad	20-21 Feb 2004, 29 Mar 2006 and 07 Nov 2006
2.	Bangalore	31 Aug – 2 Sep 2004
3.	Bareilly	12 May 2005, 30 Jun 2006, 20.07.06, 26.10.07
4.	Bhopal	08.12.06
5.	Bhubaneswar	01.03.2006 and 12-14 Oct 2006
6.	Chandigarh	08-10 Feb 2004, 05-06 Dec 05, 07.06.07
7.	Chennai	24-27 Aug 2003, 18.10.06, 31.08.07
8.	Cochin	30 Mar 2006, 26.05.07
9.	Delhi	13 Jun 2006
10.	Ghaziabad	20 Jan 2005, 20.06.06, 27.09.07
11.	Guwahati	20-21 Mar 2006, 14-15 Nov 2007
12.	Hyderabad	23-24 Jan 2006, 05.04.07, 17.05.07
13.	Jaipur	30 Jan-01 Feb 2006, 08.12.06, 31.08.07
14.	Jalandhar	23-24 Feb 2006
15.	Jammu	01 Apr 04
16.	Kolkata	24-25 Jan 2007, 23-24 Mar 07

1	2	3
17.	Kozhikode	31 Mar 2005, 29.05.07
18.	Lucknow	19-20 Apr 2006, 30.10.07
19.	Malappuram	28.05.07
20.	Mumbai	15.02.07, 21.09.07
21.	Nagpur	17 Nov 2006
22.	Patna	31 Aug 2004, 09.10.07
23.	Pune	30 Nov 2006, 27.09.07
24.	Ranchi	19.07.07
25.	Srinagar	19-20 Jan 2005 and 17-18 Jul 2006
26.	Surat	28-29 Dec 2005
27.	Tiruchirappalli	13-15 Feb 2006
28.	Thiruvananthapuram	10-11 Jan 2006, 24-25 May 2007
29.	Vishakhapatnam	08-09 May 2006

[English]

**Making Sports Mandatory in Schools/Institutions**

1658. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to make sports mandatory in schools and other educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to earmark certain quota for sports persons for various Sports Boards of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) and (b) In accordance with the National Policy on Education, 1986, the New National Curriculum Framework, 2005 has identified health and physical education as one of the other curricular areas. The curriculum area adopts a holistic definition of health within which physical education and yoga contribute to the physical, social, emotional and mental development of a child. Recognizing the importance of this subject, the new National Curriculum Framework proposes that health and physical education must continue to be a core subject from the primary to the secondary stages and an optional subject on the higher secondary stage. The draft National Comprehensive Sports Policy 2007 also emphasizes the need to integrate physical education and sports with the formal education.

(c) to (e) The Guidelines for Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) stipulate that at least 25 per cent of members with voting rights in the National Sports Federations should belong to the category of prominent sportspersons.

**Representation Received Regarding  
Four-Laning of NH**

1659. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation has been received from the residents and occupants of agricultural lands along the proposed alignment of the four-lane road from Kanyakumari to Trivandrum apprehending damage to their properties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from about 14 persons regarding agricultural lands along the proposed alignment of the four-lane road from Kanyakumari to Trivandrum apprehending damage to their properties.

(c) The affected persons would be paid due compensation as per actual acquisition and norms.

#### **Financial Assistance to Blood Banks**

1660.DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NACO is giving any financial assistance to the blood banks in the country;

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

(c) whether it has received any proposal from IMA Blood Bank, Kollam for the upgradation of the unit into a blood component separation unit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Under the scheme for modernization of Blood Banks, Government of India is providing financial assistance to the blood banks at various levels as: annual recurrent grant for Kits, Consumables, Salary of Laboratory Technicians and organization of Voluntary Blood Donation Camps. The State wise allocation of funds in 2007-08 is given in enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) NACO received a proposal from IMA Blood Bank, Kollam, Kerala through Kerala State AIDS Control Society for providing support. An annual recurrent grant of Rs. 2.03 lakh is provided to this blood bank since 2005-06. The blood bank is not supported as Blood Component Separation Unit, because the annual collection of blood is less than 5000 units per year.

#### **Statement**

#### *Funds allocated to State AIDS Control Societies by NACO for the financial year 2007-08*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Allocation of funds 2007-08 (Rupees in Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	34.49
2.	Andhra Pradesh	459.89
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.72
4.	Assam	230.57
5.	Bihar	169.05
6.	Chandigarh	48.87
7.	Chhattisgarh	88.27
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4.06
9.	Daman and Diu	4.06
10.	Delhi	196.99
11.	Goa	38.1
12.	Gujarat	418.74
13.	Haryana	115.56
14.	Himachal Pradesh	58.91
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	118.67
16.	Jharkhand	191.9
17.	Karnataka	401.17
18.	Kerala	358.2
19.	Lakshadweep	2.28

1	2	3
20.	Madhya Pradesh	264.12
21.	Maharashtra	664.7
22.	Manipur	54.69
23.	Meghalaya	57.4
24.	Mizoram	40.89
25.	Nagaland	93.23
26.	Orissa	190.97
27.	Pondicherry	65.43
28.	Punjab	180
29.	Rajasthan	252.24
30.	Sikkim	9.25
31.	Tamil Nadu	532.82
32.	Tripura	48.78
33.	Uttar Pradesh	517.79
34.	Uttaranchal	105.58
35.	West Bengal	499.06
All India		6541.45

#### **Diagnostic Facilities in Safdarjung Hospital**

1661. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of MRI, CT Scan machines installed and functioning in Safdarjung Hospital are sufficient to cater to the needs of the patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such machines;

(c) the total number of MRIs, CT Scans carried out by Safdarjung Hospital and each of the CGHS approved centres in Delhi during each of the last three years;

(d) whether there is any proposal to make available MRI, CT Scan, X-ray etc. facilities in each and every ward of Safdarjung Hospital for the benefit of the patients;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefore; and

(f) the steps taken to install more such machines in Safdarjung Hospital?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (f) In Safdarjung Hospital one MRI, One Spiral CT machine are installed and are reasonably sufficient to cater to the needs of the patients in the Hospital. Number of MRIs and CT Scans carried out in Safdarjung Hospital during last three years are as under:

#### **CT Scan**

January 2005 to December 2005	–	11504
January 2006 to December 2006	–	12228
January 2007 to October, 2007	–	14457

#### **MRI (Started in 2006)**

March 2006 to December 2006	–	935
January 2007 to October, 2007	–	2263

In so far as number of MRIs/CT Scans done in CGHS approved centres is concerned, this information is not maintained centrally as serving beneficiaries of CGHS are being granted permission for these diagnostic tests by their respect administrative Ministry/Department/Organisation. It is not feasible to provide MRI/CT Scan facilities in each and every ward. However, bed-side portable X-ray machines are available for patient admitted

in various wards. Further, procurement of new diagnostic machines including MRI, CT Scan and X-Ray machines is a continuous on-going exercise depending upon the requirement and availability of resources.

#### **Destruction Caused by Wild Animals**

1662. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL :

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provides compensation to the families of the victims of wild animals including elephants who destroy the crops, dwelling houses land property and kill the people recently in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed in this regard;

(c) the number of such incidents which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years and current year, till-date, State-wise and location-wise;

(d) the amount of compensation paid or proposed to be paid to the families of persons killed in such incidents during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the lives of people from such attacks and to keep the animals in their habitats;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported of the State Government, following norms for payment of compensation have been fixed by the Government of Assam:-

- (i) Rs 40,000 for death of any person
- (ii) Rs 20,000 for permanent disability
- (iii) Rs 10,000 for loss of single limb
- (iv) Rs 1,000 for treatment of any injury

(v) Rs 500 for damage to each livestock subject to maximum of Rs 2,500

(vi) Rs 1,000 for crop damage per bigha subject to maximum of Rs 2,500

(vii) Rs 1,000 for partial damage and Rs 2,000 for total damage to a dwelling house.

(c) and (d) As reported by the State Government, year-wise details of damage caused by wild elephants and the ex-gratia paid by the State Government during the last three years are as follows:-

#### *Details of damages caused by Wild Elephants*

Year	Persons killed	Damage of Households		Damage of crops area in hect.
		Full	Partial	
2004-05	57	1260	468	417.42
2005-06	67	1347	140	1100.64
2006-07	47	315	90	1107.30

#### *Details of Ex Gratia Paid by the State Government*

Sl. No.	Year	Ex-gratia amount paid by State Government
1.	2004-05	23.00
2.	2005-06	29.911
3.	2006-07	25.935

(e) Central Government is providing financial assistance to the State Government under the Project Elephant scheme to take actions for protecting the lives of people and for ensuring conservation and development of the elephant habitats.

[Translation]

**National Lake Conservation Plan**

1663. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to include the historical Ramgarh Taal Lake situated in Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) in National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP); and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Detailed Project Report on 'Pollution Prevention Scheme of Ramgarh Tal' at Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) has been submitted to this Ministry by the Nagar Vikas Vibhag, Government of Uttar Pradesh, for its consideration under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). The total estimated cost of the proposal is Rs. 60.87 crore. The proposal is mainly oriented towards interception, diversion and treatment of sewage in the catchment area of Ramgarh Tal. Other components proposed include de-weeding, de-silting, in-situ lake water body treatment, lake front development works, facilities for eco-tourism, public awareness and participation. The proposal has been found lacking in respect of many of the mandatory requirements like commitment for operation and maintenance, revenue generation mechanism, Schedule of Rates etc., the necessary prerequisites for consideration of the proposal. The State Government has been informed about the same.

The proposals for new lakes are considered subject to their admissibility as per NLCP guidelines, prioritization, pollution status and availability of funds under the Plan.

[English]

**PSUs for fighting HIV/AIDS**

1664. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any initiative has been attempted to bring in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to fight/eradicate HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The public sector undertakings are collaborating to control HIV/AIDS in the country by adopting the workplace policy in their organizations, spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS, promoting and distributing condoms, training personnel and using available health infrastructure for HIV counseling and testing. Selected PSUs are providing antiretroviral therapy to their employees.

(c) the Government is providing technical support, supply of condoms and financial support to some of the undertakings. A mainstreaming unit has been constituted at National AIDS Control Organisation for this purpose.

**Restrictions on Older Ships**

1665. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether a report prepared by an inter-ministerial group of experts has called for restricting ships older than 25 years from sailing in Indian waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) The number of ships over 25 years old sitting on Indian coasts/seabed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) The Report of the Committee on Urgent Measures for Prevention of Marine Casualties and Emergency Response, headed by Director General of Shipping, Mumbai

has suggested that all vessels over 25 years of age should be discouraged from plying in Indian waters during the monsoon months.

(c) There is no historical statistical record of ships wrecked or those not salvaged on the Indian coast/seabed. However, as per the limited data available with the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai, for last 3 years about ships that were 25 years of age when they met with shipping casualties and now sitting on Indian coast/seabed after such incidents the information is as follows:

S.No.	Year	No. of Ships
1.	2005	3
2.	2006	4
3.	2007	12

#### **Atomic Power Plants in Tarapur**

1666.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether two more Atomic Power Plants of BARC at Tarapur, TAPP-3 and TAPP-4 have been dedicated to the Nation on August 31, 2007; and

(b) if so, the cost and generating capacity and other outstanding features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Prime Minister dedicated Tarapur Atomic Power Plants (TAPP) units 3 and 4 to the nation at Tarapur, Maharashtra on August 31, 2007.

(b) TAPP 3 and 4 are indigenously designed Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 540 MWe each. The total generating capacity of these units is 1080 MWe. The units were completed at a cost of Rs. 5570 crore. The project was completed ahead of schedule, in August 2006, against the approved date of January 2007.

Although a first of its kind reactor, achievement of criticality of TAPP-4, in less than 5 years from first pour of concrete is comparable to international benchmarks in this regard.

#### **Rubberised Roads**

1667.SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rubberized roads using natural rubber are found to be more durable and efficient than other pavements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has plans to encourage natural rubber or other rubber pavements; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Bitumen modified with natural rubber is reported to have been used on some of the National Highways. The condition of wearing courses such as Bituminous Concrete, Semi Dense Bituminous Concrete and Mixed Seal Surface laid with bitumen modified with natural rubber is reported to be good. The relative performance and economics of wearing courses laid with bitumen modified with natural rubber under variable condition of traffic and climate is yet to be established.

(c) and (d) Indian Roads Congress (IRC) has published guidelines entitled "Guidelines on use of Polymer and Rubber Modified Bitumen in Road Construction" – IRC: SP: 53-2002 and the same has been accepted by the Ministry for adoption. These guidelines inter-alia include natural rubber as modifier along with other modifiers. Use of bitumen modified with natural rubber or other rubber in pavements will depend upon its availability and economics.

**Committee on Mandatory Rural Service**

1668. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has constituted Dr. Sambasiva Rao Committee to inquire into the Medicos recent protest against the proposed mandatory rural service for one year in PHC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether such compulsory rural service in PHC would entail them the right to employment State medical service; and

(e) if not, the reasons for such insistence of rural service?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) With the view to ensure availability of doctors in the rural areas of the country, this Ministry has constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Sambasiva Rao, Additional Director General of Health Services, to assess the opinion of the students community, medical faculties and other stakeholders on the proposal of the Ministry regarding one year compulsory rural posting of fresh medical graduate. The Committee will submit its report on completion of their ongoing tours to various states in the country; The terms and conditions of the compulsory rural posting have not yet been finalized.

**Delay in Four-Laning of NH**

1669. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on four-laning of the BC road-Suratkal is being delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when 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 (c) Yes, Sir. Four laning of B.C. Road-Suratkal has been taken up by NHAI under Mangalore Port Connectivity Project. The completion of work has been delayed mainly due to delay in completion of land acquisition process, pending legal cases against land acquisition and shifting of utilities. The work is likely to be completed by December, 2008.

**Non-Submission of Utilization Certificate by NGOs**

1670. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of NGOs who have not submitted Utilization Certificate till the end of financial year 2006-07, State-wise;

(b) whether there is some involvement of Ministry's officials or lack of initiative on the part of the officers for not pursuing NGOs to submit the Utilization Certificate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the specific initiatives/efforts made by the Government to recover the amount from the defaulting NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) There were 7614 Utilization Certificates amounting to Rs.243.73 crores pending till the end of financial year 2006-07 from Organizations including NGOs.

(b) to (d) As a result of the concerted efforts of the Ministry's officials, the number of pending Utilization Certificates, which stood at 10,576 involving an amount

of Rs. 1233.4 crores in March, 2005, has come down to 7235 amounting to Rs. 143.72 crores in August, 2007.

With the objective of reducing the number of pending UCs, the Ministry had taken the initiative to streamline the procedure for sanctioning grants under various sports and youth schemes. In so far as various youth schemes are concerned, all State Governments/UT Administrations have been assigned a greater role in pre-appraisal, scrutiny and prioritization of NGO proposals for consideration by the Ministry. The Ministry has also launched a drive to reconcile UCs in respect of grantee institutions and NGOs who have received grants under different schemes of the Ministry.

As per the provisions of Rule 209/211 of the General Financial Rules, notices have been issued to all defaulting NGOs to submit UCs and accounts, failing which they would be blacklisted after following the prescribed procedural steps in this regard.

While the recovery from grantee organizations of unutilized Government grants together with the penal interest as specified in the GFR is an ongoing process, action has been initiated by the Ministry against defaulting NGOs in a number of cases.

*[Translation]*

**Radio-Activity Leakage in Atomic Power Plants**

1671. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the atomic power plants which have completed or are about to complete their life spans in near future;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent leakage of radio-activity and its consequent effects from these power plants;

(c) the names and details of the atomic power

plants where radio-active elements had leaked during the last three years;

(d) whether any study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to ascertain the effects of these plants on people staying nearby; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Nil. Internationally, the economic life of nuclear power stations is 30-40 years. Based on the systematic life assessment studies and life extension measures, the nuclear power plants can be safely operated for another 20-25 years. In India also our experience has been similar. Operation of all plants is subject to licensing by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and review of operation from time to time.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) In the past three years, there has been no incident of leakage or discharge of radioactivity from a nuclear power plant beyond the limits specified by AERB.

(d) and (e) Environmental Survey Laboratories are located at every Nuclear Power Plant site. These Laboratories regularly monitor the radiation levels in the samples of water, soil, food, vegetation, etc. to assess any impact of radiation in the surroundings. Monitoring over several years in the past has indicated that the radiation received by persons residing in the vicinity of the station is only a very small fraction of the dose limit prescribed by AERB.

*[English]*

**Effect of Climate Change on Wetland**

1672. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of climate change on wetland areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) Climate Change Impact Assessment Studies specifically on wetland areas have not been carried out. However, due to global warming glaciers are receding and because of which there is change in water level of high altitude wetlands which ultimately effects down stream areas. Though glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) have been reported in Nepal and Bhutan, no such incidents have been reported from India. For conservation of wetlands, Government have initiated a number of programmes, which include preparation of management action plans for survey and demarcation, catchment area treatment, desiltation, weed control, fisheries development, community participation, water management, public awareness and pollution abatement.

#### **Paralysis Caused due to Conjectivitis**

1673.SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some part of human body get affected by paralysis when one suffers from Conjectivitis;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, particularly in respect of Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to make people aware of the effects of the disease and the reasons, of its occurrence; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent its recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) In conjunctivitis, conjunctiva is the only part of eye which is affected. However, in severe cases, the cornea of the eye may also be affected.

In only one occasion in 1970, some rare cases of

conjunctivitis with neurological complication (Polio like motor paralysis) were reported from Mumbai, Maharashtra. Paralysis due to conjunctivitis is a rare occurrence. No reports about occurrence of this disease have been received from other parts of the country.

(c) Information Education Communication (IEC) is an on-going activity under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) with the aim to make people aware about various Eye diseases including conjunctivitis to avoid further complication.

The primary reason of the occurrence of conjunctivitis and its related complications is poor sanitation mainly during monsoon period.

(d) The following steps have been taken under NPCB to prevent Eye diseases including conjunctivitis to avoid further complications:-

1. IEC activities have been intensified to make people aware about various eye diseases including conjunctivitis. At the central level, masses have been advised through poster, booklets and mass media to wash hands and face with clean water frequently, keep separate towel, handkerchief, bed linen etc for each member of the family, wash them with clean water, daily and avoid touching of the eyes frequently to avoid spread of Conjunctivitis. The State Governments have been advised to carry out the following activities as a part of IEC activities under the programme to control various eye diseases including conjunctivitis:-

(a) Utilization of local cable network and Regional Doordarshan Kendras and Local Radio Stations

(b) Use of print media by replication of the materials in regional languages, press advertisement in local newspapers etc.

(c) Out-door publicity through wall paintings, hoardings, cinema slides, film shows

through field publicity Unit of Ministry of I and B,

- (d) Involvement/training of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Health Workers and other system functionaries like ASHA, School Teachers etc. to create awareness about eye diseases.

2. Eye care facilities are being provided to the needy people at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels through Primary Health Centres, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology.

#### **Infant and Young Child Feeding**

1674. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 16 organisations for the Centre Staging Infant Nutrition have submitted a paper alongwith joint statement on "Infant and Young Child Feeding" offering practical ways to reach out to the children in 0-2 age group;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the proposals suggested therein;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has chartered any action plan on the proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list of 16 organisations and the details of the paper are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The issues related to Infant and Young Child Feeding practices and offering practical ways to reach out the children in 0-2 age group need focused attention. The 11th Plan is under preparation. While firming up the same, various issues relating to the maternal and child health would be addressed.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of 16 Organisations*

S. No.	Name of the Organisation
1.	Trained Nurses Association of India
2.	Indian Academy of Paediatrics
3.	Breastfeeding promotion network of India
4.	Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India
5.	Centre for Women's Development Studies
6.	Christian Medical Association of India
7.	Indian Association of Preventive and Social Medicine
8.	Jan Swasthya Abhiyan
9.	Indian Public Health Association
10.	Right to Food Campaign
11.	All India Drug Action Network
12.	Association for Consumer's Action on Safety and Health
13.	National Neonatology Forum
14.	Indian Medical Association
15.	Navdanya
16.	Samayak Foundation

#### *Joint Statement on Infant and Young Child Feeding*

- To recognize breastfeeding as food security for infants, and include it in the national food security plans, and make it a part of the annual reporting of the Government of India.
- To recognize optimal infant and young child

feeding as a poverty reduction strategy in the country's PRSPs;

- To recognize 0-6 months infants as entities in the programmes and support the mothers' needs to fulfill infants' right to food (beginning within the first hour of birth, and exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months) as a national priority for rapidly bringing down infant mortality;
  - To declare "breastfeeding education" as a service equal to immunisation in both health and nutrition sector, and
  - To recognize breastfeeding as a core intervention, central to both health and nutrition sectors, through the following 5 actions.
1. Ensure that adequate budgets are earmarked for the national and State Plans for protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding and optimal infant and young child feeding in the 11th and subsequent plan, with clear goals both in health and nutrition sectors.
  2. Create specific coordination for optimizing infant nutrition e.g. an authority on infant nutrition, under the National Nutrition Mission, rejuvenated National Breastfeeding Committee (Order No. 12-6/97-NT of WCD/HRD) may report to the National Nutrition Mission.
  3. Establish accountability and coordination mechanisms on infant nutrition in the MOH and MWCD and direct them to make plans of action, as a part of National Plan of Action on Children to enhance optimal breastfeeding rates including breastfeeding within one hour and exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, and review these on an yearly basis; and similar mechanism be reflected in district and State planning.
  4. Provide legislative support to all women to ensure health care support particularly to enable

them to begin breastfeeding within one hour of birth and consider it a health worker's obligation.

5. Provide six months maternity leave with the context to ensure breastfeeding as a means to attain optimal child health and survival, as mandatory for all women working in Government, private and unorganized sectors, and ensure maternity entitlements for at least BPL women in the unorganized sector by giving cash benefits of a minimum of Rs. 1000/- per month for six months post delivery (Tamil Nadu Model).

#### **Concessional Treatment to Poor and BPL Persons**

1675.DR. ARVIND SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether, there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to provide concessional treatment to the poor and the persons below poverty line in the Government/Semi Government, Government aided hospitals including the hospitals of Government of NCT of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Members of Parliament have also made any recommendations in this regard;
- (d) if so, the guidelines/instructions issued by the Government thereon;
- (e) whether the letters of the Members of Parliament for the treatment of the poor and the persons below poverty line in these hospitals are not being attended properly;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) There is no

proposal under consideration for treatment to the poor and the persons below poverty line in the semi Government, Government aided hospitals. However, this Ministry has two schemes namely; Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant under which financial assistance is provided to poor patients for operation/treatment at Central/States Government hospitals, including NCT of Delhi and Tata Cancer; Research Hospital, Mumbai which is a private hospital.

(c) to (g) Letters received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament for providing financial assistance for the treatment of the poor and the persons below poverty line are being attended to promptly and properly. Cases are examined in the light of the guidelines for sanction of funds and the Hon'ble M.Ps are informed accordingly.

#### **Impact of Climate change on World Heritage Sites**

1676. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the world heritage sites including Mount Everest are likely to be adversely affected due to the impact of climate change;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Mount Everest and other heritage sites from such impact in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) There have been media reports, mostly in the international media, regarding impacts of climate change on world heritage sites. Some references to Mount Everest have been made following a meeting of United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisations' (UNESCO's) World Heritage Committee in July 2005. Mount Everest is not located in India but is situated on the border of Nepal and China.

(c) The World Heritage Centre and the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) have not recommended inclusion of Mount Everest as a heritage site in danger.

#### **India-China Discussions on Water Sharing**

1677. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discussions were held between India and China on the issue of river water sharing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to settle the disputes amicably between the two countries?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Agreement with Netherlands**

1678. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of agreements have been signed with Netherlands during the recent visit of the Queen of Netherlands to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) During the State visit of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands to India, the following two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed on 24 October 2007:

1. MoU on Cultural Cooperation between the Ministry of Culture, India and the Netherlands Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, Culture and Science; and

—

2. MoU between the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Stichting Amsterdam India Festival (AIF)

[Translation]

**Cess on Petrol and Diesel**

1679. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :  
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN :

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

(a) whether any cess is levied on per litre of petrol and high speed diesel in order to mobilise funds for the road construction projects;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the details of the cess allocated for road construction, State-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to set apart any amount from this fund for Road Safety; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently Rs.2.00 per litre are levied as cess on both petrol and high speed diesel.

(c) State-wise details of the allocation to the States/UTs from Central Road Fund for development of State roads other than rural roads during the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The Committee on Road Safety and Traffic Management have recommended creation of a Road Safety Fund by way of earmarking 1% of the total proceeds of cess on Petrol and Diesel.

**Statement**

*The State-wise details of accrual/allocation from cess for the year 2007-08 for development of State roads other than rural roads*

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Allocation made under Central Road Fund	Allocation made under the schemes of Inter-State Connectivity and Economic Importance
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131.07	5.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16.74	6.38
3.	Assam	26.13	6.38
4.	Bihar	38.52	3.15
5.	Chhattisgarh	40.35	2.00
6.	Goa	8.18	0.00
7.	Gujarat	97.07	6.40
8.	Haryana	61.56	6.62
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18.07	2.05
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	50.86	1.73
11.	Jharkhand	35.37	0.94
12.	Karnataka	97.92	23.32
13.	Kerala	48.42	2.68
14.	Madhya Pradesh	93.85	12.81
15.	Maharashtra	161.49	20.71

1	2	3	4
16. Manipur		5.28	0.08
17. Meghalaya		8.12	0.72
18. Mizoram		4.74	2.92
19. Nagaland		4.13	5.75
20. Orissa		52.14	12.08
21. Punjab		62.90	2.83
22. Rajasthan		119.83	5.91
23. Sikkim		2.13	12.70
24. Tamil Nadu		106.78	0.16
25. Tripura		3.29	1.97
26. Uttarakhand		19.07	6.38
27. Uttar Pradesh		143.11	6.65
28. West Bengal		53.65	5.70
<b>UNION TERRITORY</b>			
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		1.90	0.00
30. Chandigarh		2.28	1.00
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1.10	2.00
32. Daman and Diu		0.79	2.00

1	2	3	4
33. Delhi		44.69	0.00
34. Lakshadweep		0.12	0.00
35. Pondicherry		3.67	0.00

**Power Generation from Atomic Energy Sources**

1680.PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether very less amount of power is being generated from atomic energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including the capacity and actual generation of power during the last three years, plant-wise, year-wise;

(c) the status of India vis-à-vis other nations in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase production of atomic energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIPRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The nuclear electricity generation is about 3% of the total electricity generation in the country.

(b) The current installed nuclear power capacity is 4120 MWe, about 3% of the total installed capacity. The capacity at the end of the year and actual generation of electricity during the last three years are:

Station/Year	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Capacity (MWe)	Generation (MUs)	Capacity (MWe)	Generation (MUs)	Capacity (MWe)	Generation (MUs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS)	320	2587	860	3667	1400	6501
Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS)	740	4743	740	4440	740	3668

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS)	440	1482	440	1852	440	2622	
Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS)	440	2760	440	2138	440	1024	
Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)	440	2513	440	2367	440	2446	
Kaiga Generating Station (KGS)	440	2926	440	2860	440	2541	

**Notes:**

- (1) MAPS-1 under Renovation and Modernization from 20.8.2003 to 17.01.2006
- (2) RAPS-1 shutdown from 9.10.2004 for review of continuation of operation.
- (3) TAPS-4 commenced commercial operation on 12.09.2005.
- (4) NAPS-1 under Renovation and Modernization from 01.11.05
- (5) TAPS-3 commenced commercial operation on 18.09.2006.

(c) The nuclear share in developed countries like France- 78%, Germany-32%, Japan-30%, Korea- 39%, UK- 18% and USA- 19% is high, while that in developing countries like Brazil-3%, China-2% is comparable to that of India.

(d) The present installed capacity of 4120 MWe will reach 7280 MWe by completion of the projects under construction by the year 2011. Work is also at hand to take up construction of additional nuclear power plants.

**Per Capita Length of NH**

1681. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise per capita length of National Highways in the country, till date;

(b) the details of repair works of roads done in the terms of kilometre and the funds spent on it during the last two years State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to make more fund available for maintenance/repair of NH?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The State-wise per capita length of National Highways (NHs) till-date in the country is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The State-wise details of funds spent for maintenance and repair on NHs and the length in kilometer improved under the Periodical Renewal (PR) during the last two years, including the details for the State of Andhra Pradesh, are given in the enclosed Statement-II. These do not include the State-wise details of the length improved under PR during the last two years in the stretches of NHs entrusted with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which is being collected.

(c) The Government is encouraging the involvement of private sector in the development and maintenance of National Highways through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) and Maintain-Operate-Transfer (MOT) basis.

**Statement-I**

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Length of National Highways in km/lakh population
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	84.3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5.9
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	35.7
4.	Assam	10.6
5.	Bihar	4.4
6.	Chandigarh	2.7
7.	Chhattisgarh	10.5
8.	Delhi	0.5
9.	Goa	20.0
10.	Gujarat	6.4
11.	Haryana	7.2
12.	Himachal Pradesh	19.9
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	12.3
14.	Jharkhand	6.7
15.	Karnataka	7.3
16.	Kerala	4.5
17.	Madhya Pradesh	7.7
18.	Maharashtra	4.3
19.	Manipur	41.8
20.	Meghalaya	34.9
21.	Mizoram	104.4

1	2	3
22.	Nagaland	24.8
23.	Orissa	10.1
24.	Puducherry	5.4
25.	Punjab	6.4
26.	Rajasthan	9.9
27.	Sikkim	11.5
28.	Tamil Nadu	7.2
29.	Tripura	12.5
30.	Uttarakhand	23.5
31.	Uttar Pradesh	3.5
32.	West Bengal	3.0

**Statement-II**

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UTs	Length in kilometer improved under the Periodical Renewal (PR) during last two years	Amount spent on maintenance and repair of National Highways (NHs) during last two years (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	203.00	95.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	335.00	0.19
3.	Assam	807.06	48.70
4.	Bihar	169.54	69.04
5.	Chandigarh	3.00	0.76

1	2	3	4
6	Chhattisgarh	439.07	43.64
7	Delhi	0.00	0.07
8	Goa	14.00	7.17
9	Gujarat	256.00	72.03
10	Haryana	119.00	35.46
11	Himachal Pradesh	259.00	36.47
12	Jammu and Kashmir	1080.00	0.03
13	Jharkhand	99.00	36.47
14	Karnataka	433.00	81.75
15	Kerala	50.20	82.61
16	Madhya Pradesh	651.00	104.40
17	Maharashtra	375.85	111.52
18	Manipur	272.50	11.89
19	Meghalaya	232.04	15.59
20	Mizoram	34.00	8.70
21	Nagaland	177.00	6.48
22	Orissa	335.22	85.00
23	Puducherry	2.60	1.06
24	Punjab	202.00	34.50
25	Rajasthan	736.25	121.45
26	Tamil Nadu	139.50	73.65
27	Tripura	378.53	National Highways are entrusted with BRO
28	Uttar Pradesh	518.00	98.55

1	2	3	4
29	Uttarakhand	514.00	31.26
30	West Bengal	206.20	44.43
31	Border Roads Organisation (BRO)*	The length of NHs on which PR works have	37.80
32	National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)*	been done by BRO are added to the States concerned	479.69

\*The Statewise allocations are not made for NHAI and BRO

[English]

#### Shipyards in the Country

1682. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of shipyards for building and repair of small, medium and big ships in the country;

(b) the number of ships built at these shipyards each year during the last three years; and

(c) the number of ships under construction and proposed to be constructed in the shipyards?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) There are 27 shipyards in the country out of which 3 Shipyards are under the administrative control of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Department of Shipping viz. Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi; Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam; and Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata. Three Shipyards are under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence, viz., Mazagaon Dock Limited, Mumbai; Garden Reach Shipbuilders and

Engineers Limited, Kolkata; and Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa. There are two Shipyards under the administrative control of the State Governments i.e. M/s Alcock Ashdown and Co. Ltd., Bhavnagar under the State Government of Gujarat; M/s Shalimar Works Ltd., Kolkata under the State Government of West Bengal. The rest are in the private sector.

(b) and (c) The number of the ships built/under construction and proposed to be constructed by the shipyards under the administrative control of Department of Shipping and some of the State Government and private sector shipyards which are members of the Shipyards Association of India during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

**(i) Central PSU Shipyards**

S. No.	Name of Shipyard	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	Under construction/ proposed to be constructed
1.	Cochin Shipyard Limited	4	3	6	24
2.	Hindustan Shipyard Limited	12	2	5	19
3.	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited	2	1	2	15

**(ii) State Government and Private Sector Shipyards who are members of Shipyards Association of India**  
(Source: Shipyards Association of India)

S. No.	Name of Shipyard	No. of Ships Built during			No. of Ships under construction/ proposed to be constructed
		2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	L and T*, Hazira	Nil	Nil	Nil	Two at present. In near future expand the capacity to build 8 ships per year
2.	Sholt Shipyard, Bharuch	2	2	Nil	7
3.	Pipavav Shipyard	Nil	Nil	Nil	22
4.	Dempo Shipbuilding	7	11	11	17 (in 2007-08)

1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Chowgule and Co.**		16	3	Nil	4 (in 2007-08)
6. Tebma Shipyards Ltd.		1	3	3	Information not available
7. ABG Shipyard Ltd.		5	5	6	-do-
8. Bharati Shipyard Ltd.		5	5	3	-do-
9. Alcock Ashdown		1	5	5	-do-
10. Modest Infrastructure		Nil	Nil	2	-do-
11. Corporate Consultants		5	5	6	-do-

*\*L and T proposes to have a new shipyard to be implemented in a phased manner with capacity to constructed 5 VLCC and 20 Panamax vessels per year and repair of about 60-80 ships per year.*

*\*\*Yard development work in progress since early 2005, hence no vessel was delivered in 2006-07. Shipyard has export orders for 20 vessels to be delivered by end 2009. Out of this 4 vessels are being delivered during this year. Work on next 4 vessels is in advanced stage of construction.*

#### **Release of Funds to Andhra Pradesh**

1683. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for release of funds under the National River Conservation Programme (NRCP);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the funds released under the programme for Environmental Action Plan for Hyderabad during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Central Government releases funds to the implementing agencies of the Government

of Andhra Pradesh on their request on a recurring basis dependent upon the physical and financial progress achieved in implementation of the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) as well as proportionate contribution of their share of funds by the State Government for the purpose. So far, the Central Government has released funds amounting to Rs. 175.38 crore for the implementation of the NRCP in the State of Andhra Pradesh and no request for further release of the Central Government's share of funds is pending in the Ministry.

(c) There is as such no programme for Environmental Action Plan for Hyderabad approved by the Government. However, the details of funds released by the Central Government as their share for conservation of Musi River and Banjara Lake at Hyderabad for environmental upgradation during the last three years are as follows:

(Rs. in Lakh)

S.No.	Scheme	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Conservation of Musi River under the National River Conservation Plan	1000.00	5200.00	4185.00
2.	Conservation of Banjara Lake under the National Lake Conservation Plan	83.00	0.00	0.00

#### R and D Activities in Public Health

1684. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase Research and Development activities of country's Public Health Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) Research and Development activities in public health are part of number of schemes of this Ministry like NRHM/Disease Control Programme etc. implemented by the Central Government to supplement the initiatives of the State Government in providing health care to the people.

In order to give an impetus for bio-medical research activities, a separate Deptt. Of Health Research has been established and plan allocation for ICMR has been increased from Rs. 167 crores in the Eight Plan to Rs. 970 crores in the Tenth Plan and Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed for ICMR/Department of Health Research during XI Plan.

[Translation]

#### Supply of Vaccines to States

1685. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is supplying Hepatitis-B, Anti-rabies, Anti-dotes injections etc. to various States, especially Rajasthan;

(b) if so, number of said injections supplied during the last three years till date, State-wise, year-wise;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred by the Central Government during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the State Governments have requested the Central Government to supply the said injections on regular basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India is supplying Hepatitis B vaccine to 33 districts and 15 cities since 2002 where pilot project was initiated including Jaipur district of Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Details of Hepatitis B vaccine supply to the States is given in the enclosed Statement-I and anti rabies vaccine, normal horse serum, anti rabies, serum, anti diphtheric serum and anti snake venom serum supplied to States given in the enclosed Statement-II. The expenditure incurred on Hepatitis B vaccine is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) and (e) The Hepatitis B vaccination is being expanded to 11 States (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil

Nadu and West Bengal) during this year and Hepatitis B vaccines have been supplied to States.

**Statement-I**

*Hepatitis B Vaccine supplied to States during last three years*

(in doses)

State/UT	Year		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	509500	535000	315000
Assam	101000	171000	80000
Andaman and Nicobar Island	23000	21000	12000
Delhi	415000	900000	660000
Gujarat	453000	627000	260000
Goa	66000	57000	50000
Himachal Pradesh	66000	54500	36000
Haryana	87000	111000	80000

1	2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	112600	79000	70000
Karnataka	349500	519500	266000
Kerala	237000	336100	170000
Lakshadweep	2500	3500	2000
Maharashtra	713500	958500	390000
Madhya Pradesh	274500	254000	190000
Orissa	90000	52000	10000
Punjab	119000	160000	100000
Pondicherry	33000	40500	30000
Rajasthan	155000	90000	90000
Tamil Nadu	340000	595500	320000
Uttanchal	45000	71000	20000
Uttar Pradesh	200000	170000	160000
West Bengal	157180	180000	120000
Total Vaccine	4549280	5986100	3431000

**Statement-II**

*Detail of Anti Sera supplied by Central Research Institute, Kasauli for the year 2006-07*

State	Normal Horse Serum (NHS) (ML)	Anti Rabbits Serum (ARS) (ML)	Anti Diptheric Serum (ADS) (Vials)	Anti Snake Venum Serum (ASVS) (ML)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh			1000	100
Assam			110	200
Bihar				15250

1	2	3	4	5
Chandigarh	4100	1750	300	
Delhi	1000	84100	1000	66100
Gujarat			750	100090
Haryana				16280
Himachal Pradesh		100		9240
Jammu and Kashmir			30	
Karnataka		90		340
Kerala		1000		
Maharashtra		1800	800	200
Punjab		3000		1530
Rajasthan		3500	1100	200
Tamil Nadu	200		63	
Tripura		250		
Uttar Pradesh				250
West Bengal			1800	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>5300</b>	<b>95590</b>	<b>6953</b>	<b>209840</b>

*Detail of Anti Rabies Vaccine Supplied by  
Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor for  
the last three years*

				1	2	3	4
				Gujarat	0.1	0.03	0.25
				Maharashtra	0	0.12	0.16
				Meghalaya	0.06	0.08	0.02
				Tamil Nadu	0.74	1.5	0.4
				West Bengal		0.12	
				<b>Total</b>	<b>0.92</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>0.85</b>
State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 as on date				
1	2	3	4				
Andhra Pradesh	0.02	0.06	0.02				

**Statement-III***Details of State-wise Expenditure incurred for the last three years*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Expenditure (in lakh)		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Andhra Pradesh	107.9637	111.9443	0
2.	Assam	22.52433	32.159	4.558
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.31615	3.93295	0.68625
4.	Delhi	80.14481	137.58	30.8175
5.	Gujarat	93.02597	117.9412	14.8135
6.	Goa	14.76426	10.71345	2.84875
7.	Haryana	18.27112	20.0709	4.558
8.	Himachal Pradesh	14.70135	10.0124	2.046
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	24.54358	14.2605	3.98825
10.	Karnataka	74.8751	96.71785	0
11.	Kerala	50.95716	63.21034	0
12.	Lakshadweep	0.54066	0.66069	0
13.	Maharashtra	153.36057	180.3107	22.22025
14.	Madhya Pradesh	61.01563	47.8172	10.8125
15.	Orissa	19.32299	9.7776	0
16.	Punjab	25.41661	28.7536	5.6975
17.	Pondicherry	7.02415	7.61955	0
18.	Rajasthan	10.6243	16.1366	3.4185
19.	Tamil Nadu	74.11368	112.133	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh	43.18297	30.30825	6.837
21.	Uttanchal	9.26907	9.9817	2.279
22.	West Bengal	32.2339	33.8025	6.837
<b>Total</b>		<b>943.19206</b>	<b>1095.84428</b>	<b>122.418</b>

*[English]***US Sanctions Imposed on Iran**

1686. SHRI C.K CHANDRAPPAN :  
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Government has imposed sanctions on Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes. The latest set of sanctions on Iran was announced by the US on Oct 25 2007. The US has designated several Iranian military and financial institutions and individuals as entities facilitating nuclear proliferation and financing terrorism. As per the sanctions, no US citizen or organisation will be allowed to engage in financial transactions with these persons and entities.

Government of India have consistently maintained that the nuclear issue of Iran should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and negotiations within the framework of the IAEA.

*[Translation]*

**Mandatory Treatment of Poor  
Patients in Hospitals**

1687. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL :  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

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

(a) whether it is mandatory for hospitals in the country to provide treatment to poor patients to the extent of 30 percent in their hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to refer patients from Government hospitals to private hospitals in order to ensure that the said conditions/norms are being followed by the private hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) Health being a State list subject, it is for the concerned State Government to provide medical facilities to the people in accordance with the prevalent rules and regulations in their respective State. There are no Central Act/Rules/Regulations/guidelines which make it mandatory for hospitals in the country to provide treatment to poor people to the extent of 30 percentage.

However, as per directions of the Delhi High Court, Government of NCT of Delhi have framed guidelines for provision of free treatment facilities to the extent of 10% free beds and 25% free OPD patients of Economically Weaker Section category by those private hospitals which have been provided land at concessional rates. These guidelines have been sent to 36 hospitals for compliance. Any of these private hospitals found to be not complying with these guidelines is to be proceeded against as per the direction of the Hon'ble High Court and such hospital will also be liable for contempt of the Court.

Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are referring poor patients to such private hospitals.

*[English]***Proposal for Youth Festivals/Programmes**

1688. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR :  
SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the State Government of Karnataka for youth festivals/programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This Ministry had received a proposal from the Karnataka State on 6.3.2007 for hosting the National Youth Festival for the year 2006-2007 in Karnataka. However, prior to this, similar proposal were also received from the States of Tamil Nadu, Punjab and West Bengal on 12.2.2007, 13.2.2007 and 23.2.2007 respectively which were examined in the Ministry. The proposal of Tamil Nadu was found acceptable and approval was conveyed to them for hosting the 13th National Youth Festival at Chennai from 12-16 January, 2008.

#### **Irrawaddy Dolphins**

1689.SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tourists visiting Chilka lake may soon miss the sight of the rare Irrawaddy Dolphins;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and measures taken to combat the problems; and

(c) the fund allocated by the Union Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) and (b) As per reports of the State Government, Irrawady Dolphins can be sighted in Chilka through out the year and there has been an increase in the estimated

population of Irrawaddy Dolphins in Ghilka in the recent years.

(c) A total amount of Rs. 589.335 lakhs was released to the State Government for overall conservation and development of Chilka during the X Five Year Plan period while an amount of Rs. 111.00 lakhs has been released during the year 2007-08, by the Central Government.

[Translation]

#### **Per Capita Income**

1690.SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Per Capita Income in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether any increase has been registered in the Per Capita Income;

(c) if so, whether there is any decline in the number of poor persons in proportion to the increase in Per Capita Income;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) As per the Central Statistical Organisation of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the per capita income of the country, measured in terms of Net National Product at factor cost (at 1999-2000 prices) is estimated as Rs. 20,734/- in 2005-06 and Rs. 22,483/- in 2006-07 (Press Note dated 31st May, 2007).

(b) The per capita income registered an increase of 8.4% from 2005-06 to 2006-07.

(c) The estimates of number of poor persons for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 are not available from official agencies.

(d) and (e) In view of (c) above, do not arise.

#### **Drying Up of Rivers in Maharashtra**

1691. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some rivers flowing in Maharashtra are drying up;

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

(c) whether the Government has made any efforts to ascertain the reasons by conducting any survey;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to save these rivers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Computer Education in Panchayats**

1692. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide at least one computer in each Panchayat to encourage computer education in villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the said purpose during each of the last three years and till date, State-wise; and

(d) whether the funds provided are sufficient to achieve the targets?

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) In accordance with the resolutions passed in the Seventh Round Table of Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Jaipur on 17-19 December 2004, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has initiated a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Programme (NeGP) of the Government of India for providing computers to all the Panchayats in the country during the Eleventh Plan Period ( 2007-12). The main components of the Mission Mode Project are to provide hardware upto the Gram Panchayat level; network connectivity; training and capacity building of the elected representatives and officials of PRIs in e-governance; and content management.

The computerization of Panchayati Raj Institutions will make their own functioning transparent and will help improve the delivery of citizen-centric services rendered by Panchayats such as issuing Birth Certificates, Death Certificates, Income Certificates, Land Records, Management of Financial Accounts, Redressal of Grievances and prompt issue of application forms and documents. An added benefit of the computerization of Panchayats will be the penetration of computer education in the villages.

(c) The Ministry came into existence on 27 May 2004 and during the financial year 2004-05 there was no scheme for providing financial assistance for the computerization of Panchayats. During the financial year 2005-06, under the Scheme of Information Technology, assistance of Rs 1.00 crore each was provided to the Government of Goa and Orissa for the computerization of Panchayats. Assistance of Rs 2.00 crore was also provided during the financial year 2005-06 to the Government of Sikkim for the computerization of Panchayats under the allocation for the development of the North-Eastern Region.

During the financial year 2006-07, an allocation of Rs 8.00 crore was made available to the Ministry under the Information Technology Component of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana. This was utilized for assisting States for.

the provision of computer hardware as per the following details:—

S. No.	State	Amount (Rs in Crores)
1.	Kerala	2.53
2.	West Bengal	2.60
3.	Rajasthan	2.00
4.	Puducherry	0.87
Total		8.00

In addition, an amount of Rs 3.04 crore was provided during the financial year 2006-07. to the Government of Sikkim for the completion of the computerization of their Panchayats under the allocation for the development of North Eastern Region.

(d) No, Sir. Funds, are not at present sufficient for the computerization of all the Panchayats. Therefore, in order to achieve the computerization of all Panchayats in the country, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has planned to augment its funds under the Mission Mode Project of e-Panchayats. The Ministry is also in consultation with the World Bank which has shown interest to fund part of the Mission Mode Project of e-Panchayats under the e-Bharat Programme.

#### **Complaints against Quacks**

1693. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of complaints received against quacks for undertaking medical practice on the basis of fake certificates/degrees;

(b) if so, the total number of complaints received by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise:

(c) the number of quacks/fake medical practitioners against whom action has been taken during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) The State Medical Councils who grant registration to practitioners take action where called for against Quacks. The provisions exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to take action against unqualified/unregistered practitioners of medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provision can be punished with imprisonment and fine under respective Acts. Since, the responsibility of enforcement of the statutory provisions is that of various State Governments, no data on complaints against quacks/fake medical practitioners is maintained by the Ministry.

[English]

#### **Maternal Mortality Rate**

1694. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN :

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :  
SHRI KIREN RIJIJU :  
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether more women die in India during child birth than any where else in the world as reported in the 'Times of India' dated October 16,2007;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein and the reasons therefor;

(c) the present maternal mortality ratio in India as well as in other developing countries; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) As per the latest survey report of Registrar General of India (RGI-SRS 2001-03) published in the year 2006, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) for India is 301 per 100,000 live births which translates into 77,000 maternal deaths per year. This high absolute number of Maternal deaths in India is because of the larger size of the population along with a higher number of births.

As per the "Estimates of Maternal Mortality developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and World bank, in the publication, 'Maternal Mortality in 2005'", the MMR in India is much lower than in many other developing countries. A list of these countries along with their MMR is enclosed as Statement.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood, seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States with weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure.

In order to bring about a reduction in MMR, the Government of India is implementing the following key interventions all over the country, which include: Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women; Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village to facilitate in accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women; operationalizing Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRU) and 50% of all Primary Health Centers for providing 24X7 delivery services by 2010; augmenting the availability of Skilled Manpower by means of different skill based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendant, Training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency

Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section; prevention and treatment of Anemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets; organizing of Village Health and Nutrition Day at Anganwadi center; supplementary nutrition to pregnant and lactating women under the ICDS scheme and strengthening of sub-centers by providing each with an untied fund of Rs. 10,000/- to improve service delivery.

#### **Statement**

*Countries with Maternal Mortality Higher than India  
(Estimates of Maternal Mortality developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and World bank, in the publication, 'Maternal Mortality in 2005')*

Sl. No.	Country	MMR
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	1800
2.	Angola	1400
3.	Bangladesh	570
4.	Benin	840
5.	Burkina Faso	700
6.	Burundi	1100
7.	Cambodia	540
8.	Cameroon	1000
9.	Central African Republic	980
10.	Chad	1500
11.	Congo	740
12.	Cote d'Ivoire	810
13.	Djibouti	650
14.	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1100

1	2	3
15.	Equatorial Guinea	680
16.	Ethiopia	720
17.	Gabon	520
18.	Gambia	690
19.	Ghana	560
20.	Guinea	910
21.	Guinea-Bissau	1100
22.	Guyana	470
23.	Haiti	670
24.	Kenya	560
25.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	660
26.	Lesotho	960
27.	Liberia	1200
28.	Madagascar	510
29.	Malawi	1100
30.	Mali	970
31.	Mauritania	820
32.	Mozambique	520
33.	Nepal	830
34.	Niger	1800
35.	Nigeria	1100
36.	Papua New Guinea	470
37.	Rwanda	1300
38.	Senegal	980

1	2	3
39.	Sierra Leone	2100
40.	Somalia	1400
41.	Togo	510
42.	Uganda	550
43.	United Republic of Tanzania	950
44.	Zambia	830
45.	Zimbabwe	880

**Fixed Dose Combinations**

1695.CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN :

DR. M. JAGANNATH :

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

(a) whether Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has conducted a meeting at Mohali to discuss the issue of Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs);

(b) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith name of the Participants;

(c) the follow-up action taken or being taken by the Government to weed out FDCs on the basis of the decisions taken in the said meeting;

(d) the names of the FDCs alongwith their compositions and the name of Companies who are engaged in the marketing of these drugs; and

(e) the details of the combination drugs which are likely to be banned for lack of therapeutic efficacy and withdrawn from the market?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Drugs Consultative Committee

meeting was attended by State Drugs Controllers at Mohali and an interaction with major Pharma Industry associations was also held.

The consensus decision taken at Mohali for withdrawal of the manufacturing licenses granted to the manufacturers for the unapproved Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) and also to withdraw these from the market was communicated to all State Drugs Controllers.

(d) and (e) List of unapproved 294 FDCs which was circulated to all State Drugs Controllers is enclosed as Statement. States have been directed to withdraw these 294 FDCs as rationality, safety, and efficacy has not been established by the manufacturers as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. On receipt of application for such FDCs, they will be examined for their rationality, safety, and efficacy and then only marketing authorization can be considered.

#### Statement

##### *Consolidated List of FDCs Licensed by SLAs but not permitted by DCG(I)*

Name of FDC	category
1	2
1. 5-bromosalicyl-4-chloranilide+Salicylic acid	Dermatologicals
2. Aceclofenac+Paracetamol+Chlorzoxazone	Orthopaedics
3. Aceclofenac+Paracetamol+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
4. Aceclofenac+Paracetamol+Tizanidine	Orthopaedics
5. Aceclofenac+Paracetamol+Tramadol	Orthopaedics
6. Aceclofenac+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
7. Aceclofenac+Tramadol	Orthopaedics
8. Acetaminophen+Codine phosphate	Cough and Cold
9. Acetyl salicylic acid+Ethoheptazine	Analgesics
10. Acetylcysteine+Selenomethionine+Choline+Bitartrate+Pyridoxine+Folic Acid+ Vitamin+E+Cyanocobalamin+Chromium Nicotinate+Manganese Sulfate+ Zinc Sulfate	Nutritionals
11. Acriflavine+Gentian violet+Brilliant green	Dermatologicals
12. Activated charcoal+Fungal distase+Lactic acid	GI
13. Adapalene+Methyl Paraben	Dermatologicals
14. Adenocyl Cobalamine+Carbonyl Iron+Folic Acid+Zinc Ascorbate	Nutritionals

1	2
15. Adenocynocobalamine+Carbonyl Iron+Folic acid	Nutritionals
16. Alendronate sodium+Calcium Carbonate+Vit-D3	Orthopaedics
17. Alendronate sodium+Cholicalceferol+Calcium Citrate+Magnesium Hydroxide	Orthopaedics
18. Allantoin+Dimethicone+Methylparaben+Propylparaben	Dermatologicals
19. Allantoin+Triclosan+Vit-E+Zinc Oxide	Dermatologicals
20. Allantoin+Vit-E+Cammelina Sinensis	Dermatologicals
21. Allobarbitone+Phospho-dimethyl-isopropyl-pyrazolone	Analgesics
22. Aloe extract+allantoin+Alfa tocoferal acetate+D-parthemol+VitA	Dermatologicals
23. Aloe extract+Vit-E+Dimethicone+Glycerine	Dermatologicals
24. Aloe vera+Jojoba oil+Vit-E	Dermatologicals
25. Aloe vera+Orange oil	Dermatologicals
26. Aloe vera+Vit-e acetate	Dermatologicals
27. Aloe+tocopherol	(Dermatologicals)
28. Aloe vera+Glycerine+PEG 100 stearate+Vit E	Dermatologicals
29. Aloe vera+Jojoba oil+Wheat germ oil+Tea tree oil	Dermatologicals
30. Aloe vera+Vit-E+Herbal	Dermatologicals
31. Alprazolam+Melatonin	CNS
32. Alprazolam+Propranolol	CNS
33. Amlodipine+Lovastatin	CVS
34. Amoxicillin+Cloxacillin+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
35. Amoxicillin+Serratiopeptidase+Lactobacillus Sporogenes	Antimicrobial
36. Amoxycillin+Clavulanic acid+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
37. Amoxycillin+Clavulanic Acid+Lactobacillus	Antimicrobial
38. Amoxycillin+Cloxacillin+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
39. Amoxycillin+Cloxacillin+Lactic acid bacillus+Serrapeptase	Antimicrobial

1	2
40. Amoxicillin+Cloxacillin+Lactic Acid Bacillus	Antimicrobial
41. Amoxicillin+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
42. Amoxicillin+Lactobacillus	Antimicrobial
43. Amoxicillin+Lactobacillus Acidophilus	Antimicrobial
44. Amoxicillin+Lactobacillus acidophilus+Clavulanic Acid	Antimicrobial
45. Amoxicillin+Lactobacillus acidophilus+Flucloxacillin Sodium	Antimicrobial
46. Amoxicillin+Serratiopeptidase	Antimicrobial
47. Ampicillin+Cloxacillin+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
48. Ampicillin+Flucloxacillin Sodium Salt	Antimicrobial
49. Ampicillin+Flucloxacillin Sodium Salt+Lactobacillus Acidophilus	Antimicrobial
50. Ampicillin+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
51. Analgin+Dextropropoxyphene	Analgescics
52. Analgin+Diazepam	Analgescics
53. Analgin+Diazepam+Diphenhydramine	CNS
54. Analgin+Diazepam+Paracetamol	Analgescics
55. Analgin+Diazepam+Propylene Glycol	Analgescics
56. Analgin+Dicyclomine+Diazepam	GI
57. Analgin+Dihydroethaverine chloride	GI
58. Analgin+Ketoprofen	Orthopaedics
59. Analgin+KET-P-PIPER.ETH-O-CARB M	Analgescics
60. Artesunate+Arteether+Artemether	Antimalarial
61. Atenolol+Hydrochlorothiazide+Amiloride	CVS
62. Atenolol+Losartan+Hydrochlorothiazide	CVS
63. Atorvastatin+Acetyl Salicylic acid	CVS
64. Atorvastatin+Acetyl Salicylic acid+Caffeine	Orthopaedics

1	2
65. Atorvastatin+Aspirin	CVS
66. Atorvastatin+Aspirin+Ramipril	CVS
67. Atorvastatin+Mecobalamine+Folic acid	CVS
68. Atorvastatin+Mecobalamine+Folic acid+Vit-B6	CVS
69. Atorvastatin+Omega 3 Fatty Acid	CVS
70. Atorvastatin+Ramipril	CVS
71. Atorvastatin+Ubidecarenone	CVS
72. Atorvastatin+Vitamin	CVS
73. Benfotimine+Pyridoxine+Mecobalamine+Inositol+Alphalipoic Acid	Nutritionals
74. Calcium Dobesilate+Decusate Sodium	Antihæmorrhoid
75. Calcium Dobesilate+Lignocaine	Antihæmorrhoid
76. Calcium Dobesilate+Lignocaine+Hydrocortisone	Antihæmorrhoid
77. Calcium Dobesilate+Troxeutin	Antihæmorrhoid
78. Cefadroxyl+Ambroxol	Antimicrobial
79. Cefadroxyl+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
80. Cefadroxyl+Probenecid	Antimicrobial
81. Cefdinir+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
82. Cefixime+Ambroxol+Lactic acid	Antimicrobial
83. Cefixime+Ambroxol+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
84. Cefixime+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
85. Cefixime+Lactic acid bacillus+Ambroxol	Antimicrobial
86. Cefixime+Lactobacillus acidophilus	Antimicrobial
87. Cefixime+Lactobacillus acidophilus+Ambroxol	Antimicrobial
88. Cefixime+Lactobacillus Acidophilus	Antimicrobial
89. Cefixime+Lactobacillus+Clavutanic Acid	Antimicrobial

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1	2
90. Cefixime+Lactobacillus+Dicloxacillin	Antimicrobial
91. Cefixime+Ornidazole	GI
92. Cefpodoxime prozetil+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
93. Cefpodoxime+Cloxacillin+Lactobacillus	Antimicrobial
94. Cefpodoxime+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
95. Cefpodoxime+Lactobacillus	Antimicrobial
96. Cefprozil+Lactobacillus	Antimicrobial
97. Ceftriaxone+Vancomycin	Antimicrobial
98. Cefuroxime+Ornidazole	GI
99. Cefuroxime+Serratiopeptidase	Antimicrobial
100. Cefuroxime+Cloxacillin+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
101. Chlormezanone+Paracetamol+Diclofenac sodium	Orthopaedics
102. Chlormezanone+Paracetamol+Ibuprofen	Orthopaedics
103. Chlorzoxazone+Ibuprofen+Paracetamol+Diclofenac+Oxyphenbutazone+Magnesium hydroxide	Orthopaedics
104. Chlorzoxazone+Nimesulide	Orthopaedics
105. Chlorzoxazone+Paracetamol	Orthopaedics
106. Chlorzoxazone+Paracetamol+Diclofenac	Orthopaedics
107. Chlorzoxazone+Paracetamol+Ibuprofen	Orthopaedics
108. Chlorzoxazone+Paracetamol+Ibuprofen+Diclofenac sodium	Orthopaedics
109. Chlorzoxazone+Paracetamol+Nimesulide	Orthopaedics
110. Ciprofloxacin+Tinidazole+Dicyclomine	GI
111. Clindamycin+Clotrimazole+Metronidazole	Antimicrobial
112. Clonidine+Chlorthalidone	CVS
113. Clonidine+Hydrochlorothiazide	CVS
114.. Clopidogrel+Aspirin+Atorvastatin	CVS

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1	2
115. Chondroitin+Vitamin+Selenium zinc+Suiphate+Monohydrate	Nutritionals
116. Diclofenac potassium+Pitofenone hydrochloride+Fenpivireneum bromide+Paracetamol	Orthopaedics
117. Diclofenac potassium+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
118. Diclofenac Sodium+Rabeprazole	Orthopaedics
119. Diclofenac sodium+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
120. Diclofenac+Dextropropoxyphene+Paracetamol	Orthopaedics
121. Diclofenac+Famotidine	Orthopaedics
122. Diclofenac+Methyl Salicylate+Linoleic acid+Menthol	Orthopaedics
123. Diclofenac+Paracetamol+Chlormezanone	Orthopaedics
124. Diclofenac+Paracetamol+Chlorzoxazone	Orthopaedics
125. Diclofenac+Paracetamol+Dextropropoxyphene	Orthopaedics
126. Diclofenac+Paracetamol+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
127. Diclofenac+Paracetamol+Tizanidine	Orthopaedics
128. Diclofenac+Paracetamol+Chlorzoxazone	Orthopaedics
129. Diclofenac+Rabeprazole	Orthopaedics
130. Diclofenac+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
131. Diclofenac+Serratiopeptidase+Paracetamol	Orthopaedics
132. Diclofenac+Tizanidine	Orthopaedics
133. Diclofenac Sodium+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
134. Diclofenac+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
135. Dicyclomine+Dextromethorphan+Paracetamol	GI
136. Dicyclomine+Diclofenac Sodium+Paracetamol	GI
137. Dicyclomine+Mefenamic acid+Paracetamol	GI
138. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Analgin	GI
139. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Chlordiazepoxide	GI

1	2
140. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Clidinium Bromide	GI
141. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Clidinium Bromide+Chlordiazepoxide	GI
142. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Dextropropoxyphene	GI
143. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Dextropropoxyphene+Chlordiazepoxide	GI
144. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Dimethylpolysiloxane	GI
145. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Phenylisopropyl Pyrazolon	GI
146. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Simethicone	GI
147. Dicyclomine+Ranitidine	GI
148. Dicyclomine+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
149. Dicyclomine+Paracetamol+Dimethylpolysiloxane	GI
150. Domperidone+Paracetamol	GI
151. Domperidone+Paracetamol+Tramadol	Analgesics
152. Domperidone+Ranitidine	GI
153. Doxycycline+Lactobacillus	Antimicrobial
154. Doxycycline+Tinidazole	GI
155. Drotaverine hydrochloride+Mefenamic Acid	GI
156. Drotaverine+Mefenamic acid	GI
157. Drotaverine+Nimesulide	GI
158. Drotaverine+Omeprazole	GI
159. Drotaverine+Paracetamol	GI
160. Duloxetine+Mecobalamin	CNS
161. Fenpiverinium bromide+Analgin+Pitofenone hydrochloride	GI
162. Fenpiverinium bromide+Diclofenac Sodium+Pitofenone hydrochloride	GI
163. Fenpiverinium hydroxide bromide+Diclofenac Sodium+Pitofenone hydrochloride	GI
164. Gabapentin+Mecobalamin+Thioctic acid	CNS

1	2
165. Gabapentin+Mecobalamin+Thioctic acid+Folic Acid+Pyridoxine	CNS
166. Gabapentin+Mecobalamine+Pyridoxine+Folic Acid	CNS
167. Gliclazide+Chromium picolinate	Antidiabetics
168. Glucosamine+Ascorbic Acid	Orthopaedics
169. Glucosamine+Boswellia Serrata	Orthopaedics
170. Glucosamine+Calcium Carbonate	Orthopaedics
171. Glucosamine+Cetylmyristate Oleate	Orthopaedics
172. Glucosamine+Chondroitin Sulphate+Methyl Sulphonyl Methane	Orthopaedics
173. Glucosamine+Chondroitin Sulphate+Vit-C+Manganise Sulphate	Orthopaedics
174. Glucosamine+Chondroitin+Vit C+Vit E+Manganese	Orthopaedics
175. Glucosamine+Chondroitin+Vit-C	Orthopaedics
176. Glucosamine+Chondroitin+Vit-C+Vit-E+Manganese	Orthopaedics
177. GJucosamine+Chondroitin+Vit-C+Vit-E+Manganese Sulphate	Orthopaedics
178. Glucosamine+Chondroitin+Vit-C+Vit-E+Manganese Sulphate+Sodium Borate+Selenium Dioxide	Orthopaedics
179. Glucosamine+Colecalciferol+Manganese+Ascorbic acid	Orthopaedics
180. Glucosamine+Manganese	Orthopaedics
181. Glucosamine+Mecobalamin+Dimethyl Sulfone	Orthopaedics
182. Glucosamine+Mecobalamine	Orthopaedics
183. Glucbsamine+Mecobalamine+Milk calcium	Orthopaedics
184. Glucosamine+Methyl Sulphonyl Methane	Orthopaedics
185. Glucosamine+Methylsulfonyl Methenamine+Cetylmyristate	Orthopaedics
186. Glucosamine+Vit C+Calcium+Methyl Sulfonyl Methane+Chondroitin+Manganese	Orthopaedics
187. Glucosamine+Vit-C+Vit-E+Chondroitin Sulphate+Methyl sulfonyl Methane+Manganese sulphate	Orthopaedics

1	2
188. Glucosamine Sulphate+Chondroitin+Sulphate+Vit-E+Manganese	Orthopaedics
189. Glucosamine+Calcium+Vit-D3	Orthopaedics
190. Hydrochlorothiazide+Ramipril+Losartan Potassium Salt	CVS
191. Ibuprofen+Carisoprodol	Orthopaedics
192. Ibuprofen+Codeine	Orthopaedics
193. Ibuprofen+Colchicine	Orthopaedics
194. Ibuprofen+Dextropropoxyphene	Orthopaedics
195. Ibuprofen+Dextropropoxyphene+Paracetamol	Orthopaedics
196. Ibuprofen+Paracetamol+Caffeine	Cough and Cold
197. Ibuprofen+Paracetamol+Colchicine	Orthopaedics
198. Ibuprofen+Paracetamol+Dextropropoxyphene	Orthopaedics
199. Ibuprofen+Paracetamol+Magnesium Trisilicate	Orthopaedics
200. Ibuprofen+Paracetamol+Magnesium Trisilicate	Orthopaedics
201. Ibuprofen+Paracetamol+Oxyphenbutazone+Phenylisopropyl Pyrazolon	Orthopaedics
202. Ibuprofen+Paracetamol+Phenylephrine+Chlorpheniramine Maleate	Cough and Cold
203. Ibuprofen+Paracetamol+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
204. Ibuprofen+Pseudoephedrine+Chlorpheniramine Maleate	Cough and Cold
205. Ibuprofen+Tizanidine	Orthopaedics
206. Lansoprazole+Amoxicillin+Clarithromycin	GI
207. Lansoprazole+Amoxicillin+Tinidazole	GI
208. Lansoprazole+Domperidone	GI
209. Lansoprazole+Tinidazole+Clarithromycin	GI
210. Levocetirizine+Montelukast	Antihistamines
211. Levofloxacin+Ambroxol	Antimicrobial
212. Levofloxacin+Ornidazole	GI

1	2
213. Lincomycin+Lactobacillus	Antimicrobial
214. Losartan+Hydrochlorothiazide+Atenolol	CVS
215. Losartan+Hydrochlorothiazide+Ramipril	CVS
216. Losartan+Perindopril	CVS
217. Mebeverine+Alprazolam	GI
218. Mebeverine+Plantago Ovata	GI
219. Mecobalaminalphalipoic Acid+Folic Acid+Vit-b6+Choline	Nutritionals
220. Mecobalamine+Alpha Lipoic Acid	Nutritionals
221. Mecobalamine+Alphalipoic Acid+Folic Acid	Nutritionals
222. Mecobalamine+Alphalipoic Acit+Vit-b1+Folic Acid	Nutritionals
223. Mecobalamine+Biotin	Nutritionals
224. Mecobalamine+Calcium Pantothenate	Nutritionals
225. Mecobalamine+Carotinoid+Alpha Lipoic Acid+Chromim+Vit-b1+Vit-b Complex	Nutritionals
226. Mecobalamine+Folic Acid	Nutritionals
227. Mecobalamine+Methenamine Mandelate	Nutritionals
228. Mecobalamine+Vit-A+Vit-E+Vit-C+Vit-B1+Vit-B6+Vit-D3+Selenium	Nutritionals
229. Mecobalamine+Vitamins+Minerals	Nutritionals
230. Mecobalamine+Vit-B1+Vit-B2+Vit-B6+Folic Acid	Nutritionals
231. Mecobalamine+Vit-B1+Vit-B6+Folic Acid+Alpha Lipoic Acid	Nutritionals
232. Mecobalamine+Vit-B1+Vit-B6+Nicotinamide+D-Panthenol	Nutritionals
233. Mecobalamine+Vit-B6+Folic Acid	Nutritionals
234. Mefenamic acid+Dicyclomine	GI
235. Meloxicam+Paracetamol	Orthopaedics
236. Metformin Hydrochloride+Mecobalamine	Antidiabetics
237. Methocarbamol+Ibuprofen	Orthopaedics

1	2
238. Methocarbamol+Nimesulide	Orthopaedics
239. Methocarbamol+Paracetamol	Orthopaedics
240. Metoclopramide Hydrochloride+Paracetamol	GI
241. Mupirocin+Metronidazole	Dermatologicals
242. Naproxen+Domperidone	Orthopaedics
243. Nimesulide+Paracetamol+Chlorzoxazone	Orthopaedics
244. Nimesulide+Paracetamol+Serratiopeptidase	Orthopaedics
245. Nimesulide+Phenylpherine+Chlorpheniramine Maleate+Caffeine	Cough and Cold
246. Nimesulide+P-Piperidinoethoxy-O-Carbomethoxybenzophenone+Diphenyl Piperidinoethyl Acetamide Bromomethylate	GI
247. Nimesulide+Pseudoephedrine+Cetirazine	Cough and Cold
248. Norfloxacin+Ornidazole	GI
249. Norfloxacin+Tinidazole+Dicyclomine	GI
250. Norfloxacin+Tinidazole+Lactobacillus	GI
251. Norfloxacin+Tinidazole+Loperamide	GI
252. Ofloxacin+Diclofenac+Lignocaine	Orthopaedics
253. Ofloxacin+Lactic acid bacillus	Antimicrobial
254. Ofloxacin+Metronidazole	GI
255. Ofloxacin+Ornidazole+Lactobacillus	GI
256. Ofloxacin+Prednisolone	Orthopaedics
257. Ofloxacin+Tinidazole	GI
258. Ondansetron+Omeprazole	GI
259. Ondansetron+Paracetamol	GI
260. Ondansetron+Ranitidine	GI
261. Ornidazole+Doxycycline	GI
262. Ornidazole+Flucanazole+Azithromycin	Antimicrobial

1	2
263. Paracetamol+Alprazolam	Analgesics
264. Paracetamol+Analgin	Analgesics
265. Paracetamol+Diclofenac Sodium+Amoxicillin+Cloxacillin+Pantoprazole+Lactic Acid Bacillus+Serrapeptase	Analgesics
266. Paracetamol+Diclofenac Sodium+Magnesium Trisilicate+Chlorphenamine Maleate	Orthopaedics
267. Paracetamol+Diclofenac+Chlorzoxazone	Orthopaedics
268. Paracetamol+Dicycloverine+Mefenamic	GI
269. Paracetamol+Ketoprofen+Dextropropoxyphene	Orthopaedics
270. Paracetamol+Lignocaine	Analgesics
271. Pregabalin+Mecobalamine	CNS
272. Pregabalin+Mecobalamine+Pyridoxine+Thioctic Acid+Folic Acid	CNS
273. Pregabalin+Thioctic Acid+Folic Acid+Pyridoxine	CNS
274. Propranolol+Alprazolam	CVS
275. Propranolol+Diazepam	CVS
276. Propranolol+Hydrallazine	CVS
277. Propranolol+Hydrochlorothiazide+Dihydrallazine	CVS
278. Ranitidine+Cisapride	GI
279. Ranitidine+Dicyclomine	GI
280. Ranitidine+Dicyclomine+Clidinium Bromide	GI
281. Ranitidine+Dicyclomine+Nimesulide	GI
282. Ranitidine+Dicycloverine+Simethicone	GI
283. Ranitidine+Domperidone	GI
284. Ranitidine+Drotaverine	GI
285. Ranitidine+Omeprazole	GI
286. Ranitidine+Ondansetron	GI

1	2
287. Roxithromycin+Ambroxol	Antimicrobial
288. Roxithromycin+Carbocisteine	Antimicrobial
289. Satranidazole+Ofloxacin	GI
290. Telmisartan+Ramipril+Hydrochlorthiazide	CVS
291. Tizanidine+Diclofenac Sodium+Paracetamol	Orthopaedics
292. Tizanidine+Nimesulide+Paracetamol	Orthopaedics
293. Torsemide+Spironolactone	CVS
294. Tramadol+Paracetamol+Domperidone	Analgesics

[Translation]

**Minimum Wages for Maids/Nurses in Overseas Countries**

1696. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a huge demand in the overseas countries for Indian housemaids and home nurses;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of housemaids and home nurses presently working, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government has entered into any agreement with the foreign countries, especially with the Gulf countries to ensure minimum wages for the housemaids/home nurses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) Yes Sir. Demand of Indian housemaids/home nurses is mostly in gulf countries.

(b) As per data furnished by Indian Missions, the

approximate number of Indian women employed as housemaids/home nurses in Gulf countries presently is as under:

Oman	Saudi Arabia	Bahrain	Qatar	Kuwait
31000	9000	15000	10000	72,366

In the UAE, only a moderate number of Indian women are employed as housemaids.

(c) to (e) The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries have presently no law to regulate wages for domestic workers. However, minimum wage for various host countries has been fixed by the Indian Missions and enforced by the Protectors of Emigrants while granting emigration clearance. In order to ensure the protection of Indian workers by the host countries, Government of India has entered into bilateral labour MoUs with the UAE and Kuwait. An additional protocol has been signed with Qatar. MoUs with Oman and Malaysia have been finalized.

[English]

**NGOs Working for Blindness**

1697. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of NGOs working for the cause of blindness, State-wise;

(b) the details of allocation of funds to these NGOs during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the works undertaken by the NGOs have been found to be satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the action taken by the Government against the defaulting NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Total about 881 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been working for the cause of blindness in the country. A list of leading NGOs (State-wise) is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) The details of funds (non-recurring grants) allocated to these NGOs during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise under National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) are given in the enclosed Statement-II and IIA.

In addition to this, Rs. 750/- per Intra-ocular (IOL) Implantation, Rs. 1000/- per pair of eyes to Eye Banks in Voluntary Sector and Rs. 125/-per spectacle in School Eye Screening is being provided to NGOs working in the field of Eye Care through State/District Blindness Societies under NPCB.

(c) Yes. Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

**Statement-I**

**NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR CONTROL OF BLINDNESS**

*State-wise number of NGO Hospitals with Eye Care facilities in the country*

S. No.	State/UT	No. of NGO Hospitals with Eye care facilities
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	76

1	2	3
2.	Bihar	15
3.	Chhattisgarh	10
4.	Goa	1
5.	Gujarat	113
6.	Haryana	29
7.	Himachal Pradesh	9
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	4
9.	Jharkhand	4
10.	Karnataka	79
11.	Kerala	14
12.	Madhya Pradesh	41
13.	Maharashtra	77
14.	Orissa	20
15.	Punjab	64
16.	Rajasthan	26
17.	Tamil Nadu	59
18.	Uttar Pradesh	139
19.	Uttarakhand	21
20.	West Bengal	37
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
22.	Assam	20
23.	Manipur	1
24.	Meghalaya	1
25.	Mizoram	3
26.	Nagaland	1

1	2	3	2	3	
27.	Sikkim	0	32.	Daman and Diu	0
28.	Tripura	1	33.	Delhi	13
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	34.	Lakshdweep	0
30.	Chandigarh	1	35.	Pondicherry	1
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	Total		881

**Statement-II****NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR CONTROL OF BLINDNESS**

*Non-recurring assistance to NGOs for strengthening/developing Eye Banks/  
Eye Donation Centres in Voluntary Sector*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Sl.No.	Name of NGO	Amount
1	2	3	4
2004-05	1.	Sewa Eye Bank, Mathura Road, Jangpura, New Delhi	10.00
	2.	Jayapriya Medical Eye Foundation, Hubli, Karnataka	5.00
	3.	Mahatme Eye Bank and Eye Hospital, Nagpur, Maharashtra	5.00
	4.	Akola Netradan and Netraropan Sanshodhan Kendra, Akola, Maharashtra	0.50
Total			20.50
2005-06	1.	MGM Eye Institute, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	5.00
	2.	Netra Jyoti Sewa Mandiram, Verayalam, Nalanda Bihar	5.00
	3.	Poorva Eye Bank, West Bengal	5.00
	4.	Ram Raja Nabin Sangha Eye Bank and Seva Kendra, West Bengal #	1.00
	5.	Punar Drishti, Asansol, West Bengal #	1.00
	6.	Murshidahad Eye Care and Donation Society, West Bengal #	1.00
Total			18.00

1	2	3	4
2006-07	1.	Rotary Charitable Mid-Town Eye Bank, Shimoga, Karnataka	0.00
	2.	Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Agartala, Tripura	10.00
	3.	Shroff Charitable Eye Bank, Delhi	10.00
	4.	Sir Jamshetji Duggan Government Eye Bank, Byculla, Mumbai, Maharashtra	5.00
	Total		35.00
	Grand Total		73.50

# = Eye Donation Centre

**Statement-IIA**

## NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR CONTROL OF BLINDNESS

*Non-recurring Grant-in-aid to NGOs for strengthening/expansion of Eye Care Unit*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Sl.No.	Name of NGO	Amount
1	2	3	4
2004-05	1	Swamy Vivekanand Youth Movement, Mysore, Karnataka	17.75
	2	Globe Eye Foundation, Bangalore, Karnataka	17.75
	3	Shri Vivekanand Nursing Home Shrishivajinagar, Rahuri, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	14.85
	4	Sneh Bahuuddeshiya Sanstha, Katol, Nagpur, Maharashtra	16.73
	5	Kakasahib Mhaske Memorial Medical Foundation, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	12.94
	6	SEWA Rural, Jhagadia Dist. Bharuch, Gujarat	17.75
	7	Devdaya Charitable Trust, Wankaner, Gujarat	25.00
	8	AG Eye Hospital, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu	25.00
	Total		147.77

1	2	3	4
2005-06	1	Pujya Tapaswi Jagjiwan Ji Maharaj Chachu Chikitsalaya, Petarbar (Bokaro), <b>Jharkhand</b>	12.50
	2	Shri Aravindo Medical Research Center, Pachpedi Naka, <b>Chhattisgarh</b>	12.50
	3	Netra Jyoti Sewa Mandiram Veerayatan, Rajgiri, Nalanda, <b>Bihar</b>	12.50
	4	Jhargram Lions Eye Hospital, Village Ghalghata, P.O. Jhargram, District, Paschim Medinipur, <b>West Bengal</b>	12.50
	5	Parmatama Chand Bhandari Charitable Trust, Pipad, Jodhpur, <b>Rajasthan</b>	12.50
	Total		62.50
2006-07	1	Parmatama Chand Bhandari Charitable Trust, Pipad, Jodhpur, <b>Rajasthan</b>	12.50
	2	Jaya Priya Eye Hospital, Hubli, <b>Karnataka</b>	25.00
	3	Share Medical Care, Ghanapur, Medchal Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, <b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	12.50
	4	Muzaffarpur Eye Hospital, Juran Chapra, Road No. 2, Muzaffarpur, <b>Bihar</b>	25.00
	5	P.C. Chatterjee Memorial Eye Hospital, Dharma Nagar, North Tripura	25.00
	Total		100.00
	Grand Total		310.27

**Direct Funding to a Panchayat by U.K.**

1698. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Britain has provided direct grants to a Panchayat in Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) whether the Government has examined the adverse implications of a foreign Government directly extending financial assistance to a Panchayat in the country;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

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) According to information received from the State Government and the Ministry of Finance, to the best of their knowledge no Panchayat in Tamil Nadu has directly received any grants from the U.K. Government.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Improvements in the Working of  
Passport Offices**

1699.DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Institute of Smart Government, Hyderabad has submitted (completed) its report (study) for bringing improvements in the working of passport offices in the country;

(b) if so, the reforms suggested by the Institute;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the reforms suggested by the Institute;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the timeframe that had been fixed for implementation of the reforms suggested by the Institute?

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

(b) to (d) The Government had entrusted the National Institute of Smart Government (NISG), Hyderabad, with the task of undertaking a time-bound study on the passport issuance system, including its IT aspects with the objective to *deliver passport related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner*. NISG has submitted its report, which has been accepted by the Government, and it has been decided to launch "Passport Seva Project".

The project is expected to result in the issue of passports within 3 days and in cases, which require police verification, within 3 days after the completion of the verification process. Tatkal passports are expected to be issued the same day. The proposal is to have 68 Passport Facilitation Centres all over the country where the non-sovereign functions, involved in the passport issuance

process, such as initial scrutiny of the application forms, acceptance of fee, scanning of the documents, taking photos, etc. will be done by the service provider to be selected through an open bidding process. The Government staff at the Passport Facilitation Centres will verify the documents and decide on granting of passport. The other activities such as printing and dispatch will also be done by the Government staff. Police verification will be expedited through electronic linkage of the Passport Facilitation Centres with the police authorities in State Capitals.

(e) The Government have fixed a time-frame of 19 months for implementation of the 'Passport Seva Project'.

[English]

**New Coal Distribution Policy**

1700.SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :  
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID :  
DR. RAJESH MISHRA :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to announce a new coal distribution policy as reported in the 'Hindu' dated October 20,2007;

(b) if so, the objectives and salient features of the new policy;

(c) the extent to which the new policy will help meeting the growing demand of various other sectors;

(d) the time by which the new coal distribution policy is likely to be operational;

(e) whether the new policy will have any adverse impact on any sectors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The

New Coal Distribution Policy has been announced by the Government on 18th October, 2007. The salient features of the new policy are given below:—

- (i) The existing classification of consumers into Core and Non-core has been reviewed and it has now been decided to dispense with the same. Instead, each sector/consumers would be treated on merit keeping in view, inter-alia, the regulatory provisions applicable thereto and other relevant factors.
- (ii) Requirements of defence sector and Railways will be met in full at notified price, as at present.
- (iii) While 100% of the quantity as per the normative requirement of the Power Utilities including Independent Power Producers (IPPs)/ Captive Power Plants (CPPs) and Fertilizer Sector consumers would be considered for supply of coal, through Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) by Coal India Limited (CIL), 75% of the quantity as per the normative requirement of the Other consumers/actual users would be considered for supply of coal through FSA at fixed prices to be declared/notified by CIL.
- (iv) Enhancement of present cap of 500 tonnes per annum to 4200 tonnes per annum for the small and medium sector consumers. The earmarked quantity would be distributed through State Government agencies, Central Government agencies or industry associations as notified by the State Governments. The quantity earmarked for distribution to these agencies would also be increased to 8 million tonnes annually, to start with.
- (v) The linkage system will be replaced with a more transparent bilateral commercial arrangement of enforceable Fuel Supply Agreement FSAs.
- (vi) The Letter of Assurance (LoA) to be issued to new consumers now pursuant to the new policy

will have a validity of 24 months for consumers/ applicants of Power Utilities, CPPs and IPPs and 12 months for other consumers instead of 30 months as earlier. The allottee of LoA would be required to fulfill certain stipulated conditions and meet the milestones within this period and there upon approach coal companies for entering into FSA.

- (vii) E-auction scheme for distribution of coal to be introduced to provide access to such consumers, who are unable to source coal through available institutional mechanisms,
- (viii) CIL would undertake verification of such consumers of erstwhile non-core sector consumers, in a time bound manner, either directly or through an agency, so as to check the veracity of their claim of being bonafide consumers of coal and thereafter act accordingly.

(c) The New Distribution Policy envisages an efficient and fair distribution of coal resources among various consumers of economy. Therefore, to that extent it would address the issues concerning demand for coal.

(d) The New Coal Distribution Policy provides for a time frame of two months to one year for implementation of various provisions of the policy.

(e) and (f) There is no such adverse report received from any sector on introduction of the New Coal Distribution Policy. The new policy is not likely to have any adverse impact on any sector.

#### **Utilisation of Funds by the Panchayats**

1701. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO :  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :  
SHRI MUNSHI RAM :

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Panchayats in the country have expressed their inability to utilize funds earmarked for them due to non-availability of district plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any instructions to the Panchayats in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the mechanism developed within the Panchayati Raj Institutions to prepare district plans and to monitor the works executed by Gram Panchayats.

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 (d) The basic constitutional objective of empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) is to enable them to function as institutions of self Government. Preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and implementation of schemes entrusted to PRIs is written into the Constitution. Utilization of funds by Panchayats at present depends on the role given to them in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the schemes along with the funds devolved to them by the State Government. District Planning is the process of preparing an integrated plan for the local Government sector in a district taking into account the resources (natural, human and financial) available and covering the sectoral activities and schemes assigned to the district level and below and those implemented through local Governments in a State.

Planning Commission has issued guidelines to State Governments on 25th August 2006 on the preparation of district plans in a participatory manner by the three tiers of the Panchayats and their consolidation by District Planning Committees set up in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. Such a plan would be holistic, participatory and efficient in execution.

(e) Article 243 ZD (3)(d) of the Constitution makes

provision for the District Planning Committee to consult such institutions and organisations as the Government may specify in preparing the draft development plan. MoPR has released Rs. 10 lakh per district in the 250 districts covered under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme to enable the districts to access professional support in the preparation of their Annual Plans 2008-09 and 5-year perspective plans for the 11th Plan period.

#### **Safety Arrangements in Coal Mines**

1702. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

PROF. M. RAMADASS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for undertaking safety arrangements in coal mine during each of the last three years, company-wise;

(b) the funds utilised so far in each State, company-wise; and

(c) the details of programmes undertaken for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) The details of funds allocated and utilized in coal mines during each of the last three years from 2004-05 to 2006-07, company-wise with States where coal companies are being operated are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The following programmes have been undertaken for the purpose:

1. Procurement of Gas Chromatograph equipment.
2. Procurement of Multi-gas Detectors.
3. Man-Riding System for mines having long and arduous travelling road.
4. Mechanized Roof Drilling Machines for roof bolting.

5. Environmental Tele-Monitoring Systems (ETMS)
6. Chemical O<sub>2</sub> type self-contained self-rescuers (SCSR)
7. Procurement of safety and rescue related equipments.
8. Subsidence management by filling cracks with earth including trench cutting.
9. Diversion of nullahs over and in the vicinity of depillaring panels.
10. Providing embankments against nullahs/rivers where HFL is close to mine entries and operational area.
11. Strata management with roof bolting including provision of roof bolters.
12. Re-organization of ventilation after conducting detailed surveys in some cases with experts from institutions of repute.
13. Making basket loading free mines.
14. Conducting de-pillaring operations in conjunction with sand stowing.
15. Lifting of loose coal to prevent fires in underground mines.
16. Sectionalisation of old working and continuous monitoring.

**Statement**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Company	Name of State where company is operated	Year					
		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Funds allocated	Funds utilised	Funds allocated	Funds utilised	Funds allocated	Funds utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ECL	West Bengal Jharkhand	12974.00	9241.43	12588.00	10001.00	13055.55	10281.96
BCCL	Jharkhand West Bengal	14283.87	13417.63	16017.43	15539.20	22549.17	19685.39
CCL	Jharkhand	2252.21	2161.53	2483.91	2461.00	2407.97	2562.70
NCL	Madhya Pradesh Uttar Pradesh	4960.00	4102.9	4998.00	4113.00	4108.20	3718.13
WCL	Maharashtra Madhya Pradesh	6950.00	6798.67	7474.80	7197.09	7475.76	7172.16
SECL	Chhattisgarh Madhya Pradesh	10025.75	10020.45	10799.45	10799.45	11311.00	9558.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MCL	Orissa	5054.48	4695.66	5293.00	4200.96	5668.39	4106.25
NEC	Assam	274.00	244.10	404.00	288.50	653.13	601.93
	CIL (Overall)	56774.31	50682.59	60058.59	54600.20	67211.17	57686.52
SCCL	Andhra Pradesh	23760.00	25215.00	27936.00	29042.00	34064.00	30570.00

### Slow Progress of Infrastructure Projects

1703. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been slow progress of the infrastructure projects in various sectors such as power, road, port, telecom and railway in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Committee on Infrastructure has reviewed these projects;

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

(d) the reasons responsible for slow progress in each of such projects; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to expedite for timely completion of each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) **Power** : During the Tenth Plan 21080.24 MW additional generation was added as against target of 41109.84 MW. The likely expenditure of the central power sector during the Tenth Plan is Rs. 90677.85 crores as against an outlay of Rs. 117050.64 crores.

**Railways** : The Railways has seen a remarkable turn around in the Tenth Plan. The originating freight traffic during the terminal year of the Tenth Plan has been Rs. 728.4 million tonnes as against target of 624 million tonnes. Similarly, the originating passenger traffic for the terminal year of the Tenth Plan has been 6352.07 million as against target of 5686 million.

**Roads** : The expenditure of the central sector has been Rs. 48593.95 crores as against 10th Plan outlay of Rs. 59490.00 crores.

**Ports** : The 13 major ports handled 463.80 million tones cargo in 2006-07 as against 10th Plan projected traffic of 415.00 million tonnes. The expenditure of the central port sector during the Tenth Plan has been Rs. 2891.45 crores as against an outlay of Rs. 5418.29 crores.

**Telecom** : The teledensity target of the 10th Plan was exceeded by 149%.

(b) to (e) The Committee on Infrastructure regularly reviews progress of key infrastructure projects to ensure that established targets are realized. The Empowered Sub-Committee of the Col also regularly reviews the progress of various infrastructure sectors.

The Eleventh Plan, under formulation, outlines a comprehensive programme for development of infrastructure. The total investment needed in infrastructure defined to include power, roads, railways, ports, airports, telecommunications, irrigation, drinking water and sanitation and storage will have to increase from an estimated 5% of GDP in 2006-07 to almost 9% by the terminal year of the Eleventh Plan.

[Translation]

### National Highways during 11th Five-Year Plan

1704. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

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

(a) whether the details of construction/upgradation of National Highways in the country during the 11th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed for development/upgradation of National Highways during 11th Plan including the target fixed for the current year, separately;

(d) the target achieved so far; and

(e) the details of National Highways converted/

proposed to be converted into eight-lane, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (d) The 11th Five Year Plan has not been finalized. Targets and achievements in respect of upgradation of National Highways for the year 2007-08 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) The details of National Highways converted/proposed to be converted into 8 lanes by the Government are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*Scheme-wise Physical target and achievement during the current year 2007-08*

Sl. No.	Scheme	2007-08 Target	Achievement (upto 30.9.2007)
(i)	Improvement of low grade section (kms)	25.00	13.13
(ii)	Widening to four lanes (Kms)	2919.00	702.00
(iii)	Strengthening of existing weak pavement (Kms)	577.00	346.10
(iv)	Widening to two lanes (Kms)	919.00	406.53
(v)	Improvement of riding quality programme (IRQP) (Kms)	1602.00	573.96
(vi)	Construction of Bypass (Nos.)	3	2
(vii)	Construction of Missing link (Kms.)	22.00	10.00
(viii)	Rehabilitation/Construction of Bridges (Nos.)	24	21

**Statement-II**

*Details of National Highways converted/proposed to be converted into 8-lane by the Government:*

S. No.	State	Section	NH No.	Length of 8 lane (in Km.)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Delhi/Haryana	Delhi-Gurgaon(Access controlled 8/6 lane)	8	22.33

1	2	3	4	5
2	Delhi	8 laning of Haryana-Delhi Border to Mukarba Chowk	1	12.9
		Mukarba Chowk to Mall Road	1	8.5
		Delhi to Uttar Pradesh Border	24	8.4
		Delhi to Haryana Border	10	5.2

[English]

#### Uranium Found in Ladakh

1705. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether scientists have found Uranium in exceptionally high concentration in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) whether samples of rock has been analyzed to find out the Uranium content;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for exploration of such reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (d) The scientists of the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, have participated for 3 years during 1973-75 in Puga-Chumathang multi-purpose multi-disciplinary project of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Ladakh area. Detailed investigations have been carried out near Chumathang area. AMD has reported low grade uranium mineralization in association with fluorite mineralization in a shear zone from Chumathang area. Grab samples (whole rock) have been analyzed and found to contain up to 0.021%  $U_3O_8$ .

(e) In view of no significant uranium mineralization, there is no plan for further exploration.

#### Impact of Tribal Act on Wildlife

1706. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Board of Wildlife has decided to set up a sub-committee to look into the adverse impact of the Tribal Act passed recently; and

(b) if so, by when the sub-committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Fund for Development of Assam Medical College

1707. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has allocated special fund for the Assam Medical College in Dibrugarh for its development to a centre of excellence to reach the level of AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the institution is still facing problems due to non-fulfilment of MCI guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) Medical Council of India conducted inspection of the Assam Medical College on 25th and 26th September, 2006 for continuance of recognition of MBBS degree granted by Dibrugarh University in respect of students being trained at Assam Medical College and noted certain deficiencies in the college. Further action will be taken as per the provisions of IMC Act, 1956 only after receipt of compliance report from the college through State Government.

**Conference on Reproductive Sexual  
Health and Rights**

1708. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fourth Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive Sexual Health and Rights was held recently in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the main decisions arrived at in the Conference;

(c) whether the Union Government is considering to implement the suggestions made in the Conference; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main theme of the conference was Exploring New Frontiers in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. The major areas discussed were:

1. Exploring and empowering the sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights moment.
2. Moving beyond Tokenism – Enabling and realizing young peoples potential in improving sexual and Reproductive Health

3. Equalising Sexual Relationship; Gender, Sexuality and Sexual Diversity.

4. Responding to Emerging Issues in Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.

5. Addressing Unmet Need for Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.

6. Making pregnancy safe and wanted: A non-negotiable Entitlement for Women.

(c) So far, the Government has not received any report of the conference.

(d) Does not arise.

**Loss of Forest cover due to Setting  
Up of SEZs**

1709. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any loss of forest cover as a result of setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in various States including Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) to (c) No assessment is made by this Ministry about the loss of forest cover as a result of setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs). There is no such data available for any State including Gujarat.

**Non – Utilization of Sanctioned  
Development Funds**

1710. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 356 crore sanctioned under various developments schemes of Ministry of Development for

North East Region is not being utilised by State Government of Assam, as reported in the Regional Assamese daily News 'Asomiya Pratidin' dated October 29, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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) The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) have released Rs. 1304.84 crore under the scheme of Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) to the State Government of Assam as on 31.10.2007. Utilisation Certificates (UCs) have so far been received for Rs. 948.93 crore. Rs. 355.91 crore is the balance with the State Government for submission of pending UCs. The Government of Assam have informed the Ministry that of this amount, Rs. 225.57 crore have been released for works already executed and a balance about Rs. 130.35 crore is with the State Government for release to the implementing agencies.

(c) The sanction of new projects and release of funds against various projects by the Government of India under NLCPR and submission of UCs by the Governments of the North Eastern States, including Assam, is a continuous process. The Ministry of DoNER have been regularly pursuing progress of implementation of projects with the State Governments through quarterly progress reports, regular review meetings, video conferences, follow up letters at all levels including Minister DoNER and project site visits by the officers of the Ministry.

#### **Life Expectancy**

1711. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the life expectancy rate in India vis-à-vis other countries; and

(b) the measures taken to improve the life expectancy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) The Life Expectancy Rate of India and selected countries is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Government has initiated comprehensive health sector reforms to improve Primary Health care system and provide medical facilities to citizens in rural areas. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is the main vehicle for these reforms and is a flag ship programme of the Government. It is being operationalized throughout the country, with special focus on 18 States which includes 8 Empowered Action Group States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Orissa and Rajasthan), 8 North-East States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. NRHM seeks to strengthen the Public Health delivery system at all levels. The interventions/initiatives launched under the NRHM aim to reduce mortality and morbidity so that the life expectancy of the people improve.

#### **Statement**

##### *Life Expectancy for selected countries*

Sl. No.	Country	Life Expectancy	
		Male	Female
1	2	3	4
1	China	70.7	74.4
2	Japan	79.1	86.3
3	Korea	74.4	81.8

1	2	3	4
4.	Indonesia	66.7	70.2
5.	Malaysia	71.8	76.4
6.	Myanmar	58.7	64.6
7.	Philippines	69.3	73.7
8.	Singapore	77.5	81.2
9.	Thailand	68.2	74.8
10.	Vietnam	69.8	73.7
11.	Afganistan	47.2	47.7
12.	Bangladesh	63.7	65.6
13.	Bhutan	63.5	66.0
14.	India 2	62.1	63.7
15.	Iran	70.0	73.3
16.	Nepal	62.8	63.9
17.	Pakistan	64.4	64.7
18.	Sri Lanka	72.4	77.7
19.	Australia	78.4	83.4
20.	More Developed Regions	72.5	79.8
21.	Less Developed Regions	62.7	66.2
World		64.2	68.6

Source:- (1) State of World Population 2007 UNFPA Publication

(2) SRS Based abridged Life Table 2000-2004

**Patent for Traditional Indian System of  
Therapeutic Practices**

1712. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign countries have established Ayurveda Universities and about to get patent rights over traditional Indian System of Therapeutic practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to have any institutional arrangements to standardize Ayurvedic treatment and to scientifically establish the efficacy of the medicines and practices in Ayurveda;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received any proposal for establishment of the International Institute of Ayurveda at Thiruvananthapuram; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) There are some NGOs in some foreign countries engaged in activities relating to teaching of Ayurveda and running of Ayurveda and Panchkarma centres. Department of AYUSH also deputed Ayurvedic experts to conduct orientation courses in Ayurveda in medical colleges and undertakes other IEC activities for popularizing Ayurveda in other countries. An International Ayurveda Conference was held in Budapest, Hungary in collaboration with Indian Embassy and a local NGO in September, 2007. First International Conclave of Traditional Medicine was held by Department of AYUSH in November, 2006 at New Delhi and an International Meet of Traditional Medicine Regulators and Industry was held at New Delhi on the sidelines of AROGYA-2007 in October, 2007. Patents cannot be legally granted on Traditional Indian Systems of medicine which are 'Prior Art'. Department of AYUSH in collaboration with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research have created a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library in five International languages on the basis of classical texts to prevent misappropriation of Traditional Indian Medicinal knowledge.

(c) and (d) Ayurveda is a holistic health care system comprising of preventive, promotive and curative treatment

protocols which may vary from individual based on the Prakruti of the individual. However, Government of India have established Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha for standardization and scientific validation of various Ayurvedic medicines and drugless therapies like Panchkarma and Ksharsutra. Scientific validation of 8 most widely used herbo mineral preparations and development of R and D based drugs based on classical texts has also been undertaken under the Golden Triangle Partnership initiative launched by Department of AYUSH in collaboration with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Indian Council of Medical Research. In addition, Extra Mural Research projects are also given to reputed researchers and institutions for standardization and scientific validation of traditional medicines and drugless therapies.

(e) and (f) A proposal for setting up an international Institute of Ayurvedic Medical Sciences in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala at a total cost of Rs. 101.60 crores was received from the Government of Kerala in 2004. Government of Kerala was informed that the Department of AYUSH did not have any scheme under which financial support could be extended to the proposed project. However, financial assistance has been provided to Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram under the scheme of Development of Institutions in the 10th Plan. The State Government can obtain assistance in the 11th Plan also for upgradation of this college as a Centre of Excellence in Ayurveda.

#### **Funds Disbursed by NEDFC**

1713.SHRI KIREN RIJUJU : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of fund disbursed by North East Development Finance Corporation (NEDFC) during the last three years, State - wise;

(b) whether the NEDFC is operating in few areas of North - Eastern States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of financial disbursement to each State of North East by NEDFC;

(e) the priority sectors given by NEDFC alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(f) the details of financial help rendered by NEDFC to each sector, sector - wise during the last three years?

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 State - wise disbursement of funds by the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFC) during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)

State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Arunachal	778	610	725
Assam	2285	5342	6680
Manipur	105	50	69
Meghalaya	1542	3199	1321
Mizoram	85	70	115
Nagaland	152	32	105
Sikkim	88	128	354
Tripura	200	1000	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>5235</b>	<b>10431</b>	<b>9424</b>

(b) and (c) NEDFC operates in all States of the North-East including Sikkim. Though NEDFC makes efforts to achieve balanced deployment of credit in all the eight States, however, on account of inadequate entrepreneurship in some States, uneven development of infrastructure and industrial growth within the region, and remoteness,

the capacity for absorption of credit is different in different States.

(d) The details of financial disbursements by NEDFC to each State of the North East are available on their web-site [www.nedfi.com](http://www.nedfi.com) under the head "State-wise sanctions and disbursements".

(e) NEDFi has not prioritized any sector for financial assistance. It has extended credit to viable projects in the following sectors: industrial projects, infrastructure, equipment leasing/financing, tourism, medical and aromatic plants, agriculture and allied activities, bamboo processing, Information Technology – Enabled Services (ITES), commercial complexes, micro enterprises etc.

(f) The sector – wise sanction of projects by NEDFC in the last three years is given in the following table:

*Sector – wise sanctions in last 3 years*

Sector	Rs. in lac			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Basic Metal	1429	2608	2368	6405
Cement	0	2309	3000	5309
Food Products	518	400	202	1120
Services	612	812	1203	2627
Infrastructure	3332	2134	1899	7365
Chemical Products	1534	2504	0	4038
Textiles	86	32	133	251
Information Technology	96	2	6	104
Paper Products	265	0	234	499
Plastic and Plastic Products	186	421	0	607

1	2	3	4	5
Agri and Allied industries	99	51	438	588
Micro Finance	93	313	303	709
Miscellaneous*	682	1546	4085	6313
<b>Total</b>	<b>8932</b>	<b>13132</b>	<b>13871</b>	<b>35935</b>

\*Miscellaneous sector includes pharmaceutical, stone crusher, brick and construction materials, trading and retail activities, electronic equipments, bamboo processing, handicraft, essential oil and other miscellaneous micro industries.

**Functioning of Health Centres**

1714. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Rural Health Centres (RHCs) functioning with a qualified Medical Officer, State-Wise;

(b) the number of RHCs defunct, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefore;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to rejuvenate the defunct RHCs; and

(e) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) There are 22669 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) functioning in the country on the basis of reports submitted by the States as on March, 2006. Out of these 16113 PHCs are functioning with at least one doctor as reported by the States. The State of Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have not reported the status of PHCs functioning with doctors. Although the number of doctors sanctioned in PHCs are more than requirement (26229 against requirement of 22669), 1314 PHCs are reported to be without a doctor (as on March, 2006) because of mis-distribution, poor transfer

policy of the State Government, lack of basic amenities and incentive for working in rural/difficult areas. The State-wise position is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) envisages support to PHCs by provision of one doctor including AYUSH practioners and 3 staff nurse to make PHCs 24 x 7 functional. NRHM also envisages support for upgradation, drugs, equipment and manpower on

contractual basis. Untied fund of Rs. 25,000, Maintenance grant of Rs. 50,000 and grant of Rs. one lakh to Rogi Kalyan Samiti of PHC is given to every PHC under NRHM. State/UT Governments have to incorporate the requirement of funds for PHCs in their Annual Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs). Under NRHM, States/UTs have appointed 6807 doctors/specialists, 36312 Auxulary Nurse Midwife/Staff Nurses and have made 9395 PHCs 24 x 7 functional upto October, 2007.

**Statement**

*Number of PHCs with Doctors and without Doctor*

(As on March, 2006).

S. No.	State/UT	Number of PHCs functioning						
		Total PHCs functioning	with 4+ doctors	with 3 doctors	with 2 doctors	with 1 doctor	without doctor	with lady doctor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1570	0	71	221	983	295	644
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85	0	0	0	78	0	0
3.	Assam	610	26	80	314	190	0	NA
4.	Bihar	1641	141	137	317	925	121	74
5.	Chhattisgarh	518	0	0	518	0	0	80
6.	Goa	19	13	0	0	6	0	12
7.	Gujarat	1072	0	0	0	907	165	0
8.	Haryana	408	0	100	254	54	0	112
9.	Himachal Pradesh	439	0	4	51	373	11	67
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	374	0	26	308	0	0	308
11.	Jharkhand	330	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
12.	Karnataka	1679	0	34	197	1448	0	360
13.	Kerala	909	28	201	70	591	19	392
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1192	0	0	86	839	253	22

1	2	3	1	2	3
17.	Pune	133	43.	Ahemdabad	96
18.	Agra	133	44.	Nagda	91
19.	Jodhpur	130	45.	Mumbai	86
20.	Surat	121	46.	Jabalpur	82
21.	Ankaleshwar	121	47.	Hyderabad	81
22.	Dehradun	121	48.	Vijayawada	81
23.	Jaipur	118	49.	Kumool	80
24.	Kota	116	50.	Parwanoo	76
25.	Vadodara	114	51.	Cuttack	75
26.	Patna	113	52.	Durgapur	75
27.	Solapur	111	53.	Bhubaneshwar	74
28.	Howrah	111	54.	Dimapur	73
29.	Vapi	110	55.	Tuticorin	72
30.	Dhanbad	109	56.	Nagpur	70
31.	Indore	109	57.	Aurangabad	70
32.	Chandrapur	106	58.	Nashik	69
33.	Guwahati	105	59.	Angul	69
34.	Bhilai	104	60.	Trivendrum	68
35.	Jamnagar	101	61.	Hubli-Dharwad	67
36.	Rourkela	101	62.	Hassan	63
37.	Damtal	100	63.	Udaipur	63
38.	Varanasi	100	64.	Shimla	62
39.	Kolkata	100	65.	Rajkot	61
40.	Visakhapatnam	99	66.	Rayagada	60
41.	Korba	98	67.	Berhampur	60
42.	Chandigarh	96			

Note : The data of Jharia is of industrial area and data of Taj (Agra) is of sensitive area.

[English]

**Private Institutes for Marine Engineering**

1716. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy or guideline regarding coaching by private agencies for marine engineering courses approved by the International Maritime Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the coaching by private agencies requires any prior permission or approval of DG Shipping;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any complaint has been received against any agencies in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The Directorate General of Shipping does not grant approval for conducting coaching classes by private agencies and no guidelines have been issued by Directorate General of Shipping as such. However, the Directorate General of Shipping grants approval for various marine training courses. IMO issues Model Courses and guidelines for various Maritime Training Courses which are generally followed by the Directorate General of Shipping. There are 23 private training institutes which are conducting Marine Engineering Courses out of about 130 training institutes conducting various types of Maritime Training Courses.

(d) and (e) No complaints has been received in the matter of conduct of coaching classes by private agencies.

**Ban on Life Saving Drugs**

1717. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has imposed ban on the use of life saving drugs produced by the Ayurvedic, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has not banned use of any life saving Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drug. Hon'ble Supreme Court upheld the validity of Rule 2 (ee) (iii) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 as well as the notifications issued by various State Governments thereunder allowing Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy practitioners to prescribe allopathic medicines. Accordingly Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy practitioners can prescribe allopathic medicines under Rule 2 (ee) (iii) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 only in those States where they are authorized to do so by a general or special order made by the concern State Government in this regard. Practitioners of Indian medicine holding the degrees in integrated courses can also prescribe allopathic medicines if any State act in the State in which they are practicing recognizes their qualification as sufficient for registration in the State Medical Register.

**Allocation of Coal Blocks to MSMC**

1718. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has recommended for allocation of 27 Coal Blocks to Maharashtra State Mining Corporation (MSMC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has approved in principle only four coal blocks to MSMC;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the status of allocation of remaining coal blocks to MSMC;

(f) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested to consider allocation of additional coal blocks to MSMC; and

(g) if so, the time by which these coal blocks are likely to be allocated to MSMC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Coal had invited applications on 7 November, 2006 from Central/State Public Sector Undertakings for allocation of 27 coal blocks earmarked for allocation through the Government Company dispensation route. In response, a total of 279 applications were received. The Maharashtra State Mining Corporation Limited (MSMCL) had applied for allocation of 12 coal blocks.

(c) and (d) Out of 27 coal blocks, MSMCL has been allocated Agazari and Warora coal blocks located in the State of Maharashtra. Another coal block viz Marki-Zari-Zamani-Adkoli was allocated to MSMCL in the previous round of allocation made in 2006.

(e) 44 Central/State Public Sector Companies including MSMCL had applied for allocation of coal blocks. Considering the relative merit of each case, the remaining coal blocks have been allocated to other Central/State Public Sector Undertakings

(f) No. Sir.

(g) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (f) above.

### III-Effects of Tobacco

1719. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI K.S. RAO :

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

(a) whether six million children, aged between 4 to 14 are working full time in the bidi industry as reported in the *Hindu* dated November 14,2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more than half of Tobacco users are killed due to ill effects of Tobacco in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps taken proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) The Labour Welfare Organisation identifies and issues Identity Cards to Bidi workers who are over the age of 18 years. Data regarding children in the age group of 4-14 is therefore not maintained. As per NSS 50th Round (1993), an estimated 2.25 lakhs children were found to be engaged in bidi making, accounting for about 8.4% of the total labour force employed in bidi manufacturing.

(c) and (d) No centralized data is being maintained regarding number of tobacco users killed due to ill effects of tobacco in the country. However, studies indicate that tobacco consumption is associated with widespread morbidity and mortality and is responsible for majority of the disease burden(s) such as Cancer, Cardio-vascular Diseases and Lung Disorders. It is estimated that 40% health related problems and 50% cancer deaths are associated with consumption of tobacco.

(e) The Government of India has enacted the "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" with the aim of discouraging consumption of tobacco including cigarettes and bidis. The salient provisions include:

(i) Prohibition of smoking in a public place.

(ii) Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement of cigarette and other tobacco products.

(iii) Prohibition of sale of cigarette and other tobacco products to a person below the age of eighteen years.

- (iv) Prohibition of sale of tobacco products near the educational institutions.
- (v) Mandatory depiction of statutory warnings (including pictorial warnings) on tobacco packs.
- (vi) Mandatory depiction of tar and nicotine contents along with maximum permissible limits on tobacco packs.

The Government of India has launched the new National Tobacco Control Programme to improve awareness and enforcement of the Anti Tobacco Laws. Under the 11th Five Year Plan a budget of approximately Rs. 450 cr. is proposed. It is also proposed to establish the National Tobacco Regulatory Authority to ensure effective implementation of the laws.

#### **Upgradation of Mental Hospitals**

1720. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from State Government of Maharashtra for upgradation of Mental Hospitals in Akola, Vashim, Amravati, Mumbai, Pune, Jalgaon, Dhule under the National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five-Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) The Central Government received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for modernization of Regional Mental Hospital, Yavada, Pune under National Mental Health Programme and the same was sanctioned in October, 2005 with an

assistance to the tune of Rs. 2,71,00,000/-. It has not received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for upgradation of mental hospitals in Akola, Vashim, Amravati, Mumbai, Jalgaon and Dhule under National Mental Health Programme. The Central Government will provide under National Mental Health Programme, assistance for modernization of the existing Government Mental Hospitals, upto Rs. 3 crore each subject to the Institutions fulfilling the requirement under the scheme.

[Translation]

#### **Roads of Strategic Importance**

1721. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the roads of strategic importance has been identified and constructed in the country;

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

(c) the details of length of identified roads and funds allocated and released for the same, State-wise;

(d) whether above-said works are being accomplished with assistance of any other department/Ministry

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the present status of such roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The roads of strategic importance have been identified and 21 numbers of strategic roads have been entrusted to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at present. Border Roads Organisation is constructing the strategic roads departmentally. The State wise list of these strategic roads including those of Rajasthan showing the length, fund allocation and present status is enclosed as Statement.

**Statement**

Sl. No	Name of Roads	Total length in Kms	Completed length in Kms as on 1-4-07	Funds Allocation 2007-08 (Rs in Lakh)	Present Status/ Progress during 2007-08 (Km)
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>A STATE-JAMMU AND KASHMIR</b>					
1.	Woyil Bye Pass	33.41	15.15	421.03	1.83
2.	Sopore By Pass	5.00	4.35	447.65	0.15
3.	Banihal Old alignment	40.20	15.00	284.00	12.5
4.	Dormel-Jindra-Kharta	30.50	25.20	592.67	1.78
<b>Total</b>		<b>109.11</b>	<b>59.70</b>	<b>1745.35</b>	<b>5.01</b>
<b>B STATE-SIKKIM</b>					
5.	Saklang-Toong	42.00	30.00	468.26	1.41
<b>C STATE-RAJASTHAN</b>					
6.	Shivpur-Sawai-Madhampur-Makrana-Nagaur-Nokhamandi	633.00	0	46.29	0
7.	Sridungargarh-Jasrasar-Nokhamandi	250.00	27.78	1529.11	0
8.	Kuljodha-Shergarh-Phalsund-Shiv	150.00	0	0	0
9.	Shetrawa-Bhiniyana-Sankradevikot	140.00	0	0	0
10.	Jodhpur byepass	43.60	38.29	1022.65	1.60
11.	Gudha-Dharimana	33.00	0	0	0
12.	Gandhav-Bakssar	68.00	0	383.76	1.15
13.	Dharimana-Dhanau	32.00	0	367.57	0.78
14.	Abu-Sanchor	140.00	0	657.65	1.90
15.	Tanot-Ghotaru-Asutar	79.00	0	0	0
16.	Ramgarh-Laungewala	43.00	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Jaisalmer-Ramgarh		65.00	0	947.62	1.25
Total		1676.60	66.07	4954.65	6.68
<b>D STATE-HARYANA</b>					
18. Rohtak-Bypass		24.50	—	0	0
19. Sonapat-Bypass		6.70	—	0	0
<b>E STATE-ASSAM</b>					
20. Thelamara-Misamari-Foothills		36.93	27.50	238.74	2.98
<b>F STATE-TRIPURA</b>					
21. Approach road to RCC Bridge on Muhuri river at Balonia in Tripura		0.30	0	0	0
Grand Total		3685.85	183.27	7400.00	16.08

[English]

**Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Centres**

1722. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the leading hospitals in the country have been identified as Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Centres; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith its functions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Under National Pharmacovigilance Programme, some of the leading hospitals in the country have been identified as Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) Monitoring Centres as Zonal, Regional, and Peripheral centers. Details of these centres are given in the enclosed Statement.

Peripheral centres collect ADR reports from the Physicians and send to the Regional Centres. Regional

Centres analyse the reports and send them to Zonal Centres. Zonal Centres accumulate data and prepare comprehensive report on ADRs and submit to the National Pharmacovigilance Advisory Committee to give necessary recommendations on such data.

**Statement**

*List of All Centers Under National  
Pharmacovigilance Programme*

**ZONAL CENTRES**

Seth G. S. Medical College and KEM Hospital  
M. S. Building, Parel, Mumbai

Department of Pharmacology  
AIIMS, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110 029

**REGIONAL CENTRES**

IPGMER-SSKM Hospitals,  
244 A.J.C Bose Road, Kolkata

Dept. of Clinical Pharmacology  
TN Medical college and BYL Nair Charitable  
Hospital, Mumbai Central, Mumbai

Department of Pharmacology  
Indira Gandhi Government Medical College  
Nagpur, Maharashtra

Department of Pharmacology  
Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical  
Education and Research  
(JIPMER), Pondicherry – 605006

#### PERIPHERAL CENTRES

Department of Pharmacology, S.C.B. Medical  
College and Hospital,  
Cuttack-Orissa.

Dr. B.C. Roy Postgraduate Institute of Basic  
Medical Sciences, Cerstwhile University College of  
Medicines, Under IPGMER, Archarya J.C. Bose Road,  
Kolkata.

Department of Pharmacology, IPGMER, (Institute of  
Postgraduate Medical Education and Research),  
AJC Bose Road, Kolkata.

Gauhati Medical College, Dept. of Pharmacology,  
Guwahati (Assam)

Dr. BC Roy Memorial Hospital for Children  
Narkeldanga Main Road, Kolkata

Hindu Pharmacy, Cunha Rivara Road,  
P.O. Box No. 149, Panaji-Goa.

Department of Pharmacology, Prakukswami Medical  
College, Karamsad, Dist. Anand (Gujarat)

Department of Pharmacology,  
B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad (Gujrat)

Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences,  
Near Kafad-Dhebewadi Road, Pune-Bangalore  
Highway, Karad, Dist. Satara, Maharashtra.

Department of Pharmacology  
Jawahar Lai Nehru Medical College and AVBR  
Hospital, Sawangi (Meghe), Wardha, Maharashtra

Department of Pharmacy, RD Gardi Medical College,  
Surasa, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Dept. of Pharmacology, V.P. Chest Institute,  
University of Delhi, Delhi

Model Pharmacy, Apothecaries Foundation,  
Devi New Delhi

Maulana Azad Medical College,  
University of Delhi, New Delhi-110002.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Subharati Hospital  
Subharatipuram, Delhi-Haridwar Meerut  
By Pass Road, Meerut.

Department of Pharmacology  
Era's Lucknow Medical College and Hospital  
Srafraz Ganj, Moosa Bagh Picnic Spot, Hardoi Road,  
Lucknow-226 003.

Department of Pharmacology,  
PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research,  
Avinash Hoad, Peelamedu, Combaiture-641 004.  
Tamil Nadu

Department of Pharmacy Practice,  
Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences,  
Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE),  
Manipal-576 104, Karnataka.

Department of Pharmacy Practice,  
Al-Ameen College of Pharmacy,  
Hosur Road, Near Lalbagh Main Gate,  
Bangalore-560 027.

Department of Pharmacology  
Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS),  
Amrita Lane, Elamakkara (Post)  
Kochi-682 026, Kerala

Department of Pharmacy, Annamalai University,  
P.O Annamalai Nagar, Tamil Nadu-608 002.

Department of Pharmacology,  
Sri Devaraj URS Medical College, Tamaka Kolar,  
Karnataka-563 101.

Department of Clinical Pharmacy,  
JSS Medical College and Hospital,  
Ramanuja Road, Mysore-570 004, Karnataka.

Department of Pharmacy Practice,  
JSS College of Pharmacy, Rocklands,  
Ootacamund-643 001, Tamil Nadu.

#### Underground Coal Mines

1723. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the underground mines under CIL and its subsidiaries;

(b) the quantum of superior grade coal extracted from these mines annually in the last three years;

(c) whether CIL proposes to offer the superior grade coal to non-core sector consumers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The details of under-

ground mines under Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries are given below:

Company	Under-ground (UG)	Mixed (Under Ground and Opencast)
Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.(ECL)	88	5
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.(BCCL)	50	20
Central Coalfields Ltd.(CCL)	22	4
Northren Coalfields Ltd.(NCL)	0	0
Western Coalfields Ltd.(WCL)	42	6
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL)	69	1
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.(MCL)	9	0
North Eastern Coalfields (NEC)	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>36</b>

(b) The quantum of superior grade coal i.e. Coking Coal and Non-Coking coal of A,B,C,D grades extracted from these mines during the last three years are as under:

(Fig. in Lac Tonnes)

Company		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.(ECL)	Coking	0.91	0.74	0.47
	Non-Coking	93.65	92.61	82.19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>94.56</b>	<b>93.35</b>	<b>82.66</b>

1	2	3	4	5
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.(BCCL)	Coking	41.69	35.10	28.48
	Non-Coking	22.07	19.60	20.53
	Total	63.76	54.70	49.01
Central Coalfields Ltd.(CCL)	Coking	13.57	11.64	9.30
	Non-Coking	12.99	11.47	10.25
	Total	26.56	23.11	19.55
Western Coalfields Ltd.(WCL)	Coking	7.00	8.60	6.91
	Non-Coking	75.54	77.28	77.06
	Total	82.54	85.88	83.97
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.(SECL)	Coking	1.47	1.50	1.57
	Non-Coking	164.3	163.74	160.43
	Total	165.77	165.24	162.00
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.(MCL)	Coking	0	0	0
	Non-Coking	21.77	20.16	19.73
	Total	21.77	20.16	19.73
North Eastern Coalfields (NEC)	Coking	0	0	0
	Non-Coking	1.49	1.22	1.10
	Total	1.49	1.22	1.10
Total	Coking	64.64	57.58	46.73
	Non-Coking	391.81	386.08	371.29
	Total	456.45	443.66	418.02

(c) and (d) CIL has already been offering superior grades of non-coking coal to non-core sector since long. During the period when linkage system was in vogue, heat intensive industries such as glass, pottery, refractories,

ceramic industries were accorded linkage for such higher grade of coal. After complete decontrol of coal distribution from 01.01.2000 and consequent withdrawal of linkage system, higher grade coal is being made available to

non-core sector depending upon availability. Moreover, the new Coal Distribution Policy notified on 18.10.2007 has done away with the classification of core/non-core sector consumers.

#### **Health Policy for BPO Employees**

1724. SHRI K.S. RAO :

SHRI MILIND DEORA :

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

(a) whether the Government is planning to create a dedicated IT work place Health Policy for BPO employees as reported in the *Times of India* dated September 29,2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the Health Policy that is to be announced;

(d) whether the new policy is likely to minimize the strains and stresses of BPO employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (e) The Government proposes to re-strategise the National Mental Health Programme during 11th Plan to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover the areas of suicide prevention stress management at work places, School Mental Health etc.

#### **Birds Sanctuaries**

1725. SHRI P.O. GADDIGOUDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the migration of birds to sanctuaries from other parts of the globe has decreased considerably due to unfavourable conditions at birds sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Committee has been constituted to review the working of birds sanctuaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) and (b) This Ministry has reports of only Siberian Cranes not being sighted at Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan during the last several years. Factors attributed to the decline of Siberian Cranes, *inter alia*, include habitat degradation, water scarcity, war in countries falling in the migratory routes, hunting *en route*, etc.

(c) No, Sir. Central Government has not set up any such Committee to review the working of bird Sanctuaries.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The initiatives taken by Government of India to protect wildlife including migratory birds, *inter alia*, include the following:

1. Important migratory species of birds have been included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them legal protection.
2. Financial and technical assistance are provided to the State/UT Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme – *Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries* for the protection and development of habitats of migratory birds.

#### **Denial of Information under RTI Act**

1726. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the information sought under RTI Act is denied under the pretext of Official Secrets Act 1923 (OSA);

(b) if so, whether this amounts to a violation of the provisions of Right to Information Act;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to give more power under the RTI Act;

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

(e) whether the Second Administrative Reforms Commission recommended the Government to repeal Official Secrets Act; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) and (b) No such instance has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Second Administrative Reforms Commission has recommended that the Official Secrets Act, 1923 may be repealed, and substituted by a chapter in the National Security Act, containing provisions relating to Official secrets. There is no proposal to repeal the Official Secrets Act.

[Translation]

#### **CGHS Facilities to Government Employees**

1727. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government intends to allow its employees to avail medical facilities directly from the empanelled private hospitals without getting their prescriptions referred from the CGHS dispensaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (c) Serving CGHS

beneficiaries can go directly to an empanelled private hospital only in emergency situations. Under normal circumstances, they can go to private empanelled hospitals only if they are referred to it by the Ministry/ Department in which he/she is employed on the recommendations of the specialist from a Government hospital.

[English]

#### **Increase of Plan Outlay**

1728. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has demanded for an increase in its plan outlay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the plan outlay approved by the Union Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) : The Annual Plan outlay for Karnataka for 2007-08 as approved by the Central Government is Rs. 17,782.58 crores. The State Government has not demanded an increase in its Plan outlay.

(c) A statement showing the State-wise Approved Outlays for the year 2007-08 is enclosed.

#### **Statement**

##### *Annual Plan 2007-08 – Approved Outlay -States*

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States	Annual Plan 2007-08 Approved Outlay
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	30,500.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,320.00

1	2	3
3.	Assam	3,800.00
4.	Bihar	10,200.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	7,413.72
6.	Goa	1,430.00
7.	Gujarat	16,000.00
8.	Haryana	5,300.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2,100.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4,850.00
11.	Jharkhand	6,676.00
12.	Karnataka	17,782.58
13.	Kerala	6,950.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12,011.00
15.	Maharashtra	20,200.00
16.	Manipur	1,374.31
17.	Meghalaya	1,120.00
18.	Mizoram	850.00
19.	Nagaland	900.00
20.	Orissa	5,105.00
21.	Punjab	5,111.00
22.	Rajasthan	11,638.86
23.	Sikkim	691.14
24.	Tamil Nadu	14,000.00
25.	Tripura	1,220.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	25,000.00
27.	Uttarakhand	4,378.63
28.	West Bengal	9,150.00

*[Translation]***Action Plan to Combat Water-Borne Diseases**

1729. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :

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

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any action plan to combat possible outbreak of water-borne diseases and other diseases in the flood affected areas of the country, especially Maharashtra;

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

(c) the details of the funds allocated by the Union Government for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Health is a State subject, therefore, the State Government is primarily responsible to combat outbreak of water-borne and other diseases arising due to natural disasters including floods. However, the Central Government supports the State Government in terms of human resource and material supplies on their request or if the extent of disaster is beyond the control of the State. Besides, the Contingency Plan to combat floods is circulated to all the States in the pre-monsoon period. The Emergency Support Functions (ESF) plan is also circulated, which details the emergency support functions including identification of nodal officers for coordination, crisis management committee and quick response team at Headquarters and field level, resource inventory etc.

As reported by the State Government of Maharashtra, a system of "Rapid Response Teams" at the district level has been implemented to combat outbreaks of water-borne diseases. The teams are equipped with IV fluids, Oral Rehydration Salts media bottles for collection of stool samples and also stocks of antibiotics for exclusive use during outbreaks.

(c) On the basis of recommendations made by the Damage Assessment Team, appropriate financial support is also extended to the States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/NCCF norms to overcome the health sector damage due to natural calamities. In addition, various national health programmes like National Diarrhoeal Disease Control Programme, now merged with Reproductive and Child Health Programme, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) also aim to tackle water borne diseases by means of supply of ORS packets, ensuring sanitation and hygiene etc. Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) has also been launched by the Government of India to strengthen surveillance activities and to promote early detection of outbreak of communicable diseases including Diarrhoeal diseases. National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) is also providing technical support to Department of Drinking Water Supply to monitor quality of drinking water in the States to prevent occurrence of water-borne diseases.

[English]

#### **Review of Ganga and Yamuna Action Plan**

1730. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL :

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the Ganga Action Plan and the Yamuna Action Plan;

(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 ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) to (c) Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process.

The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) has been implemented, since its inception in 1985, in phases by the Government of India, taking up the pollution abatement works in the river Ganga in the polluted stretches identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the objective of improving the water quality. Besides Ganga, its major tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda are included under the GAP for pollution abatement works. The Government of India has also undertaken Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for abatement of pollution of river Yamuna with the assistance from Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC), Government of Japan in a phased manner. A total of sewage treatment capacity of 1747 (mld) million litres per day has been create so far for Ganga and its above tributaries.

The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments for the purpose. A multi-tier monitoring mechanism at the Centre and State level reviews the policy issues, funding pattern and progress of works from time to time. The States have been advised to ensure coordination among various Departments/agencies at the implementation level through holding regular meetings by Principal Secretary/Chief Secretary and to sort out inter-sectoral issues like acquisition of land, power supply, mobilization of resources among others.

#### **Promotion of Homeopathy**

1731. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

PROF. M. RAMADASS :

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a national campaign to promote Homeopathy in the country, particularly for mother and child care;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether India has the largest number of Homeopathic practitioners and also the largest turnover of Homeopathic medicines;

(e) if so, whether homeopathic medical colleges and the services of the physicians are being properly utilized in various national health programmes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of AYUSH has launched a National Campaign on Homeopathy for Mother and Child Care. The campaign was kick started by a National Workshop organized from 5th - 6th November, 2007 at New Delhi. A total of 293 delegates from India and abroad, including Health administrators and policy makers, allopathic physicians and homeopathic physicians participated in the workshop. Representatives of the homeopathic pharma industry and NGOs also participated. Based on the deliberations at the workshop, recommendations have been made about the manner in which the national campaign should be conducted. The campaign is to now move to State and District level.

(d) Yes Sir. India has the largest number of registered Homeopathic practitioners. The annual sales of homeopathic medicines in India are estimated to be around Rs. 500.00 crores including the imports.

(e) and (f) Homeopathy has its own strengths as a medical system and these strengths are utilized in the National Health Programmes relating to malaria, maternal and child health, mental health and HIV/AIDS. The mainstreaming of AYUSH systems is one of the objectives of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The setting up of Homeopathic infrastructure and the creation of posts of Homeopathy physicians is being done under the NRHM.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Expansion of Health Services in AIIMS

1732.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding expansion of health services in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the latest position of the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) The expansion

of All India Institute of Medical Sciences is an ongoing exercise. Proposals for expansion and up-gradation of infrastructural facilities including super specialty services to be implemented during the 11th Plan period are under the active consideration of the Government. Clearance of the proposals will, however, depend on the appraisal by various authorities and plan allocations during the 11th Plan period.

[English]

#### Energy Coordination Committee Recommendation on Allocation of Coal Blocks

1733.SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Energy Coordination Committee has given recommendations on allocation of coal blocks to Public and Private Sector Companies;

(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 COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) In the 5th meeting of the Energy Coordination Committee held on 10.02.2006, a view was taken that the Ministry of Coal

would identify adequate number of coal blocks aggregating to 20 billion tonnes of reserves. Accordingly, 81 coal blocks with geological reserves of 20.02 billion tonnes were identified for allocation to public/private sector companies for specified end-uses. Out of 81 identified coal blocks, 27 blocks with 8536.38 million tonnes reserves have been allocated to Central/State Public Sector Undertakings under the Government company dispensation for power generation and other end uses. Further, 15 coal blocks with 3622.45 million tonnes reserves have been allocated to private companies (including one joint venture between a State Government enterprise and private company) under captive dispensation for power generation. 23 coal blocks offered for non-power end uses will be considered by the Screening Committee in the meeting scheduled in December 2007.

Further, out of 16 coal blocks earmarked for allocation to power sector on the basis of tariff based competitive bidding, 4 blocks with 1857.24 million tonnes of reserves have been allocated to Ultra Mega Power Projects and 2 blocks have been allocated to the Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.

*[Translation]*

**Policy for Allocation of Funds**

1734. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :

SHRI GANESH SINGH :

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

(a) whether there is any policy for allocating funds for maintenance and repair of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds sanctioned during current year, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any provision for clearing the backlog in the policy; and

(d) if so, the details of back log of the funds allocated to various States during the last three year particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The funds for Maintenance and Repair (M and R) of National Highways (NHs) are allocated for carrying out various types of M and R activities like Ordinary Repair (OR), Periodic Renewal (PR), Special Repair (SR) and Emergent Repairs due to natural calamities like flood, rain, earthquakes, tsunami etc. The funds are allocated on the basis of the prescribed norms of the Ministry and availability of the funds. The norms for allocation of funds for different types of M and R activities is based on the length, width of National Highways, terrain, climatic condition, cost of material, traffic density and also prescribes renewal cycle for periodic renewal. The funds allocated during the current year for M and R of National Highways to the States, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Road Organization (BRO) are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Funds are allocated separately to complete the sanctioned works of emergent repairs and special repairs of previous years. The State-wise details of fund including Rajasthan, allocated for such purpose in the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Provision of funds for completion of works of Periodic Renewal works of previous years is also made in the allocation for Periodic Renewal works.

**Statement-I**

*Details of Fund Allocation for Maintenance and Repair of National Highways in 2007-08*

S. No.	State	Allocation (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	68.88
2.	Arunáchal Pradesh	0.87
3.	Assam	31.01
4.	Bihar	34.51

**Statement-II***Details of fund allocation for Continued Special Repair and Emergent Repair works*

1	2	3
5.	Chandigarh	0.83
6.	Chhattisgarh	25.90
7.	Goa	4.57
8.	Gujarat	33.01
9.	Haryana	14.17
10.	Himachal Pradesh	16.45
11.	Jharkhand	22.61
12.	Karnataka	39.44
13.	Kerala	27.53
14.	Madhya Pradesh	60.68
15.	Maharashtra	55.30
16.	Manipur	12.10
17.	Meghalaya	11.59
18.	Mizoram	5.43
19.	Nagaland	4.64
20.	Orissa	44.01
21.	Puducherry	1.41
22.	Punjab	18.42
23.	Rajasthan	61.13
24.	Tamil Nadu	27.75
25.	Uttar Pradesh	56.74
26.	Uttarakhand	19.09
27.	West Bengal	19.51
28.	NHAI	60.00
29.	BRO	20.06

S. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Fund Allocated (Rs. in Crore)		
		2004- 2005	2005- 2006	2006- 2007
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.59	0.54	4.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.16	0.02	0.1
3.	Assam	3.47	8.15	1.85
4.	Bihar	12.18	9.73	5.19
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.81	1.38	0.75
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
7.	Delhi	0.29	0	0
8.	Goa	0	0	0.69
9.	Gujarat	1.32	3.78	0.69
10.	Haryana	0.1	0.17	1.18
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1.6	2.4	4.54
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.01	0	0
13.	Jharkhand	2.77	0.5	1.5
14.	Karnataka	0.94	1.2	1.5
15.	Kerala	0.6	0.85	1.8
16.	Madhya Pradesh	7.1	1.95	1
17.	Maharashtra	1.41	0.42	7.68
18.	Manipur	5.31	4.52	0.1
19.	Meghalaya	1.96	1.05	1.04

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Mizoram	1.1	0.25	0.38
21.	Nagaland	0.3	0.25	0.41
22.	Orissa	3.59	2.05	1.4
23.	Punjab	0	0.15	0
24.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
25.	Rajasthan	4.28	0.99	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	0.59	0.63	0.71
27.	Uttarakhand	1.09	1.07	1
28.	Uttar Pradesh	3.83	0.95	3.28
29.	West Bengal	2.08	5.6	2.39

[English]

#### Setting Up of Ports and Shipyards

1735. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up shipyards and more ports in the country, particularly along the coast of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India. However, the Government of Orissa has intimated that it has received a proposal for setting up a ship building yard and ship repair facilities at the mouth of the Dhamra river in Bhadrak District in Orissa as a joint venture project. The estimated project cost is around Rs.2200 crore. Final decision in the matter is yet to be

taken by the Government of Orissa. There are some proposals with the Government of Orissa for setting up more ports in the Orissa Coast by private developers under Public Private Partnership mode. Details of major projects are given below:—

- (i) Dhamra Port, a Greenfield Project has already been handed over to private developer re-named as Dhamra Port Company Limited for establishment of a Mega Port of international standard. Estimated project cost is Rs. 2469 crore.
- (ii) Similarly, Gopalpur Port has also been handed over to a private developer, i.e. Gopalpur Ports Limited (GPL) for development of this port as an all weather port. GPL will invest Rs. 1700 crore in this project
- (iii) Jatadhar Muhan which is another strategic point for development of Minor port has been proposed to be developed by Posco India Limited as a captive minor port. Government of Orissa has given in-principle approval for this proposal. Estimated cost for the first phase is Rs. 1432 crore.
- (iv) For development of Port on Subamarekha Mouth in Balasore district, Government of Orissa has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Creative Port Private Limited, Chennai on 18th December, 2006. Total estimated cost of this project is Rs. 2000 crore.

#### Coal Production in NECF

1736. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal produced from coalfields in Assam;

(b) whether the coal mining is undertaken directly by North Eastern Coal Fields (NECF) or by private operators;

(c) whether local industries in Assam receive coal from NECF;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) annual revenues of NECF for the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The quantity of coal produced in North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) during the last three years is given below:-

(Quantity in Million Tonnes)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
0.63	1.10	1.05

(b) In NEC, underground coal mining is done departmentally and open cast mining is done through hiring of equipment.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In 2006-07, total dispatch of coal to Assam from NEC was 3.07 lakh tones which included cement, paper and other local industries/buyers.

(e) Annual revenue of NEC for the last three years is given below:-

(Rs. in Lakhs)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
8889.22	22579.67	23769.22

#### Expansion of Education Sector during Eleventh Plan

1737. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has discussed the expansion of the education sector during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, whether the suggestions of the Planning Commission has been fully accepted; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) to (e) The Full Planning Commission Meeting on Education Sector held on 13.9.2007 discussed the expansion of the Education sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The thrust of the Eleventh Plan is on expansion, inclusion and improvement in quality throughout the education system from primary education through secondary and vocational education to higher education. This is sought to be brought about by enhanced allocation and by undertaking institutional and policy reforms.

[Translation]

#### Causes of Increasing Road Accidents

1738. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA :

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI :

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

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

(a) whether any study has been conducted to know the causes of increasing road accidents particularly on the NH in the country;

(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) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Research project

R-64 titled "Establishment of System for Identification and Rectification of Accident Black Spots" was undertaken by this Ministry in the year 1995. 18 selected sections of 100m each on 15 NHs were considered in the study.

Based on accident analysis, the following conclusions have been drawn with regard to road accidents, their causes, occurrences, casualties and vehicle improvement.

- (i) Maximum number of accidents, especially fatal accidents are found to occur on straight stretches due to high speed.
- (ii) Four arm junctions were found to be most vulnerable mainly due to insufficient site distance, lack of traffic guidance, absence of road markings and poor road geometrics.
- (iii) Head on collisions are found to be maximum due to high speed and bad overtaking practice.
- (iv) Pedestrians are most vulnerable victims due to insufficient pedestrian facilities and poor knowledge of traffic rules. Pedestrians are ranked second in making errors and one of the main causes of accidents.
- (v) Driver error is found to be main cause of many accidents.
- (vi) Maximum number of casualties are observed by car, followed by pedestrians and then by heavy goods vehicles.
- (vii) During night time trucks are involved in maximum numbers of accidents
- (viii) The share of negligence and over-speeding in accidents is found to be as high as 90%.

The breakup of causes of road accidents for road stretches is as under:

(i) Road User Behaviour	- 78%
(ii) Vehicle Defect	- 11%
(iii) Poor Road Geometrics	- 7%
(iv) Poor visibility	- 4%

The break up of factors for accidents at intersections is as under:

(i) Ill Designed Layout of Intersection	- 20%
(ii) Road User Behaviour	- 31%
(iii) Absence/inadequacy of Advance Traffic Guidance Devices	- 35%
(iv) Insufficient Visibility	- 11%
(v) Absence of Street Lights	- 3%

(c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this department has taken several steps to improve road safety for road users which are as under:

- (i) It is ensured that road safety is the integral part of road design at the 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 (NHAI).
- (iii) Refresher training to Heavy Motor Vehicle drivers in the unorganized sector by Department of Road Transport and highways.
- (iv) Involvement of NGOs for road safety activities by Department of Road Transport and Highways and NHAI.

- (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) Providing 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 and Maintenance contracts.
- (x) Widening and improvements of National Highways from 2 lanes to 4 lanes and 4 lanes to 6 lanes etc.

[English]

#### **Eleventh Plan Proposal of NEC**

1739.DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the North Eastern Council has formulated and finalised its Eleventh Plan proposals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

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 Eleventh Five year Plan proposals of North Eastern Council has not yet been finalized. The Eleventh Plan proposals of NEC will be

finalised on receipt of budgetary allocations from the Planning Commission.

#### **Smuggling of Norkya Vanaspati from the Forest**

1740.SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether smuggling of Norkya Vanaspati from the forests near Shirala in the Sangli district of Maharashtra has come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the action taken against those found guilty; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to curb the smuggling activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) As per the report received from State Forest Department, Maharashtra, smuggling of Norkya Vanaspati from the forests near Shirala in the Sangli district of Maharashtra has been reported.

(b) During April 2005, fifteen Preliminary Offence Reports (PORs) were registered under various sections of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Bombay Forest Rules, 1942. Out of the 15 PORs in seven cases, charge sheets have been filed in the Court, In addition, six trucks, six tractors with trollies, two jeeps, three motorcycles and ten donkeys have also been seized.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to curb the smuggling:—

1. Five patrolling units of, two guards and three labourers each were formed to patrol the area round the clock
2. Five gates with locks were installed to prevent movement of vehicles in the area.
3. Regular beat inspections.
4. Strengthening of communication system.

**Shortage of Doctors, Nurses and  
Para-Medical Staff**

1741. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN :

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of doctors, nurses and para-medical staff in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to set up a task force to assess the shortage of medical professionals and healthcare workers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the said task force is likely to be set up;
- (e) whether the Government is also considering the need of PPP (Public Private Partnership) in the Health Sector;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the other steps taken by the Union Government to meet the shortage of doctors, nurses and para-medical staff in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) There is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors and nurses in the country. As per information furnished by Medical Council of India at present there are 6,83,682 allopathic registered doctors in the country. Apart from this, there are 271 medical colleges with 31,172 annual intake capacity and students passing out from these medical colleges every year are also adding to the strength of doctor in the country. In addition, there are more than 6 lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy in the country. However, there is an imbalance in the availability of doctors in the rural and urban areas of the country. As regard nurses, currently, there are 1597

Graduate Nursing Midwifery (GNM) Schools functioning in the country with an intake capacity of 80000 students (approximate) per year.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to set up a task force to assess the shortage of medical professionals and healthcare workers.

(e) to (g) In order to expand the facilities of Medical Education and health related services, under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) the Government has decided to set up six AIIMS like institutions in under served States and also to upgrade 13 existing Government Medical College/Institutions in ten States. Further, the Government encourages setting up of new college in the Government as well as private sector and also increase in intake capacity of medical students. The Government is also exploring the possibilities to allow utilization of district hospital as teaching hospital by the promoter of private medical colleges under public private partnership model in the underserved areas in the country and NRHM focus states.

Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), all PHC's are envisaged to be strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting of AYUSH practitioners and skilled nurses at PHC level. The States are encouraged to appoint doctors, specialists and paramedics on contractual basis. Multi-skill training of doctors and in-service training of ANMs/Nurses is done. The States have been requested to strengthen their nursing cadre. Requirement of funds for establishment/ strengthening of nursing and ANM schools, as incorporated in the PIP of some States under NRHM (2006-07) has been approved.

Strategic frame work has been prepared to meet shortage of nurses in future in the following manner:-

- (i) Establishing Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM) and General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) schools in those districts (230) which are not having both these training programmes.

- (ii) Establishing post graduation Nursing (M. Sc. (Nursing)) Institutions.
- (iii) Developing Cadre of nurse midwifery practitioners and establishing training institutions.

In order to check the exodus to doctors and also to attract the doctors to join Central Health Services (CHS), the Government is providing better service conditions e.g. higher pay and allowances, better promotional avenues, increase in age of retirements etc. to CHS doctors. A proposal to make mandatory rural posting is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Synthetic Surfaces for various Sports**

1742. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL :

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

(a) whether synthetic surfaces/tracks are being manufactured in India for Hockey, Tennis, Badminton, Athletics and other sports;

(b) if so, whether the present level of production of synthetic substances is enough to meet the demand in the country;

(c) if not, whether the Government is planning to encourage public and private enterprises to manufacture and supply quality synthetic surfaces in view of the forthcoming international events in India; and

(d) 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) No Sir, synthetic surfaces are not being manufactured in India for hockey, tennis, athletics and other sports.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At present there is no such proposal.

[Translation]

#### **Cruise Shipping Policy**

1743. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a Cruise Shipping Policy/Project in view of its popularity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the detailed report on Cruise Shipping in India at present in comparison with rest of the world; and

(d) steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost Cruise Shipping in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) A cruise shipping policy to promote tourism is on the anvil.

(b) The objectives of the proposed cruise shipping policy include making India a major cruise destination by popularizing cruise shipping, facilitating creation of requisite infrastructure and creating a conducive environment

(c) This industry annually generates approximately US\$ 14 billion worldwide and enjoys a passenger base of over 10 million, which is expected to increase two fold by 2009. India's share is only about 2%. At present, no Indian shipping line owns a luxury cruise liner.

(d) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost cruise shipping in the country are as under:-

(i) Cabotage has been relaxed for cruise ships for a period of 5 years from December, 2003.

(ii) Up to 50% rebate has been given in vessel related charges including berth hire, pilotage, etc.

- (iii) Cruise operator M/s. Ocean Cruises India Pvt. Ltd. has been permitted to operate cruise from Goa to Lakshadweep via Cochin. Similarly Cruise Operator M/s. Star Cruises (Libra) has been permitted to operate cruises from Mumbai to Lakshadweep (Kadmat Island) and Mumbai to Goa.
- (iv) 100% FDI is allowed in Shipping Sector including Cruise Shipping.

[English]

#### **Pension of Seafarers**

1744. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any pension policy for port workers and seafarers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether demand for increase of pension to the retired Seafarers is pending for a long time;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) At present, there is no Government pension scheme for seafarers. Details of pension schemes for various categories of port workers are being collected.

(c) to (e) The Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society (SWFS), Mumbai, a society under Societies Registration Act, 1860 implements various welfare schemes for retired seafarers and their family members, viz, Monthly Ex-gratia Monetary Assistance (MEMA), Ad-hoc Ex-gratia Financial Assistance to the widow of the deceased seafarers, Death Compensation, Educational Scholarships to two children/brothers/sisters of working seamen, etc.

Retired seafarers have been representing for enhancement of amount under the MEMA Scheme. However, since the funds available with the Society will not be sufficient to continue the scheme for more than 3-4 years, enhancement of amount of MEMA could not be considered.

#### **Inter-State Check Post on NH**

1745. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government proposes to introduce green channels on highways and inter-State check posts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a detailed study has been conducted in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and likely benefit drawn from this system?

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. There is no proposal to introduce green channels on National Highways and inter-State check posts. States/U.Ts have been advised to have an integrated check post at entry point at inter-State border to ensure barrier free movement on National Highways both for goods and passenger vehicles across the country. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is planning to install electronic toll collection system at toll plazas for unhindered movement of freight and passenger vehicles.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Construction of Additional Stadia for Sports Facilities**

1746. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct additional Stadia and provide additional Sports training facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly in the SAI Centre situated in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh; and

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

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) As of now, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of rural sports infrastructure stand discontinued. But the issue is being reviewed in the context of Eleventh Plan and the Draft Comprehensive National Sports Policy.

**Clinical Trials by Multinational Companies**

1747. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE :

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI :

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

(a) whether Multi-National Companies are conducting clinical trials of certain medicines on Indian patients without the consent of patients and without the approval of Competent Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry to ascertain the facts in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the total number of new drugs and formulations tested by the Multi-National Pharma Companies on Indian patients during the last three years and the impact thereof on the health of such patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) No such instances have been reported so far, that multinational companies are conducting clinical trials of certain medicines on Indian patients without the consent of patients and without the approval of competent authority.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

(e) The total number of Clinical trial permissions of new drugs and formulations granted to the multinational pharma companies in Indian patients during the last three years are as follows:-

Year 2005	—	180
Year 2006	—	259
Year 2007 (upto Oct.)	—	190

No such instances have been reported so far, where these clinical trials have adversely affected the health of patients. Clinical trials are required to be conducted as per Good Clinical Practices, Schedule-Y of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Clearance from Ethical Committee is also required before conduct of such trials to safeguard the right, safety and well-being of the trial subjects.

[English]

**Achievements in Space Research**

1748. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of achievements in space research during the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government has fixed targets to fulfil 'World Space Vision-2050'; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The major achievements of India in Space Research during the last three years are as below:

- (a) Successful launch and recovery of Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-1).
- (b) Testing of Indigenous Cryogenic Engine and Stage.
- (c) Establishment of State-of-art Second launch pad facilities at Sriharikota.
- (d) Operationalisation of GSLV through launch of EDUSAT.
- (e) Augmentation of INSAT system with 72 transponders with the launch of four satellites (EDUSAT, INSAT-4A, 4B and 4CR).
- (f) Launch and operationalisation of advanced high resolution Cartography satellites, Cartosat-1 and Cartosat-2 for mapping applications.
- (g) Expansion of Tele-education and Tele-medicine, Initiation of Village Resource Centres, Space based Disaster Management Support and Natural Resource Management Applications.
- (h) Achievements in Space Commerce:
  - First dedicated commercial launch of Italian Satellite by PSLV and
  - Winning of two contracts for supply of sophisticated communication satellites viz., W2M and HYLAS.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, taking into account the National development needs and the global trends in space technology, the Department of Space has drawn up a long-term vision for the Space Research Programme

identifying the goals, programme directions and technology requirements up to 2020.

#### **Eradication of Leprosy**

1749. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the progress made in the field of eradication of leprosy;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether any future strategy has been chalked out by the Government to eradicate leprosy from the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Independent evaluation of NLEP was carried out by Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur during 2005. The outcome of the study is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) After achieving the goal of elimination of leprosy at National Level, the following strategies has been chalked out by the Government of India to further reduce the burden of leprosy—

- (i) Focus on every district achieving goal of elimination.
- (ii) Decentralized integrated leprosy services through General Health Care System.
- (iii) Training in leprosy to all Central Government services functionaries.
- (iv) Renewed emphasis on prevention of disability and Medical Rehabilitation care, and
- (v) Intensified monitoring and evaluation.

**Statement**

*Independent evaluation of National Leprosy  
Eradication Programme by Indian Institute of  
Health Management Research,  
Jaipur (IIHMR)*

Following are the major findings of the study.

The PR reduced from 3.74 in March 01 to 1.99 in December' 04 a 47% reduction and ANCDR reduced from 5.6 to 3.1 (45% reduction). MB proportion increased in almost all States and percentage of female in new cases increased from 35.5. to 36.2%. Child percentage reduced in most of the States indicating success in controlling transmission. The percentage of Grade-II disability in new cases significantly reduced from 2.24% in March' 01 to 1.5% in December' 04.

Median delay in diagnosis decreased from 8 months to 5 months. More than 80% of facilities had completed integration, but the integration process was weak in urban areas. Except the SIS guideline all other SIS formats were found available in most of the health facilities. The quality of MDT services was found highly satisfactory. The overall MB cure rate was 88% and PB cure rate was 94%. About 80% of General health workers received training on leprosy.

Level of awareness was high but was more or less stationary. IEC was more high risk centric and less community centric. The partnership between GOI and NGO's was extremely useful to weaken the bottlenecks against integration.

The Major Recommendation suggested were - (a) Internal monitoring system at Primary Health Center level should be strengthened (b) Counseling of RFT cases, patients and their family members needs to be emphasized (c) For spreading community awareness, target groups in high endemic areas should be identified and embark on Inter Personal Communication (IPC) (d) IEC messages should also target community in low endemic

areas (e) District Technical Support Teams (DTST's) should intensively focus on capacity building of the District Nucleus Team.

**External Borrowing for Infrastructure**

1750.SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment for External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) to finance infrastructure project in the Eleventh Plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any arrangements to finance infrastructure projects in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) The Eleventh Five Year Plan is under formulation. The estimates in this regard have not yet been finalized.

(c) to (e) The Government has initiated two schemes, viz., Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and Financing through India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).

VGF aims at supporting infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability. Through the provisions of 20% grant assistance several projects may become bankable and help mobilize the much needed private capital and efficiencies.

IIFCL addresses the need for providing long term debt for infrastructure projects that typically involve long gestation periods. IIFCL provides debt finance for such projects of a sufficient tenure that enables cost recovery across the project life.

**Diabetes Drugs under Charak Samhita**

1751. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

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

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has manufactured some medicines for diabetes as per the Charak Samhita; and

(b) if so, the time by which such medicines are likely to be made available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has not manufactured medicine for diabetes as per the Charak Samhita. However, ICMR has conducted studies on the efficacy of the plant "Vijaysar" mentioned in classical text for treatment of diabetes and found it to be safe and effective. There are some Ayurvedic medicines containing Vijaysar in the market.

**US Support to Protect India's Wild Tigers**

1752. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US has offered support to protect India's wild tigers through collaborative efforts between the two countries as reported in the 'Hindu' dated November 7, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the India and US have agreed to cooperate with each other against wild-life trafficking;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) :

(a) and (b) No such offer has been received.

(c) to (e) India, along with the United States of America and United Kingdom has joined the 'Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking', which is a global coalition of Governments and international business and conservation organizations working together to support each others efforts to end the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products. A preparatory meeting was held on 20th and 21st November, 2006 in London, which was followed by the meeting of the Ministerial Partners of the Coalition on 10th February, 2007.

[Translation]

**Rail-Road Linking of Ports**

1753. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee of Secretaries for reviewing rail and road connectivity of major Ports has suggested to develop high capacity rail and road routes within a stipulated time in view of future demand of major/minor ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the project-wise details of work undertaken/proposed to be undertaken and amount sanctioned, expenditure incurred in the region;

(d) the present status of work undertaken so far; and

(e) the time frame fixed for completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee has noted that each Major Port should preferably have atleast four lane road connectivity as well as double line rail connectivity. It has identified actionable plans for port connectivity projects, their completion schedules and financing arrangements.

(c) to (e) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement***Ongoing/Sanctioned Railway Projects*

Sl. No.	Name of Port	Scope of Work	Length (km)	Estimated Project Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Present status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Haldia	Doubling of Panskura-Haldia section (Phase-I)	14	26	Completed and commissioned.
2.	New Mangalore	Aresikere-Hassab-Mangalore rail link	236	357	Complete section has been commissioned for goods traffic.
3.	Kandla	Gandhidham-Palampur Gauge conversion	313	550	Completed and commissioned.
4.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port	Doubling of Panvel-Jasai section	28.5	69	Project completed and commissioned.
5.	Paradip	Haridaspur-Paradip link with mines and steel plants	82	456	Fixed line survey completed. Special Purpose Vehicle incorporated. Works started on Luna Bridge and Mahanadi Bridge. Scheduled completion date is December, 2008.
6.	Tuticorin	Doubling of Madurai-Dindigul section	62.06	126	Ambaturai-Kodaikanal road doubling has been merged with this work. Detailed estimate sanctioned. Tenders for earthwork, 85 minor bridges, 7 major bridges awarded. Tenders for one mega bridge (Vagai bridge) and earthwork between Kodaikanal-Dindigul also awarded. Scheduled completion date is December, 2008.
7.	Kandla	Bhildi-Samdhari gauge conversion	223	290	Earthwork and bridge works on Samdhari-Bhimmal (122 km section) is being executed. Scheduled completion date is June, 2008.
8.	Paradip	Second bridge over Mahanadi	3	1430	Work in progress. Scheduled completion date is June, 2008.
<b>Total</b>			<b>961.56</b>	<b>2014</b>	

*Railway Projects Proposed to be Undertaken*

Sl. No.	Name of Port	Scope of Work	Length (km)	Estimated Project Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Present status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kolkata	Rail connectivity to proposed jetties at Diamond Harbour	2	22	Survey completed in Jan. 2007.
2.	Mormugao	Doubling of Londa-Dharwar section	70	175	Report received from RVNL is under appraisal.
3.	Haldia	Doubling of Panskura-Haldia section (Phase-II)	44	230	The proposal has been approved by RVNL Board of Directors and is now being processed for consideration and approval of Government.
4.	Mumbai	Dedicated freight line between Wadala and Kurla	5.06	104 (incl. Rs. 55 crores for hutment removal)	The project is under consideration for approval of the Government.
5.	Ennore	The new chord line (Puttur-Attipattu)	144	435	Project Report for the new Chord Line is under appraisal.
<b>Total</b>			<b>263.66</b>	<b>944</b>	

*Status of Ongoing/Sanctioned Port Connectivity Road Projects*

Sl. No.	Name of Port	Scope of Work	Length (km)	Project Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Present status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Haldia	4-laning of Koleghat-Haldia section	52.2	273	42% work completed upto termination of contract. Cumulative expenditure upto August 2007 is Rs. 130.28 crore.
2.	Paradip	4-laning of NH-5A	77	427	Cumulative expenditure upto August 2007 is Rs. 301.06 crore.
3.	Visakhapatnam	Port Connectivity	12.47	94	Project Completed on 30.11.2006.

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Chennai and Ennore	Chennai-Ennore Port Connectivity	30 Phase-I : 9 km Phase-II : 15 km Phase-III : 6 km	309 Awarded cost Phase-I : 39.2 Phase-II : 76.76	Progress upto Nov., 07 – 9.7% in case of Phase I. – In case of Phase-II, with the approval of NHAI Board, the work was awarded to a Central PSU (M/s Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.). – Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Project Affected Families for Phase-III works has been taken up.
5.	Tuticorin	4-laning of NH-7A	47.2	231	Cumulative % of work is: 22.4%. Cumulative expenditure upto August 2007 is Rs. 71.02 crore.
6.	Cochin	4-laning of NH-47	10.40	106	Cumulative % progress of work is 43%. Contract terminated.
7.	New Mangalore	4-laning of NH-17, NH-48 and bypass	37.5	196	Cumulative % progress upto Nov., 07 is 11.34%. Expenditure upto August 2007 is Rs. 28.24 crore
8.	Mormugao	4-laning of NH-17B	18.3	80	13.1 km completed in May, 04. State Government could not give land free from encumbrances to take up balance 5.2km of work.
9.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port	4-laning of SH-54 with 6 – lane bridge on Panvel Creek. (Package II)	14.35	143	Cumulative % progress upto Nov., 07 is 87.26%.
10.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port	Package-I	30	177	Completed.
11.	Tuticorin (BOT)	Four laning of Tuticorin-Madurai Road (NH-45B)	144	629	Work awarded in Feb., 06, Agreement signed in July, 06. Cumulative % progress upto Nov., 07 is 23.5%.
12.	Cochin	Connectivity to ICTT, Vallarpadam	17.2	330 (revised to Rs. 557 crore)	The work commenced in August 2007 with scheduled completion in February 2010.

*Status of Port Connectivity Projects to be Sanctioned*

Sl. No.	Name of Port	Scope of Work	Length (km)	Estimated Project Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Present status
1.	Kolkata	Kona Junction on NH-6 to Netaji Subash Dock	14	—	Detailed Project Report not finalized.
2.	Paradip (BOT)	Four laning of Panikoili-Barbil NH-215	189	1050	The project is at bid stage.

*[English]***Integrated Transport Policy****Regional Branch Secretariat  
Offices of MEA**1755. SHRI M. APPADURAI :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

1754. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Branch Secretariat Offices of his Ministry are functioning in various cities in the country;

(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare an Integrated Transport Policy to take into account the four principal modes of transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any demands for setting up of such an office in Chennai and other parts of the country;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

(e) the time by which such offices are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : (a) and (b) The evolution of Transport Policy, keeping pace with the changing requirements, advancements in technology and expanding opportunities and challenges, is an ongoing process. Before the commencement of any Five Year Plan, various sectoral Working Groups on transport are constituted, which provide crucial inputs for formulation of a Plan/policies relating to various modes of transport. Transport Policy accordingly, gets delineated in the various Plan Documents.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (e) Branch Secretariats of the Ministry are functioning in Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai. There is a proposal to open an office in Guwahati. There is no proposal to open such offices in other parts of the country, at present.

(c) and (d) Various sectoral/sub-sectoral studies in the

field of transportation, have been done periodically. These constitute important inputs for formulating Plans, policies, processes and procedures.

**India's Contribution to UN Regular Budget**

1756. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the contribution paid by India to United Nations the regular budget of during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) the basis for such contribution;

(c) the year in which the Committee of Contributions reviewed the scale of assessments on the last occasion;

(d) whether the Government proposes to reduce the Indian contributions in view of the financial conditions of the country;

(e) if so, whether the issue has been taken up with the Committee of Contributions; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Committee of Contributions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The contribution paid by India to UN regular budget during the financial year 2006-07 was Rs. 40.3 crores. The required contribution is intimated by the UN towards the end of the year and the same has not been received as yet for 2007-08.

(b) The contributions are based on an assessed scale of contribution. This assessed scale takes into account the country's share of the global Gross National Product adjusted with a discount for low per-capita income and the country's external debt.

(c) The Committee on Contributions reviewed the methodology of the scale of assessments for the UN regular budget in June 2007.

(d) No.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Committee on Toll Tax**

1757. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI :

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" :

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

(a) whether a committee has been set up by the Union Government to suggest the rates of toll tax to be levied on the vehicles plying on National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the vehicle-wise rate suggested by the Committee;

(c) whether the said rates are higher than the ones which are in vogue now;

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

(e) whether any meeting with some private parties have also been convened to consider the issue;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the revenue realised from toll charges during the last two years including the current year and target fixed for the Eleventh Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No external committee has been set up by the Government.

(c) to (g) Do not arise.

*[English]***Special Drive for Immunization**

1758.SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has carried out special drive for immunization in the States where the immunization process is very slow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has provided inputs and funds for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have conducted special drive as immunization weeks in States where

immunization is very slow. The Special drive was conducted in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) i. The Government of India have provided Vaccines, A.D. Syringes and other logistics as per requirement of the States.

ii. No additional funds were released however the requirement of funds for the special drives was met through the funds made available under the Routine Immunization for State Program Implementation Plan (PIP).

iii. Details of Release of funds to the States/UTs is attached Statement.

**Statement**

*Status of release of funds during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 for Immunization Programme*

S. No.	State	Fund Released during 2005-06	Fund Released during 2006-07	Fund Released during 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6,52,176	7,15,448	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4,14,91,785	3,13,76,361	4,26,31,639
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	40,26,626	94,89,948	81,99,373
4.	Assam	6,00,19,847	80,09,473	10,64,79,490
5.	Bihar	13,64,55,415	9,79,64,351	20,84,65,974
6.	Chandigarh	6,89,400	1,25,765	8,25,516
7.	Chhattisgarh	4,23,51,675	4,20,90,512	25,67,760
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1,91,125	3,05,725	5,401
9.	Daman and Diu	2,06,965	2,24,217	1,38,521

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Delhi	18,65,130	29,26,109	27,89,568
11.	Goa	6,90,395	6,83,849	0
12.	Gujarat	2,72,63,618	0	0
13.	Haryana	1,08,29,700	113,17,462	1,06,62,031
14.	Himachal Pradesh	2,02,26,727	0	0
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,10,28,736	60,74,739	72,77,802
16.	Jharkhand	10,00,64,800	84,87,140	2,12,84,889
17.	Kerala	2,34,39,640	23,19,401	1,30,53,143
18.	Lakshadweep	1,14,357	5,86,377	28,418
19.	Madhya Pradesh	8,56,49,007	5,38,20,985	7,40,23,379
20.	Manipur	53,98,000	12,06,105	57,09,070
21.	Meghalaya	85,03,220	95,39,480	13,48,451
22.	Mizoram	47,95,030	65,34,728	0
23.	Nagaland	36,27,085	35,,74,795	45,39,833
24.	Orissa	6,97,38,119	6,32,26,945	4,75,00,594
25.	Pondicherry	8,09,533	90,205	0
26.	Punjab	1,56,33,150	1,36,33,382	83,85,621
27.	Rajasthan	11,40,90,661	74,87,357	2,15,24,475
28.	Sikkim	10,55,025	22,61,849	18,10,763
29.	Tripura	36,15,720	24,63,905	14,77,175
30.	Uttar Pradesh	29,85,92,906	20,49,20,151	20,54,98,469
31.	Uttanchal	3,39,83,055	43,75,380	1,25,86,37
32.	West Bengal	8,60,80,022	6,31,18,005	1,18,28,505
33.	Maharashtra	10,28,45,570	0	2,27,08,032
34.	Tamil Nadu	5,95,40,000	2,82,89,250	4,59,64,513
35.	Karnataka	7,94,47,192	94,56,202	41,64,575
Total		1,45,50,11,412	69,66,95,601	89,34,79,317

**Co-operation between Brazil, Russia,  
India and China**

1759. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) have decided to intensify their bilateral cooperation; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Foreign Ministers of Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) met on 24 September 2007 in New York. It was decided that the Heads of Missions of the four countries in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Paris and Washington would consult to identify issues for discussion among BRIC countries. This would be followed by a meeting at the level of Deputy/Vice Ministers in Brazil.

*[Translation]*

**Conversion of Hard Coke into Soft Coke**

1760. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Coal India Limited has given contracts to Public Sectors and private sector Coal companies to convert hard coke into soft coke;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise, year-wise;
- (c) the details of the payment made by the coal companies for such conversions, company-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has found any irregularities in the process of converting hard coke into soft coke; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No Sir. There is no such technology available.

- (b) to (e) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

*[English]*

**Indian Medical Students Abroad**

1761. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Medical Students pursuing their studies abroad can do their house surgenship in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether similar requests have been obtained from the Indian students pursuing their medical courses abroad; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. An Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India, who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with the Medical Council of India (MCI) or any State Medical Council on or after 15.3.2002, is eligible to do internship in India, provided he/she has obtained provisional registration from MCI after qualifying the Screening Test conducted by the National Board of Examinations, as per the provisions of the Screening Test Regulations, 2002 of the Medical Council of India. However, the primary medical qualification must be a recognized qualification for enrolment as medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated.

*[Translation]*

**Recommendation of Central Information  
Commission**

1762. PROF VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Information Commission, in its Annual Report, has recommended that Public Information Officers posted in the Government departments be accorded the status of the Officer of the Commission.

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) and (b) The Central Information Commission in its Annual Report for the year 2005-06 has recommended that the Public Information Officers should be considered as officers of the Central Information Commission.

(c) The Right to Information Act, 2005 contains provisions enabling the Public Information Officers to work objectively and fearlessly.

[English]

#### Compensatory Afforestation on Land

1763.DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of degraded forest land and non-forest land brought under Compensatory Afforestation, State-wise;

(b) the details of various forms of afforestation and re-vegetation undertaken by the Government; and

(c) the number of forest villages evacuated for the purpose of afforestation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) As on 19-11-2007, 5,28,801 hectares of forest and non forest lands have been brought under Compensatory Afforestation. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas. The Scheme envisages various models of afforestation and regeneration including Aided Natural Regeneration, Artificial Regeneration, Pasture/Silvi-pasture Development, Bamboo Plantation, Planting of Canes, Mixed Plantation of trees having MFP and Medicinal Value, and Regeneration of Perennial Herbs and Shrubs of Medicinal Value.

(c) As per information available with this Ministry, no forest village has been evacuated for the purpose of afforestation.

#### Statement

#### Compensatory Afforestation on Land

As on: 19.11.2007

S. No.	State/UT	Area brought under compensatory afforestation in hectares		
		Forest Land	Non Forest Land	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	225.29	1,701.49	1,926.78

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1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4,587.77	15,805.96	20,393.73
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5,388.21	86.00	5,474.21
4.	Assam	1,163.06	536.96	1,700.03
5.	Bihar	846.56	0.00	846.56
6.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.12	0.12
7.	Chhattisgarh	27,284.00	3,331.00	30,615.00
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	269.15	210.15	479.30
9.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Goa	1,131.44	18.00	1,149.44
11.	Gujarat	17,233.29	27,141.00	44,374.29
12.	Haryana	2,251.83	1,091.69	3,343.51
13.	Himachal Pradesh	5,769.70	137.00	5,906.70
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	288.00	0.00	288.00
15.	Jharkhand	36.00	0.00	36.00
16.	Karnataka	9,212.92	28,841.12	38,054.04
17.	Kerala	49,448.53	776.00	50,224.53
18.	Madhya Pradesh	129,559.84	38,134.11	167,693.95
19.	Maharashtra	44,082.00	27,722.00	71,804.00
20.	Manipur	181.16	0.00	181.16
21.	Meghalaya	258.45	4.80	263.25
22.	Mizoram	38.15	5,520.65	5,558.81
23.	Orissa	9,777.94	20,649.33	30,427.26
24.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Punjab	3,917.78	929.28	4,847.06
26.	Rajasthan	3,066.01	7,267.00	10,333.01

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1	2	3	4	5
27.	Sikkim	2,012.97	18.00	2,030.97
28.	Tamil Nadu	1,252.63	1,009.35	2,261.97
29.	Tripura	2,591.54	58.21	2,649.75
30.	Uttar Pradesh	2,457.57	4,687.50	7,145.07
31.	Uttaranchal	8,333.53	6,558.00	14,891.53
32.	West Bengal	1,237.35	2,663.89	3,901.24
<b>Total</b>		<b>333,902.67</b>	<b>194,898.60</b>	<b>528,801.27</b>

[Translation]

**Allotment of Land to Embassies**

1764. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several foreign countries have applied for allotment of land in Delhi to open their Embassies;

(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 EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Yes. As per records of the Ministry, 58 countries (including those who already have land in the capital and others who are functioning from rented premises) have applied for allotment of land in Delhi and the list is enclosed as Statement. Previous allotment offers have lapsed and fresh offers will be made when revised rates are received from the Ministry of Urban Development.

**Statement**

*List of Countries Wanting Land in New Delhi*

1. Algeria
2. Angola

3. Argentina
4. Armenia
5. Azerbaijan
6. Bahrain
7. Belarus
8. Brazil
9. Brunei
10. Burkina Faso
11. Cambodia
12. Chile
13. Croatia
14. Columbia
15. Cuba
16. Denmark
17. DPR Korea
18. Estonia
19. European Commission

20. Fiji
21. Guinea
22. Iceland
23. Iran
24. Ireland
25. Jordan
26. Kazakhstan
27. Kenya
28. Kyrgyzstan
29. Laos
30. Libya
31. Lebanon
32. League of Arab States
33. Luxembourg
34. Mauritius
35. Maldives
36. Mexico
37. Morocco
38. Mozambique
39. Namibia
40. Portugal
41. Romania
42. Rwanda
43. Seychelles
44. Somalia
45. South Africa
46. Suriname

47. Syria
48. Trinidad and Tobago
49. Tajikistan
50. Turkmenistan
51. Tunisia
52. Uganda
53. USA
54. Venezuela
55. Vietnam
56. Yemen
57. Zambia
58. Zimbabwe

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**Assistance to Non-Government Organisations**

1765.DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has provided any financial or any other assistance to the Non-Government Organisations in Jharkhand for the implementation of health schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the works of the Non-Government Organisations;

(d) if so, the lacunae noticed by the Government during the review and the names of the Non-Government Organisations responsible for the said lacunae; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) Rs. 112.5 lakhs was released till date.
- (c) The State Health Society of the concern State reviews the functioning of the NGOs.
- (d) No such report has been received from the State.
- (e) Does not arise in view of the above.

[English]

#### **Cleaning of Polluted Rivers**

1766. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :  
SHRI UDAY SINGH :  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has identified some rivers which are most polluted and need immediate cleaning;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount allocated for cleaning the polluted rivers during the current Five-Year Plan; and
- (d) whether a comprehensive programme has been worked out in consultation with the Ministries and States concerned; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A study was conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board in the year 2001 in which 71 polluted stretches of rivers were identified across the country having the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), a key parameter indicating organic pollution, greater than 6 mg/l.

(c) to (e) Allocation of outlay under the current Five Year Plan has not been finalized. However, an amount of

Rs. 254 crores has been provided in the Budget for the financial year 2007-08 for pollution abatement works under the National River Conservation Plan.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) covers 164 towns in the country along polluted stretches of 35 identified rivers spread over 20 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs.4793 crore, against which an expenditure of Rs.2617 crore has been incurred so far upto June, 2007 including the expenditure of the respective States' shares. The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments for the purpose. A multi-tier monitoring mechanism at the Centre and State level reviews the policy issues, new works to be taken up, funding pattern and progress of works from time to time.

[Translation]

#### **Appeal Filed Against CAT**

1767. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGÉ PATIL :  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of appeals filed by the Central Government against the decision of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) during the last three years till date and the number of cases in which the High Courts has given verdict against the Central Government during the same period;
- (b) the nature of action taken against high ranking officers; and
- (c) the number of officers of the Central Government against whom the Government has taken action 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) The number of appeals filed by the Central Government against the decisions of the CAT and the number of cases in which the High Courts have given verdict against the Central Government are not monitored centrally. However, as per the information maintained by the Principal Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal during 2003 to June, 2006, the Central Government filed 2362 appeals where the CAT was a proforma party, out of which 1167 decisions of the CAT were upheld by the High Courts.

(b) Action is taken as per the Disciplinary Rules.

(c) The data is not centrally monitored.

[English]

#### **Organ Retrieval Bank Organisations**

1768. SHRI P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to start Organ Retrieval Bank Organisations (ORBOs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States where ORBOs are likely to be set up;

(d) the budget estimate therefor;

(e) the proposed modus operandi for procuring human organs for such ORBOs

(f) whether the existing law permits this type of human organ transplantation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : (a) and (b) The Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation (ORBO) a national facility and nodal centre for the country is already operational at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. A network of 15 hospitals (Government, Public and

Charitable) with ORBO has been formed for smooth functioning and coordination for process of Organ Donation and Transplantation in Delhi.

(c) to (g) Do not arise, in view of reply to part (a) above.

#### **Use of Forest Land for Public Development Schemes**

1769. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government to allow them to provide equal measurement of land in lieu of forest land to be utilized by them;

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

(c) whether in light of this, the Union Government proposes to make amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) to (d) No Sir. No such proposal, so far, has been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests from any of the State/UT Governments.

#### **Setting Up of Eco-Clubs**

1770. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken to set up 'Eco Clubs' in the schools of all the districts of the country to raise a National Green Army and to create awareness among the people about environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of schools identified in each district; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) and (b) The Eco-clubs have been set up by the Government in the schools under the National Green Corps (NGC) Programme since 2000-01, with underlined objective of spreading environmental awareness amongst school children. These clubs are set up in each district of the country, with the focus on action oriented environment programme through the active involvement of the students. Though State Government/UTs are at liberty to set up any number of Eco-clubs in a district the financial assistance under the Programme is restricted to 250 Eco-clubs per district @ 2,500/- per Eco-club per annum.

(c) Names of schools identified in each district are maintained by the State Nodal Agencies.

(d) A list showing State-wise grants released to the State Nodal Agencies during the current financial year is enclosed as Statement.

**Statement**

(As on 23.11.2007)

S.No.	State/UT	Amount in Lakhs
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	156.97
2	Bihar	195.98
3	Chhattisgarh	107.41
4	Chandigarh	3.23
5	Gujarat	177.12
6	Karnataka	231.9

1	2	3
7	Madhya Pradesh	321.6
8	Manipur	36.63
9	Mizoram	34.47
10	Nagaland	52.47
11	Pondicherry	14.77
12	Punjab	135.52
13	Rajasthan	214.4
14	Tamil Nadu	201.08
15	Tripura	16.8
16	West Bengal	123.5

**Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project**

1771. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether USA has asked India not to move forward with the planned pipeline project that would bring natural gas from Iran to India;

(b) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the present status of the pipeline project ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been negotiating the pipeline project with Iran and Pakistan. The sixth meeting of the tripartite Joint Working Group was held in Delhi on 28-29 June 2007. Three meetings of the India-Pakistan Joint Working Group and five meetings of the India-Iran Special Joint Working Group

have been held so far. Several key issues including pricing formula, transit fee and transportation tariff are under discussion.

12.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Gandhidham, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust, Gandhidham, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7405/2007]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7406/2007]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7407/2007]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7408/2007]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7409/2007]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7410/2007]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Vishakhapatnam Port Trust, Vishakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Vishakhapatnam Port Trust, Vishakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7411/2007]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Vishakhapatnam Port Trust, Vishakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Vishakhapatnam Port Trust, Vishakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7411/2007]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7408/2007]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7412/2007]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7407/2007]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7413/2007]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with audited accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts and the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7414/2007]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7415/2007]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the North Eastern Regional Agriculture Marketing Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7416/2007]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, 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 Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7417/2007]

- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Youth in Panchayati Raj Campaign-A Report

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7418/2007]

- (ii) Dakshin Kranti (Freedom Struggle in South India)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7419/2007]

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

I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Central Vigilance Commission (Staff) Rules, 2007, (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.698(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2007, under Section 22 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7420/2007]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under article 323 (11) of the Constitution:-

- (i) The 57th Annual Report of the Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Memorandum explaining reasons for non-acceptance of advice of the Union Public Service Commission in respect of cases referred to in Chapter 10 of the Report.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7421/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : 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.1383(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway Nos. 13, 17 and 48 in the State of Karnataka.

- (ii) S.O.1583(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th August, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Haveri-Hubli Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (iii) S.O.1452(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Mulbagal-Kolar-Bangalore Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (iv) S.O.1590(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 76 (Kota Bypass Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (v) S.O.1817(E) to S.O.1820(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th October, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 11 (Mahua-Jaipur Section) in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vi) S.O.1828(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.602(E) dated the 19th May 2004.
- (vii) S.O.1464(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 22 (Zirakpur-Parwanoo Section) in the State of Punjab.
- (viii) S.O.1465(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.86(E) dated the 25th January 2007.
- (ix) S.O.1429(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 6 (Sambalpur-Raipur Section) in the State of Chhattisgarh.
- (x) S.O.1427(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xi) S.O.1733(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2007, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1819(E) dated the 18th October 2004.
- (xii) S.O.1766(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 3 (Khalghat-M.P./ Maharashtra Border Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xiii) S.O.1315(E) to S.O.1318(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of

[Shri K.H. Muniyappa]

- different stretches of National Highway No. 3 (Khalghat-M.P./Maharashtra Border Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xiv) S.O.1567(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway Nos. 21 and 22 in the State of Punjab.
- (xv) S.O.1209(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 6 (Durg-Nagpur Section) including construction of by-passes in the State of Chhattisgarh.
- (xvi) S.O.1829(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31 (Nalbari-Bizni Section) in the State of Assam.
- (xvii) S.O.1830(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37 (Jagiroad-Thekeraguri Section) in the State of Assam.
- (xviii) S.O.1535(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007, authorizing the officers mentioned therein to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management

and operation of National Highway No. 17 in the State of Karnataka.

- (xix) S.O.1578 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 48 (Nelamangala-Hassan Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xx) S.O.1835 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007, regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 48 (Nelamangala-Hassan Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i to iii) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7422/2007]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) issued under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—
- (i) S.O.1735(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2007, constituting the State level Environment Impact Assessment Authority for the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- (ii) S.O.1737(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2007, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1533(E) dated the 14th September 2006.

- (iii) S.O.1738(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2007, constituting the Union Territory Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority for the Union Territory of Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7423/2007]

12.01½ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA  
AND  
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 2007 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November, 2007."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November, 2007 agreed without any amendment to the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2007 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th September, 2007."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 2007, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 2007."

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'  
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

32nd Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur) : I beg to present the Thirty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

14th and 15th Reports

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : I beg to present the Fourteenth and Fifteenth (Action Taken) Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2007-2008) and the minutes relating thereto.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

21st and 22nd Reports

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

- (1) Twenty-first Report on Airports Authority of India-Review of Infrastructure and Operational Facilities and
- (2) Twenty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 15th Report of COPU (14th Lok Sabha) on Coal India Limited.

12.04 hrs.

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

## (I) Stay of Ms. Taslima Nasreen in India\*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : I rise to inform the House of the Government of India's stand on an issue which has attracted considerable public attention in recent days. As hon. members are aware, noted Bangladeshi writer Ms. Taslima Nasreen has been in India for some time. Throughout history, India has never refused shelter to those who have come and sought our protection. This civilizational heritage, which is now Government policy, will continue, and India will provide shelter to Ms. Nasreen. Those who have been granted shelter here have always undertaken to eschew political activities in India or any actions which may harm India's relations with friendly countries. It is also expected that the guests will refrain from activities and expressions that may hurt the sentiments of our people.

While these guests are in India, the Union and the State Governments provide them protection. This policy will also apply in Ms. Taslima Nasreen's case. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Where is she now? . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bangladeshi writer Ms. Taslima Nasreen was sent to Rajasthan from Bengal and then to Delhi. Where she has been taken to now from Delhi and where she has been kept? No information has been provided whether she is safe or not . . .*(Interruptions)*

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\*[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7424/2007]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Excesses committed against women should be checked. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Where is she staying now? . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : She was taken to Rajasthan from Bengal. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : If at all you want a discussion, then it has to be done in a proper manner. All the hon. Members are aware that there has to be a procedure. This cannot be done here and now. Your remarks have already been recorded.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would now come to important matters.

Shri Kiren Rijju. Nothing else to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : A proper procedure has to be followed. I have already called the name of an hon. Member to speak on an important issue.

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : Sir, I also have given notice. A serious thing has happened in the State of Orissa. . . .*(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rijiju, the hon. Minister has already made a Statement on Assam.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Anything being spoken without my permission will not be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, if you behave like this, then I will adjourn the House and go away. I would not allow this. Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : I must say that it is very painful. It is extremely painful. I am trying to accommodate everyone to the best of my ability and in accordance with the time available, but if you all stand up like this, then nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)\**

12.08 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Arjun Sethi and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is one more item to be taken up. Shri Aiyar, I am sorry you had to lay some Statements. You may do it now.

12.08½ hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 169th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports\*\***

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF

\*Not recorded.

\*\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7425/2007

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : Sir, I beg to lay a Statement on the status of implementation of comments contained in the 169th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin – Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 169th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was laid in the Lok Sabha on 13.12.2005. The Report relates to the action to be taken by the Government on the comments of the Committee.

The present status of implementation of various comments made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.08½ hrs.

- (iii) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 185th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : Sir, I beg to lay a Statement on the status of implementation of comments contained in the 185th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin – Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 185th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was laid in the Lok Sabha

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7426/2007

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

on 30.11.2006. The Report relates to the action to be taken by the Government on the comments of the Committee.

The present status of implementation of various comments made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.08½ hrs.

- (iv) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 190th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement on the status of implementation of comments contained in the 190th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin – Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 190th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 01.3.2007. The Report relates to the action to be taken by the Government on the comments of the Committee.

The present status of implementation of various

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\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7427/2007

comments made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.09 hrs.

- (v) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 195th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development pertaining to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 195th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin – Part II, dated 1st September, 2004.

The 195th Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 04.05.2007. The Report relates to the action to be taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations of the Committee.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

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\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7428/2007

12.09½ hrs.

- (vi) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in 127th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Demands for Grants (2007-2008) pertaining to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement on the status for the implementation of recommendations contained in the 127th Report of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs pertaining to consideration of Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region in pursuance of direction 73 A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

2. The Standing Committee on Home Affairs (dealing with Ministry of Development of North Eastern) examined the demands for grants of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the year 2007-08 and presented their 127th Report in this regard on 8/5/07.

3. Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on 7/8/07,

4. There are 21 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report, where action is called for on the part of the Government, These recommendations mainly pertain to utilization of funds available under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NICPR) for implementation of developmental projects, review of exemption granted to certain Ministries from making contribution to NLCPR Corpus, allocation of additional

funds to NEC and review of its ongoing projects. Initiation of innovative projects under the scheme of Advocacy and Publicity and Capacity Building and early commencement of the training course for pilots and Airhostesses, restoration of 10% loan component in the budget of the Ministry for release of assistance to State Governments for implementing externally aided projects,, strengthening of the NERAMAC, transferring of Hill Area development and border area development programme to the concerned Ministries, promotion of tourism in the NER by projecting it as a safe destination, according priority and special impetus to the civil aviation activities in the NER by upgrading the existing airports in the NER., early implementation of the project for setting up airport at Teju and setting up of Pilot Institute at Lilabari, setting up of a ropeway at Tawang, promotion of Industrial and agricultural sectors, finalization of "Vision Document-2020" by incorporating in it the establishment of national level sports schools, an institute like National Institute of Fashion Technology and setting up more medical colleges. In the region for expanding the infrastructure health base for providing proper health facilities in the region and promotion of trade etc.

5. The status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let me get a notice on this issue I will consider. Why do you say that I am anti-Orissa? Please do it in a proper manner.

[Translation]

What is the use of speaking from here? Please make him understand.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7429/2007

[English]

I will call you. I am really sorry about it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till  
12.30 p.m.

12.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes  
past Twelve of the Clock.*

12.30 hrs.

*(The Lok Sabha reassembled at thirty minutes  
past twelve of the clock)*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJITU (Arunachal West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak on a very important issue. My heartfelt thanks to you.

Sir, yesterday I listened to the Home Minister's Statement carefully and found to my regret that the basic reason due to which the incident occurred and its consequences were not made clear in the Statement. During the last two or three days a very wrong image of North-East, particularly Assam, has been put forward by the Press. The Press has made it seem as if respect for women has taken a backseat in the North-East. The picture that has been splashed has also disturbed the position of the State. I had thought that the Centre would dispatch a large contingent for inspecting the situation but this has not happened.

Sir, if any incident occurs in Hyderabad, Mumbai or Uttar Pradesh all the big leaders including the Prime Minister and Smt. Sonia Gandhi visit the place. But no one

visited the North-East despite such a big incident. It means that the region holds no importance for them. From what I have been observing for the last seven years, I feel that merely lip service is paid when politicians say that North-East has a special place in their hearts and that they want to work for its betterment. But when any such untoward incident occurs there scant attention is paid towards it.

Sir, it is the constituency of the Prime Minister. The hon. Prime Minister is an MP from Assam. The brutality displayed in Assam's capital Guwahati and in Dispur is not acceptable in any civilized society. I do not want to talk about the demands of the tribals at the moment. This demand is a separate matter altogether. Thousands of people were demonstrating for their demand and only one Assistant Inspector and four constables were posted on duty there. Just think when this is the situation of security in Guwahati what would be the situation in villages in Assam and other North-Eastern States. You must have seen the conditions in places such as Karbiyonglong. There are just four police stations to maintain law and order in the entire district. This is a clear example of the Government's failure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to express my feelings in the House. Even when no political issue is at stake they keep on saying that the Government would like to do something for the North-East. If so, then the first priority should be to ensure peace in the region. Till peace is restored, the State will not make progress. Hence I would like to place two or three demands before you. The State Government has ordered a judicial probe. My first demand is that a CBI inquiry should be conducted in view of the facts of the incident. I am talking of the CBI inquiry because there are a lot of hidden issues behind the incident. It is important to find out how the group of tribals which was heading towards somewhere was provoked and what happened thereafter. It is important to know. Till you reach the root of the matter, the facts will not come to light. The Government has already made the pro-

nouncement that the violence has been committed by Adivasis. It has made the indictment before holding any discussion. This is wrong.

Sir, if the tribals have broken vehicles or attacked houses, I condemn that also but it should be ascertained as to why they were provoked. I do not want to make allegations but according to the report that has come out, some NSUI members. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, may I suggest you that I will allow a Calling Attention Motion on this issue? If you want, you can give a notice for that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have also given a notice. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow every hon. Member who has given a notice till today on this subject to speak on the Calling Attention Motion. I will allow you all but not at this time because the hon. Minister concerned is not here to answer it. Therefore, I will allow you next Monday to speak on this issue. If you want, I will allow a discussion under Calling Attention Motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : As a special case, I will allow every Member who has given notice on this issue till today.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJU : Mr. Speaker, Sir thank you, I would like to participate in debate on calling attention motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : On Monday, I will allow you to speak on this issue.. I think you will get a better opportunity to speak. Those notices are with me. I have got notices from

six other hon. Members. I will call them, as a special case, because this is an important matter.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJU : All right, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak today. I thank you for this and I want a CBI inquiry into the incident. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow all of you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you please read out the names who have given notices on this matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I assure all the hon. Members that those who have given notices on this important matter will be called on Monday. What more can I do? I will give you better opportunity to speak instead of what is called 'Zero Hour'.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you. I am honour bound. I will call you also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh) : Sir, please give me a chance. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has made a Statement. Some reference has been made. Today is Wednesday. There is a very important debate. I will give you the Calling Attention. That is the best method. I will call Shri Sonowal also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand) :  
Sir, please read out the names of members who have  
submitted their names...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Those who have given notices will  
be called.

Now, I am giving a chance to Shri Krishnaswamy. I  
think you should express regrets. Please at least tell the  
country that you are sorry what you have done.

*(Interruptions)*

12.37 hrs.

RE: NEED TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSAL  
FOR USE OF HINDI AS A LANGUAGE IN  
HIGH COURT AND THE SUPREME COURT

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur) : Sir, I am  
sorry.

Sir, we are surprised to know that the Official  
Language Committee of the Parliament has recom-  
mended to the Legal Department to enable Hindi as the  
official language and usage language in the High Court  
and Supreme Court for delivering judgments on degree.  
...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, we are equally hurt to learn that the Department  
of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, has forwarded  
a copy of the note dated 29th March, 2006 from the Joint  
Secretary and Legislative Counsel, Legislative Depart-  
ment, along with the recommendations of the Committee  
of Parliament on Official Language, to\* Chairman, Law  
Commission of India, seeking the views of the Law  
Commission on the matter without even examining in-  
House the gravity of the recommendations and ascertain-  
ing the views of the various political parties representing  
the length and breadth of the nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Name will not be recorded. It will be  
deleted.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : This move of the Central  
Government has come as a bolt from the blue at a juncture  
when the hon. Leader of the DPA of Tamil Nadu and  
President of the DMK, Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi, has  
already gone on record urging the Hon. Prime Minister to  
facilitate usage of other regional Official Languages  
including Tamil as language of the respective hon. High  
Courts. ...*(Interruptions)*

So, the move which is initiated by the Government of  
India should be stopped. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar) :  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should not be allowed to raise such  
questions here since Hindi is our national language...  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath ji, let it be, he has been  
given time to speak. Why don't you understand?

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough.

Shri S.K. Kharventhan, Shri K. Subbarayan. Dr.  
Senthil, Shri Bellarmin, Shri Ravichandran can associate  
with him on this matter.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I have given  
you a chance. All your names are recorded.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Krishnan and Shri P. Mohan also  
can associate with him on this matter.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I request the hon. Members to give their names and their names will be included.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panakura) : We disassociate from these comments. . . .(Interruptions) Hindi is the official language of this country: . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal) : I also disassociate myself from it. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody is bound by any other Member's comments.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow the House to function. Shri Prabhu Nath Singh, please leave it. Who can affect Hindi?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed you and even then you are disturbing.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Krishnan, you are a senior Member.

Only what Shri Ramji Lal Suman says will be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ponnuswamy, please go to your seat. Let us hear the Minister.

(Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, every Committee of Parliament and every Commission of India has a right to examine the recommendations of any kind of committee appointed by the Parliament or by the Government. But ultimately the decision is taken only by the Government who is the Executive functionary and accountable to the House. I also read such recommendations in the newspapers. We are quite serious to the unity of the nation. We are respectful to all languages in the Constitution including Hindi and Tamil. . . .(Interruptions) Government has not, so far, taken any decision to reversing the earlier decision.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Official work is not carried-out in Hindi in Supreme Court. Hindi should be allowed as a medium for carrying-out official work there as well. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is your opinion. They have given their opinion. You have a right to give your opinion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let us do some work.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, VAT was started in the year 2002 and the matter was discussed in the House as well. This replaces sales tax and surcharge etc. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please refer to the Central law.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Important thing is that the tax structure should be same all over the country and this alone was the objective behind introduction of VAT. A Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Asim Das, the Finance Minister of West Bengal and the Committee had prepared a model which was sent to different State Governments with the expectation that the State Governments would introduce VAT on the basis of that model.

In Uttar Pradesh, 'Bandh' against VAT was observed yesterday and today. Through you, I would like to submit that VAT is proposed to be enforced in Uttar Pradesh with effect from 1st December, however VAT in the neighbouring States of Uttar Pradesh like Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan is different. First of all, survey would be conducted in Uttar Pradesh. The procedure of the VAT being imposed in Uttar Pradesh is very complicated and the most regrettable thing is that the Government has approved the draft of the VAT submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Government without going through it. Some items were identified for keeping them under VAT and items of everyday use were proposed to be kept out of the VAT when imposition of VAT was initiated. I was saying that some items were identified for keeping them under VAT and items of everyday use were to be kept out of VAT. VAT on clothes, VAT on food, VAT on wheat, VAT on shroud is being charged in Uttar Pradesh today.

Through you, I would like to submit that it is a very serious matter. There is anger among the traders in Uttar Pradesh. Ninety percent small traders are against it and this situation is creating tension in Uttar Pradesh. There was Bandh yesterday and even today. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : People are agitated in Uttar Pradesh. I expect that the Government takes cognizance

of it and VAT is imposed within the parameters of the draft/ model prepared in this regard and the proposal approved by the Government for imposition of VAT should be taken back.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Chaudhary Bijendra Singh-not present; Shri Ganesh Singh-not present. Shri Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain. You have to refer the second matter about shortage of power.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I want to remind you that electricity is provided to Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and Jharkhand through Power Grid from Tala in Bhutan and when water level reduces there this supply also decreases and Bihar bears the maximum loss as a result thereof. Bihar gets 260 MW electricity from Tala but the supply decreases to 51 MW in winter and Bihar has to pay Rs. 7 crore as transmission charges also. Bihar does not get electricity and has to pay Rs. 7 crore also. Similar losses are incurred by Bengal and Orissa also.

Through you, I would like to urge that there is an NTPC project in Kahalgaon, Bhagalpur in Bihar where from I am a Member. Delhi is getting 12% electricity from Kahalgaon, Uttar Pradesh 19% and Punjab 12% but Bihar is getting only 700 MW from this plant whereas it should get 1170 MW. Even out of this 700 MW electricity, 85 MW has to be given to the Railways, 60 MW to Nepal and 100 MW to Defence establishments. Thus, Bihar needs 1700 MW electricity but it is getting only 450 MW. There is darkness even in my constituency Bhagalpur where NTPC project is situated. This project uses local water and employs local people but pollution is spreading there and my area is in darkness, in fact, whole of Bihar is in darkness. When we were in power, then, the Centre provided electricity to

Bihar from Kahalgaon but, today, when UPA Government is in power. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are the best light of your constituency.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Sir, through you, I wanted to say that. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the matter raised by him.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : Sir, through you, I would like to urge that Bihar has put step towards light after 15 years. Darkness should end in Bihar. Efforts should be made to supply electricity in Bihar where people are dying in the age of lanterns. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ram Kripal Yadavji, please take your seat.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh) : Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a very important subject. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, do not disturb. He is raising a very important issue.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH : Sir, our country is agriculture dominated country. Eighty percent people depend, directly or indirectly on agriculture. Uttar Pradesh is an important State of our country. The main occupation of the farmers here is farming. Now is the sowing season of Rabi crop. The fertilizer problem has assumed gigantic proportion in the State. Even a single bag of fertilizer has

not been sent for cooperative sector in the State. The farmers there are deprived of fertilizer even after they have repaid the loans taken from the cooperative societies and NSSO on time. Not only this, thousands of farmers are spending their nights in society premises. Demonstrations and Rail Roko campaign are also going on at the District Headquarters.\* I want to say that the fertilizer problem is the problem of the whole country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Don't mention the State Government. Please bring it to me.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH : A severe crisis may crop up before the Government if production will decrease leading to shortage of foodgrain. Most important is the fact that the financial condition of the farmers will deteriorate too much. Farmers will be ruined financially and it will lead to shortage of foodgrain. The country may face foodgrain crisis in the near future. I want to say that the Central Government has given thousands of crores of rupees to the State Government on the Baijnath report.\*

Sir, I want to urge that keeping in view the interests of the farmers you should\* so that Rabi crops are sown on time and the country. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot make critical reference to any State Government, please bring it to me.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH : And the farmers do not face the financial problems. With these words, I thank you. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Issue of Bhojpuri language has been taken up many time.

(Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER : 46 hon'ble Members have given notices.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not raising this issue in the House for the first time. Infact, many hon'ble Members have raised this issue earlier.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you repeat it you will not be called to speak during the whole session.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Shri Raghunath Jha ji and Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji, have raised these questions a number of times and it is very unfortunate that neither hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs nor the Minister of Home Affairs is present in the House. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN : At least one Cabinet Minister should be present in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no such rule.

(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is disorder time.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the question of Bhojpuri. . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important issue. At least one Cabinet Minister should be present in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I do not agree. Sooner we abolish this hour, it is better. If I remain for a while, I will see that it is abolished.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, on this question, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had given an assurance in this House that in the next Session a Bill for inclusion of Bhojpuri and Rajasthani languages in the Eighth Schedule would be introduced.

MR. SPEAKER : Ok.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : If you would say Ok like this then it would simply pass from here. Therefore, first of all please listen to what I have to say.

MR. SPEAKER : I have listened all of your points.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : If you say like that then this issue itself will get diluted.

MR. SPEAKER : It will not get diluted. I have always helped.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, we would like you to issue directions in this regard so that this issue gains some importance.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Ministers, please take a note about Bhojpuri language and see what is the position.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : It has been done, now what more.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir Rajasthani may also be. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Also please find out the position in Rajasthan. I will find out the position.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABUNATH SINGH : Sir, please tell the Government that in this session. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have said that they must consider Rajasthan also. What is wrong with you?

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the august House and the Union Government that a big agitation is taking place in Andhra Pradesh for raising the Minimum Support Price of paddy to Rs.1000 per quintal on par with the MSP of wheat. Earlier there used to be parity in the Minimum Support Price of these two crops.

I appreciate the decision of the Government of India for giving the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 1000 per quintal of wheat. This is very much justified. The cost of the inputs of the paddy has increase abnormally like any other crop. The expenditure per acre of paddy production in Andhra Pradesh State is much higher than the rest of the country. The present MSP of paddy is less than the cost incurred by the peasants.

Even though the Government has increased the MSP of paddy by announcing a bonus of Rs. 50 twice, it is not sufficient enough to meet the expenditure. I would request the Government to take a positive decision in this regard. I would also urge upon the Government to increase the MSP of cotton and other agricultural crops as the cost of inputs and other expenditure on agriculture are increasing.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to kindly ask the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to make a Statement here or will such situation be allowed to continue. Sir, I want your intervention in this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Sir Girdhari Lal Bhargava, the best MP I am calling.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I would like to associate with him. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can send the slips mentioning names.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate. Mr. Thomas, you have not even bothered to give notice and are trying to take advantage of other Members' notices.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Shri Bikram Keshari Deo would like to associate with him.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to the plight of the passengers which has become a regular feature. It has also appeared in *The Times of India* of 27th instant titling 'Delhi to Dubai in over two days'.

Sir, it has also appeared that many passengers booked on Air India's Delhi-Dubai flight on Saturday and they had to wait 49 hours to take off. They had been offloaded because of overbooking and put on the next day's flight which got cancelled due to a bird hit. Kept in suspense, they were taken to a hotel only at 2 a.m. They returned to the airport at 11 a.m. and waited another 10 odd hours before taking off on Monday night. The picture is there.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot read newspaper in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important question. A handful of people who

[Shri Girdhari La] Bhargava]

participated in the Freedom struggle are still alive. It is my humble request that their families be declared as national families. Those families have been awarded plaque as well as pension. The persons whom pensions were granted are no more. I would like to request that families of such persons must get sustenance allowance. Since we have declared them National families, therefore, it is extremely necessary to grant pensions to those families to meet their household expenditure. If a national family is starving and is not leading a respectable life and wander from pillar to post then it can not be called a national family. Therefore, it is my humble request to the Government that if the persons who were honoured by conferring plaque and granted pensions had died, then pension should be granted to their families forever and wards of such families should be given priority in Government jobs on the basis of their qualification and such pension should be equal in all the States. This is my request and I think that the Government would certainly look into this matter because it is a very serious matter. There are only a handful of such surviving people who had participated in the freedom struggle. Therefore, the Government must look into this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Other matters at the end of the Schedule Business.

12.53 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

MR. SPEAKER : The Matters Under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to improve the mobile services provided by MTNL and BSNL in the country.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL (Kota) : Mr.

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

Speaker, Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited are public sector undertakings. The quality of their mobile service is not good and they are not providing broadband connections as per demand and lakhs of villages are out of WLL telephone ambit. Their employees have gone on strike a number of times demanding improvement in the system as well as purchase of necessary equipments. Due to this shortcoming one does not get a call connected and if at all it gets connected reception is not clear, the call gets disconnected while talking and redialing also does not help.

Through you I would like to request that all necessary efforts should be made to improve quality of service. Required equipments should be procured and the vacant posts must be filled up. The inconvenience to the subscribers must be avoided by making available the necessary equipments. Effective steps should be taken in this regard.

- (ii) **Need to ensure adequate wages and social security to Beedi workers in Bhandara and Gondia districts of Maharashtra**

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE (Bhandara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, beedi-manufacturing units have been functioning in Bhandara district in Maharashtra for the last 50 years. Nearly 2 lakh beedi workers are employed in this industry. Beedi companies pay Rs. 20 for per thousand number of beedis for 14 hours of work whereas as per the instructions of the court they ought to be paid Rs. 69 for per thousand beedis. Many labourers are not issued employment cards by the companies due to which they are deprived of PF, health facilities, scholarships for students and pension.

Pension laws are also outdated in view of the prevalent rate of inflation. Presently they are getting a meagre amount of Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 as pension. The Government should amend the law to increase their pension to Rs. 1500/- and should also increase their wages and number of beedi cards issued to them.

**(iii) Need to provide subsidy to farmers directly with a view to improve their conditions**

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a subsidy of nearly 45,000 crore rupees is provided in the country for agriculture and this subsidy is given to the fertilizer companies. There is a likelihood of this subsidy being augmented by 60-70 thousand crore rupees this year. Sir, there is nearly 35 crore acres of arable land in the country. If proportionate subsidy is provided directly to the farmers then the subsidy would amount to nearly Rs. 2000 per acre. This would provide direct benefit to the farmers. Similarly, the Government intends to raise the ceiling of loan amount for the farmers whereas the farmers have not been able to repay the loans they have already taken. Hence, Sir, the farmers should be provided loans but they should not become debt-ridden. Their loan-repayment capability should be strengthened. Hence, I would like to demand, through you, that loan amount proposed to be provided to farmers should also be granted in form of subsidy on per acre of land. This would enable the farmers to get a subsidy of Rs. 7000 per acre. As a consequence, the economic condition of the country's farmers would improve and 75 crore rural citizens of the country would reap the benefits.

**(iv) Need to grant clearance for the construction of Chandia dam project in district Sagar, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, some span of submerged land area of Upper Chandia dam situated near Shahgarh in my constituency Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) falls under the jurisdiction of Forest Department. In this context, the State Government has sent a proposal for NOC to the Union Forest and Environment Department. This dam would not only benefit the farmers but in fact the land area which gets submerged in water would help in extending irrigation facilities and the problem of drinking water scarcity would also be resolved. The wildlife of the area would also get a sanctuary and would flourish as a consequence.

Hence, the Union Government is requested to assist in getting NOC for Chandia dam from Central Forest and Environment Department.

**(v) Need to repair the stretch of N.H.-215 from Panikolli to Rajamunda in Orissa**

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar) : The condition of National Highway No. 215 from Panikolli to Rajamunda is getting bad to worse due to inadequate attention paid on repair, renovation and upgradation. The road from Raisuan to Rajamunda has not been upgraded despite the fact that the urgency of the completion of the widening work has been brought to the notice of the Government time and again. More than 15000 trucks carrying minerals are plying on that National Highway everyday. The truck owners are depending on that road for transporting iron ore to Paradeep. Traffic jam is the order of the day causing a great difficulty for public transport. At times the passengers are stranded for hours together to reach 5 to 10 kilometres while they are going to the district Head Quarters or to mineral belt of Joda and Barbil areas. People going to the commercial city of Cuttack or the State Capital Bhubaneswar are not able to their destination on time.

Unless the construction of this National Highway is taken up on war footing, the people of this traditionally backward and predominantly tribal area will continue to suffer.

Since that National Highway is the life line for the people of my Parliamentary Constituency, I demand that the completion of the entire stretch upto Rajamunda be started expeditiously with adequate Central assistance. For permanent solution the proposed fourlaning work should be started simultaneously.

**(vi) Need to appoint a nodal agency for monitoring the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan in States**

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam) : Special

[Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam]

Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) is a constitutional obligation under article 275(1). Planning Commission issues guidelines for its implementation. Government of India allocate budget to States and ask them to implement through a nodal agency. Out of 22 States only 2 States had nodal agencies.

TSP has been implemented in AP without nodal agency till now. After a prolonged agitation, the Government formed a symbolic nodal agency last month. If we see the allotments to our State, the amount released during 10th plan is not as per the guidelines. Only 1.2% is allotted as against 6.6% of Tribal population. The schemes taken up under TSP are neither area specific nor pro-tribal. For example, minor irrigation projects taken up are mostly beneficial to non-tribal population because tribals are landless. Often the funds are diverted to other schemes. Hence I urge upon the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to monitor the TSP funds through a proper nodal agency and allot the funds to States as per the proportion of the ST population.

**(vii) Need to open Procurement Centres in paddy growing areas**

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : The Agriculturists all over India are demanding immediate hike in minimum support price of paddy. As there has been steep rise in the prices of inputs like seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, power, irrigation etc., the MSP for paddy announced recently by the Central Government i.e. Rs. 645/- p.q. for common variety and Rs. 675/- p.q. for grade A, does not reflect the present day cost of cultivation. Therefore, the agriculturists are demanding that the M.S.P. for paddy for this year must be above Rs. 1000/-p.q.

Separate Purchase Centres should be opened immediately throughout the Country particularly in all paddy growing regions.

**(viii) Need to upgrade the Agra airport to the level of an International Airport**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Agra is a world-famous tourist spot. Foreign tourists visit Agra in large numbers to view Taj Mahal and other buildings of the Mughal period but there are no international flights from Kheria airport in Agra. Nearly 12000 tourists visit Agra daily and they face great difficulties. The Government of India has recently given permission to establish Taj International Airport at Jebar (Bulandshahr) which is situated between Greater Noida and Agra. It is a purely political decision. The experts say that the distance between two airports should be at least 200 km. Agra already has the infrastructure for an airport and it lies at a distance of around 200 km. from Delhi.

I urge the Union Government to upgrade Kheria airport in Agra to the level of an international airport.

**(ix) Need to release a commemorative postal stamp in honour of Pandit Parmanand, a great freedom fighter from Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the great freedom fighter, late Pandit Parmanand was born in a Kayastha family in Sikrondh village, in tehsil Rath, district Hamirpur in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. He dedicated his life to freedom struggle for the country. He travelled to many countries in this connection. He was endowed with the title of 'Pandit' as he knew many languages. He remained imprisoned in various prisons in the country for nearly 40 years. He served an imprisonment sentence of 22 years in Cellular Jail, Port Blair. Even today Cellular Jail boasts of his nameplate. He is recalled daily in the sound and light programme. The recognition and respect due to him in view of his contribution towards the country has not been accorded to him due to which people are

agitated. He was known as Parmanand Jhansiwala. Parmanand Jhansiwala.

Hence, it is my request, through the House that instructions be given for issue of a commemorative stamp in the name of Pandit Parmanandji in order to keep alive the memory of the contribution made by him for the country and to immortalize him for his countrymen.

**(x) Need to expedite the setting up of AIIMS at Patna**

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the six institutes equivalent to AIIMS proposed to be set up in different States is being set up at Patna (Bihar). Allocations for the setting up of AIIMS at Patna were made in the budget for 2002-2003. Now going by the progress made in this regard during the last six years, it is highly unlikely that the AIIMS at Patna would come up even ten years from now. Bihar is one of the most backward States in the country. The people of Bihar have to travel to Delhi or other places for treatment. Majority of the patients are not able to get medical treatment and they lose their lives. Setting up of one AIIMS at Patna will provide much relief to the people of Bihar, particularly the patients from the remote areas who do not have the capacity to afford medical treatment.

I, therefore, through this House would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to it and request him to expedite the setting up of proposed AIIMS at Patna and to make appropriate arrangements to get it completed at the earliest.

**(xi) Need to construct railway line linking Bhadrachalam-Kovvur and Manuguru-Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (Hanamkonda) : A survey has already been conducted to the Bhadrachalam to Kowur and Manuguru to Ramagundam new Railway lines which

will serve and connect the backward areas of Telangana and the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has already agreed to contribute 50% for the new lines between Manuguru and Ramagundam.

The line between Bhadrachalam and Manuguru is already existing hence if the above two lines are taken up immediately connectivity between the coast of Andhra Pradesh to the Northern India will shorten and the rate of returns is expected to be 26% as per survey.

Hence the new line may be taken up immediately.

**(xii) Need to confer the status of a classical language to Kannada**

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar) : The Government of India has been pleased to accord Tamil the status of a Classical language. It has also indicated that similar recognition will be extended to other Indian languages which fulfill certain criteria. We welcome this imaginative step which will enable languages with a rich heritage spanning several centuries, to accelerate their planned development and thus add to the brightness of the glorious spectrum which we call Indian Literature.

The Government of India have subsequently spelt out the criteria for the recognition of a language as a Classical Language. These are as follows :

1. High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a thousand years.
2. A body of ancient literature/texts; which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
3. The literacy tradition has to be original and not borrowed from another speech community.
4. The classical language could be distinct with its later current form or could be discontinuous.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

I submit that Kannada more than satisfies these criteria.

The earliest recorded word is 'Isisla', occurring in the Brahmagiri inscription of King Ashoka (3rd Century). Kannada is a member of the Dravidian Family of Languages and has a history of more than two thousand years. Ptolemy of Greece visited India. Names of cities recorded in his travelogues are clearly of Kannada origin. Over 25,000 inscriptions in Kannada have been found, not only in Karnataka, but also in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

The Kannada script is derived from Brahmi. The 'Courier' the official document of the UNESCO, writing on Asia Scripts (1964 page 16) recognizes the Kannada script as one of the major scripts of the world.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to accord the status of a classical language to Kannada on priority basis

12.54 hrs.

#### DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS

(GENERAL), 2007-2008

AND

#### DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS

(GENERAL), 2005-2006. . .contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We now come to Item No. 14, Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). Shri K.S. Rao.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for keeping India as a destination for investment by all the world nations. We know it very well that most of the multinational companies throughout the world are giving first preference to India, having felt that this is the best place where they can invest

their money in industry, trade, business and in every other field.

Sir, there is another aspect. I also congratulate him for seeing that the tax revenue is growing.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, there will be no luncheon recess today; this debate will continue till 2 p.m.

SHRI K.S. RAO : The tax revenue is growing very impressively. There is excellent tax compliance with 85 per cent of the assesses filing tax returns. Possibly, there is a change in the thinking of the assesses these days that they must pay the tax and then make their money official. Particularly, the direct tax revenues are increasing by 43 per cent, which is a good indication, thereby leading to a very robust growth in the economy.

12.56 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH in the Chair]

When it comes to the question of purchasing power, we stand very high in the world of nations. We are perhaps one of the largest world economies. I am very happy that the GDP growth rate was 9.4 per cent in 2006-07. I am always optimistic that with a little more effort, it can always cross the two digits.

Yesterday, my BJP friend, while speaking, appreciated that there is a GDP growth rate of 9 per cent during the tenure of our UPA Government. But he was telling that it was very natural. If it were to be natural, I do not understand why it was not so during the NDA Government. It had gone down to the extent of 4 per cent at one time.

Similarly, my BJP friend was referring to pension funds. He said that they used to pay 10 per cent during their tenure and now it is being reduced. Every one of us is aware that by virtue of increase in the average living age of the people, most of the employees now live longer than what they used to live earlier. Naturally, the burden on the Government is going up. The burden on the Exchequer is going up year after year. So, without affecting

the interests of the employees, we have to find an alternative way. For that, the Government of India has already brought a Bill, and then referred it to the Standing Committee where we discussed it. We felt that by giving it to the fund managers and putting adequate securities for the funds, the employee will be benefited more than what he will be by taking the 10 per cent guarantee. But then, as my colleague said, there was difference of opinion in regard to this, particularly from our Left friends, because of which it could not be decided. But this is very good even for the employees also without putting any burden on the Government. So, my humble request in this context to our Left friends, is to accept the Bill and then bring it immediately so that we can pass it. That is in the interest of the employees also.

In regard to the petrol prices, my BJP friend was referring that during their tenure they had dismantled the Administered Price Mechanism. Now, in spite of the fact that the international prices of oil have gone up from 35 to 100 dollars per barrel, the Government of India is not increasing the prices. He found fault for that. Actually, till yesterday, they were raising the slogan that the Government should not increase the oil prices. But now he found fault for not increasing the oil prices. Possibly, he could not find means to make allegations on the Government of India in the coming elections in Gujarat. He thought that the other way of making allegations is speaking about their not increasing the oil prices. This is very surprising. I could not understand the rationale behind it. He also said that it is a fraud on the common man. Not raising the prices for the common man particularly in regard to kerosene and cooking gas, is it a fraud on the common man? Does it mean that raising the prices is not a fraud?

**13.00 hrs.**

I just want to understand this from my friend. He also said that the regime of the NDA Government was an era of plenty, and now it is an era of scarcity. I do not know what is scarce in this country now. We have got everything available. If he were to say that we have imported paddy

or wheat, that was done during the regime of the NDA Government. So, such occasions can come once in a way in any Government because of the nature. There may be some rains or may not be some rains and because of which there can always be fluctuation in the production of food grains, about which we need not be perturbed. The country has reached a stage of self-sufficiency in food grains. On that account, he cannot find fault.

Now, I come to the foreign exchange reserves. Now, the foreign exchange reserves have gone up to more than 260 billion dollars, which is possibly one of the seventh largest in the world. That is a plus point really but my friend was finding fault even on that.

Sir, possibly because he sits in the Opposition, he felt that it was his duty to criticize the Government. If that were to be his motive, I can understand that but I do not find any substance in criticising the Government in this regard. Had he raised some other points pertaining to poor or people below the poverty line or the farming community, I would have been happy and even supported him but I do not find any substance in his criticisms.

The information, which was 7.4 per cent in April had been brought to 3.01 per cent in November. In spite of this hectic activity in industry and flow of foreign funds into the country – it is really to the credit to the hon. Finance Minister – the hon. Finance Minister is able to regulate and control the inflation to 3.01 percent.

Similarly, the hon. Finance Minister had promised to the nation that he would bring the revenue deficit to zero over a period of time. It is coming to that very soon. In regard to the fiscal deficit, he promised to reduce it to three per cent by 2008-09, and I am sure that he will be able to keep that up. This is also the best indication about the national economy.

Now, I come to capital flow, which is 62 billion dollars. It is not in the entire year but between April and October of this year, there is a capital inflow to the tune of 62 billion

[Shri K.S. Rao]

dollars and FFI to the tune of 17 billion dollars. What more is required to show that the economy is flourishing?

Sir, in this context I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister some of the points which I have in my mind and which I expressed time and again during my speech on several occasions.

Sir, the growth in agriculture is 2 to 2.5 per cent in this country. It has necessarily to be brought to four per cent. Now, the agricultural sector is contributing about 17 per cent of the GDP, and by bringing it to four per cent growth, the share of the agricultural sector can go up to 35 per cent. That is essential because more than 65 per cent of the people are living in the rural areas and most of them are depending on agriculture. Their income has to go up. Their purchasing power has to go up. No matter how much development we have achieved and no matter how much growth we have achieved in this country, it will not have real meaning unless it reaches those 60 per cent of the people who are living in the rural areas. How will the rural income go up? Now will the income of the agricultural farmers go up? Firstly, the production per acre must be increased. That is possible only when the hon. Finance Minister concentrates on giving more allocation to Research and Development. The production of food grains in China, which has less cultivable area than what we have in India, is to the tune of 400 million tonnes, and the production of food grains in India is only 209 million tonnes. But this has to go up. So, my humble request to the hon. Finance Minister is to please consider it. He should not get satisfied with the shooting up of the share prices with the Sensex moving up to 19,000 or 20,000 points. There is a terrific inflow of money, and India has become a centre for investment. Everything is positive. But unless this growth, this boom, this income, and this wealth generated, reach to the people living in the rural areas including the farmers and the farm labours, it would not make any sense.

So, I want the hon. Finance Minister to concentrate in the coming years on agriculture, rural areas and the people living below poverty line. I do not say that he has not done anything for the farmers. I do say and I congratulate him that he has increased the credit to the agricultural communities, to the farmers from Rs. 75,000 crore to more than Rs. 2.3 lakh crore. Similarly, the rate of interest also has been brought down from 12 per cent to seven per cent. I give him full credit for doing all this. But having seen the plight and the problems of the farmers in the field – I had made a request to him earlier also – I am again requesting him that the rate of interest on the credit to the farmers must be reduced to three per cent; or even brought to zero per cent after some time. There is nothing wrong in it. It is because, in three days when the share price index had gone up, it was said in the newspapers that the market value of the capital of those industries have gone up by Rs. 5.4 lakh crore. . .

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The mill-owners have been benefited.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : It is only on papers.

SHRI K.S. RAO : All right, it is on papers. Even on papers, their wealth has gone up. When the wealth has gone up to Rs. 5.4 lakh crore in three days pertaining to the industrialists, should it not be the same thing with the farmers?

MR. CHAIRMAN : For sugar mill owners, it is zero per cent.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Yes, Sir. I am limiting myself only to farmers and BPL families. Even to Self Help Groups, this has to be done I am sure, he would realize and he would take a decision to reduce the rates of interests

further on the lending to the farmers, farm labours, BPL people and Self Help Groups in the coming years.

Sir, I have seen the allocations made in the Supplementary Demands. I have been telling since 1985 in this House that I do not find any reason as to why the Budget allocations must be made to the Economic Ministries, be it the Ministry of Civil Aviation, be it the Ministry of Railways or be it the Ministry of Petroleum. All these Ministries must not be given any allocation in the Budget. The entire revenue collected must be put on either education, welfare or on connected activities for the benefit of poor people and the rural development. I can understand about the allocations being made to the Ministry of Rural Development but certainly not to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Why should allocation be made to the Ministry of Civil Aviation? If a private corporate sector, who is purchasing an aeroplane and paying interest on it, and then also paying tax to the Government could survive, why should not the Ministry of Civil Aviation run on their own? If they want any money, they must raise the money from the market and then pay interest, but it should not be from the Budget resources.

While I am not against the Government support to the Public Sector Undertakings but those Public Sector Undertakings, which are incurring losses in spite of getting package after package, should not be considered for such support regularly. Suppose, a steel industry in the Government of India were to lose because of its inefficiency and if they demand and get a package or permission to increase the price of steel, the real benefit is taken by the private sector because they work efficiently and increase their margin. That is why I say that such industries under the Government should not be encouraged at any cost. You can give them some powers. Suppose, if they are given money, they must ensure that their industry runs into profit; then, they can allocate some profits to the employees or they can give more and more benefits to their employees; there is nothing wrong in it. But continuously feeding them from the budgetary

resource is putting tax on the common man. . . .  
*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Kripal ji, it is not proper toward newspaper in the House. You should go to library for this purpose.

*[English]*

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, I have seen the allocation. The allocation made to the Ministry of Civil Aviation is Rs. 548 crore; the allocation made to the Ministry of Coal is Rs. 127 crore; the allocation made to the Ministry of Commerce is Rs. 900 crore. I can understand some allocation to the Ministry of Petroleum for some time, but even then, it is Rs. 11,256 crore. Then, see the allocation to the Ministry of Textile? Should it be a continuous process for decades together? In spite of a huge allocation to the Ministry of Textile for decades if it runs into losses, should the Government go on providing such allocations to them year after year? Is there no end to it? Shall we not put a full stop to that at some point? Sir, I want the hon. Minister to think on this matter and do not waste the funds of the public on these industries and deprive the poor people who are below the poverty line. I have been asking the hon. Minister that the entire BPL families in this country must be provided with health insurance. I gave the statistics. It does not cost more than Rs. 6,000 crore. All the families must be provided with health insurance, and the burden can be shared by the State Governments and the Central Government.

Now, today if a poor man were to go to the Government hospital anywhere in the country, he is not getting the right treatment. In fact, he has been neglected. Even if he were to be at the stage of dying in another one hour, no doctor is coming and looking at him. If he wants to go to a corporate hospital, he cannot pay. So, what is his situation? We have to take care of him. He will also be working right from the age of 10 or 12 and up to the age of 65. When he had been working, he could not save even one rupee either to purchase a house site or

[Shri K.S. Rao]

construct a house, while the wealth of the industrialists like Ambanis is going up from Rs. 1 lakh crore to Rs. 2 lakh crore in one year. How long should it continue? Sir, 60 per cent of the poor people remain in debt for ever and then they go on selling their land year after year, acre by acre while these people are making money by lakhs and lakhs of crore.

How much disparity is being created between a section of the poor and the rich? How long should it go? How can there be peace in this country? Over a period of time, we blame the Naxalites; we blame the terrorists; and we blame all these people. But we must go into the genesis why all this agitation is coming. It is because the disparities are very vulgar, too much. That is the reason why this entire situation is coming. So, while appreciating the creation of wealth, which is basically to be done, we must also ensure that this one reaches the common man also to a reasonable extent. It is not that everybody must be equal.

Now, in this context, I would like to say about the Minimum Support Price fixed for the agricultural products. What is the mode of fixing the price for the industrial products? While fixing the price of industrial products, if you were to take 80 per cent of the loan from institutions, the interest paid on that 80 per cent is loaded into the cost of the products and for which year of 20 per cent of investment, he is taking profit on it and then he is charging for his own services rendered. His wife, himself, his daughter and every member acts as a Director. All those things are loaded into it. Over and above that, the share value increase and all these things are added to that.

While in the case of a farmer, the method of calculating the Minimum Support Price for paddy, they take only the inputs' cost into the farm cultivation, that is, tilling the land, raising the seedlings, plantation, cutting and then taking the produce to the house plus nominally Rs. 3,000 per acre. An acre costs Rs. 3 lakh or Rs. 4 lakh or even

Rs. 10 lakh in certain areas. If you were to pay even six per cent per acre, he must pay Rs. 20,000 on interest alone. Why is this different method of fixing the price adopted in the case of farmers?

We have asked recently when the paddy price was fixed. Even in that context I appreciate the Union Government because during the NDA's Government, in nine years, they have raised the price of paddy by Rs. 180 only. In three years of the UPA Government, we have raised the price of paddy up to Rs. 185. So, in comparison we have done well. But we must go to the root cause and then see whether it is still reasonable. So, I humbly request that not only for paddy but also for cotton, maize, groundnut and almost for all the agro-products, while fixing up the price, it must be done on the same pattern as the Government is doing in regard to the industrial goods.

Sir, I will take two or three minutes more.

Similarly, now, today how can a poor man in a village come up? We agree that once again he has allocated good money for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to see that the drop-outs are reduced. Our observation is that if 100 people were to join the primary school, by the time they go to the college, only six per cent goes.

That means the drop out rate is 94 per cent. Why is it happening? A poor man says that instead of sending his child to a school, if he were to send him to the field, he can get a wage of Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 whereby his income is increased. In the net effect, the child is remaining without getting education. So, they are providing the funds. What kind of education are we giving to them? We are giving them education of 10th class, 12th class, and intermediate, and by the time, he completes his BA or MA, he does not have a job. So, once again, the situation remains. So, my humble request to the hon. Minister is to please do it on a war-footing and see that vocational education in the country starts from 8 class. If a boy, be it from poor section or middle class, were to be trained in a profession in which he has got some interest and

if he were to learn and acquire skills in that profession, by the time, he completes 12th class, he must come to a stage where he will acquire self-confidence and the skill, on which he can depend on his own either for self-employment or for getting employment. So, I am saying that this require immediately allocating funds for giving skills to all the people in the rural areas in one sector or the other by which their lifestyle can be improved.

The poorer sections have got a lot of patience in this country. All that they are asking for is food grains at a subsidised price, then shelter, a permanent house, then healthcare – we may put some limit to take treatment from the hospital of their choice – and finally good education. Can we not provide these things? Is it not the duty of the Government?

Similarly, for old people, I am happy that the other day, he started Indira Gandhi National Pension Scheme and without putting a limit to it. He said that there was no limit of the money and any number of people can come in. I am very happy about it. I had been asking for it for a long time. Let him not restrict the number and let it be anybody from a below the poverty line family. If he crosses 65 years, he must be provided this pension. I would request the hon. Minister to allocate more funds to such schemes than to the economic Ministries.

I support this Bill and while supporting it, my humble request is that these points should be taken care of.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : Sir, I support the Supplementary-Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2007-08 presented by the hon. Finance Minister. Sir, it is true that any Finance Minister has to come with the Supplementary Demands and there is nothing wrong with it because no Finance Minister can understand what expenditure we can take in the near future or in the coming year.

Yesterday when my friends belonging to NDA spoke, they said what they had done was not being followed by the UPA Government. The UPA Government came with the

popular verdict and it was against the policies of the NDA Government. So, there is no question of following the norms or steps taken by the NDA Government. So, the UPA Government is to take steps according to the National Common Minimum Programme adopted by it in the beginning itself.

It is true that there is high growth rate of above 9 per cent and it is also true that we have been able to check the inflation rate, but I could not understand one thing that while we have such a good growth rate and we are also able to check the inflation rate, these factors are not translated into the experience of the common people. That is the main issue that the people now face

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The issue is governance.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : So, we have to think about it because I think that the discussions – we have to approve the Supplementary Demands – may give some more facts, especially in the economic situation beyond these facts and figures. There are a number of Government surveys and international surveys with us. You see that there are about 146 million people in the world who are suffering because of malnutrition. It is sad to say that 57 million are in India. Sir, we are at the forty seventh stage. We see that in Africa, it is 33 and in China, it is 9. When we see the growth rate, at the same time, we are not able to see these realities in the lives of the common people. As per another survey, 72 per cent of the rural people are suffering due to lack of better drinking water. It further states that 75 per cent of the people are living in small huts where there are no facilities; 55 per cent of the Indians do not have enough land; and 33 per cent are illiterate. I am highlighting these figures because we say that there is high growth rate and low inflation rate and it is true, but we are not seeing this being translated in the lives of the common people. Six crore people have a monthly income of only Rs. 322, and those are considered below poverty line. Therefore, we can imagine the situation being faced by the rural people in our country.

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

The NDA Government and the people from the NDA side were speaking about 'India Shining'. I do not say that no change has been brought about in the situation in this country by the UPA Government. Of course, there are some changes that are visible, and I would like to give some more details of it. The World's Billionaires Report brought out by Forbes mentions about 946 billionaires. We can be proud that 36 of them are from India, and 14 of them have been enlisted last year. Therefore, on the one hand, we can see that there is high progress, but we also get to see the stark reality when we go to the villages and see the rural people there.

Now, I would like to talk about the life of the common people. The main issue that is being talked about nowadays is price rise. We are still not in a position to control rising prices of rice, wheat, sugar, pulses, vegetables, cement or metals. I do not know the reason for not being able to control the price rise. We have got some suggestions regarding this issue, and the Government has to think over it. We had made these points during the discussion that we had last time also.

Firstly, there is failure in the food policy. I am saying this because the Government has to procure grains whether it is wheat or rice from the market. But we find that big companies like Reliance take away the food grains, and fill their godowns with it. Hence, we are faced with shortage of food grains.

Secondly, there is failure in the PDS. Our experience in Kerala shows that price rise can be controlled to some extent with effective implementation of the PDS. But the PDS can function properly only if they get sufficient quantity of food grains. The States are getting very less quota of food grains in relation to the classification of the APL/BPL card holders in the States. As far as the State of Kerala is concerned, it is getting only 1/3rd of its quota because of this classification issue. Therefore, I would request that the PDS has to be strengthened. If the people can get

the essential commodities through the Maveli Stores or the Neethi Stores or the Fair Price Shops (FPS), then to some extent they can get the essential commodities at a reasonable price. Many of the major items were taken out during the NDA regime. I would request the Government to strengthen the PDS. This can only be achieved if we prevent hoarding and black-marketing. I feel that we have to take these points into consideration when we talk about controlling price rise.

I fully support and agree with Shri Rao's views on the issue of agriculture. We have pension scheme in every sector except for the farmers. The farmers have no confidence to go to their fields because they have to face drastic fall in prices of their produce, low productivity and various diseases that affect their produce. We want to encourage confidence among the farmers. Hence, I would suggest that there should be a pension scheme – as is there in other sectors – for the farmers in order to achieve this objective. In Kerala, we have formulated such a scheme costing about Rs. 200 crore, and the Government of Kerala has requested the Central Government to give an assistance of Rs. 100 crore in it. Therefore, the issue of the farmers has to be taken up seriously.

I also fully agree with a point made here that the procurement price must also be considered. There is an increase of Rs. 150 in wheat. We really congratulate the Government for taking this step. At the same time, such importance is not being given to paddy. This has to be taken into consideration.

In the committees, there was discussion about providing preservation facilities in rural areas, as far as perishable goods are concerned. Nearly 30 per cent to 35 per cent of perishable goods like potatoes, vegetables and fruits are lost due to non-availability of storage facilities. To improve the storage system, the Government has to allot some more money because we need storage facilities in the villages, and it is not possible for the farmers to create storage facilities as they do not have the necessary financial support.

The Swaminathan Committee has suggested some clear plans for Kerala, especially for Alleppey and Kuttanad. They have suggested to the Government to allot Rs. 1824 crore for this purpose, but no action has been taken. I would request the Government to take the necessary steps immediately.

As far as our country is concerned, on the agriculture side, there are problems relating to cash crops. In my State, it is true that the major income comes from these cash crops. It is so for not only Kerala but for entire India because the Government earns a lot of foreign exchange. If you look at the figures, 90 per cent income comes from pepper; 83 per cent income comes from rubber; 56 per cent comes from cardamom; 46 per cent from coconut; 26 per cent from coffee; 12 per cent from cashew; 7.5 per cent from tea and 2 per cent from areca nut. This means that the cash crops have become a major source of income for the States, and they also contribute to some extent to the Central revenue. At the same time, we see a drastic fall in the prices of cash crops like pepper, tea, coffee, areca nut, etc., excepting rubber. It is to some extent due to the import policy of the Government. Earlier, the price of one quintal of pepper was Rs. 21,000 in Kerala, and now it has gone down to Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000. Similarly, the price of areca nut per kilogram was Rs. 160, and now it has gone down to Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 only. Some steps were taken by the Minister of Agriculture with regard to coconut. Some policy decision was taken in that regard. However, the fall in prices is due to the policies that are being adopted. These are all issues where the Central Government has to take necessary action.

Of course, we cannot fully disapprove of imports. At the same time, restrictions and qualitative control should be there. Necessary steps have to be taken by the Government.

There are strong protests by the retail traders throughout the country. There are nearly 5.5 crore people who are doing retail trade and the number of dependents on them is much more. They should not be abandoned,

and the Government should come up with some legislation for monitoring or supervising them. We are not able to take any action because there is no law. That step has to be taken by the Government.

There was a discussion with the Civil Aviation Ministry. In Kerala and also in other sectors, Indian Airlines and Air India have taken on some additional routes, but the charge on fuel which Indian Airlines and Air India have to pay is higher. I do not know why Air India or Indian Airlines should suffer. This duty should be taken away or the charges should be lowered. We have been demanding that for a long time.

I admire the fact that some positive measures were taken by the Government in the last two or three years, as far as my State is concerned. However, I am said to say that public sector investment in Kerala is gradually reducing. It was 2.9 or 2.8 earlier; then it was reduced to 2.2 and 1.9.

Planning Commission says that education, health, housing and other sectors in Kerala are in a better position and so Government investment in those sectors can be less. It is true that in these sectors Kerala has made much progress. However, Kerala needs assistance in higher education, health, security and judiciary sectors. New diseases like Chikungunya are occurring and cancer cases are on the rise. Kerala has a long coast and it requires special financial assistance for the security of its coast. Modernisation of judiciary is the need of the hour. I, therefore, request the Government to provide more assistance to Kerala.

Norms of some of the Central schemes need to be changed. Implementation of NREGA is an issue which we have to look into. It is a very good scheme. However, norms of this scheme apply equally to all the States. In India we have different States belong to different categories of development having different features. Therefore, there should be some flexibility in the norms for implementation of this scheme. The Government of

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

Kerala has suggested that construction of houses by BPL families should also be allowed under the scheme. That is not allowed under the scheme now. If that is also allowed, that would be of assistance to the people.

PMGSY is being implemented for construction of roads in rural areas. Under the scheme, norm for the width of the road is about eight metres everywhere. The density of population in Kerala is very high. So, it is very difficult for the State to take up projects under this scheme. So, changes have to be made in the norms of this scheme also so that it can be really of assistance to the people.

Finally, I would like to raise the issue of pension for freedom fighters. I have raised this issue sometime earlier also in this House. We are entering the 61st year of our Independence. However, we see that a large number of our freedom fighters are not getting the Central pension. The Central Government has identified as to which are the struggles that are to be considered struggles for this purpose. In my own State there were many struggles like Punnapravayalar, Kayyur, Karivallur, etc. There are many other struggles like Telangana, Thebaga, Goa, in other parts of the country. On the instruction of the Central Government, the State Government had constituted a Committee at the State and District levels which monitors, screens and decides as to the people eligible for this pension. The State Government takes a decision based on that and releases pension to them. We demand that the Central Government should also follow that decision. If those people go to the High Court, they may get their pension. But it is not possible for them to do so as most of them are old and sick now and some of them are not even alive now and are being represented by their relatives. When we come here, the officers, not the Ministers, ask us to produce a certificate. How is it possible to get a certificate about something that happened in 1943? If the Government can take a decision based on this and release pension to those people who

are drawing pension from the State Government, it will be of immense help to them. That is a long pending matter which needs to be resolved.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Central Government has presented Demands for Supplementary Grants and it is 33,290.87 crore rupees. Every Government comes to the House and puts demands for money. It is not a new tradition. To support the demands is an obligation but I would like to state that after the budget the Government has placed its demands in the House for the second time. It means that our budget estimates have been proved completely wrong and the approach of those people, who prepared the budget, was not practical. They did not act wisely and therefore, the Government had to come to the House twice. That is why the Various Ministries have presented demands for 30420.12 crore rupees and the Government has presented the demand for the remaining 11,879 crore rupees in cash.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is demanding 7051 crore rupees for Plan expenditure and a hefty amount on non-plan expenditure. Apart from this the, Government has demanded 4300 crore rupees for market stability. The irresponsible policies of the Government have led to destabilization of the market. I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Finance that along with these demands he should review all those factors leading to the destabilization of the market. It is the need of the hour that the Government should review those wrong policies leading to present circumstances. The Finance Ministry has stated that it would provide 3000 crore rupees to the projects being implemented in several States. These projects are being executed for a long time and these have not been completed yet due to inaction on the part of the Government. I have already raised this issue many times before in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India has no mechanism to check whether the funds allocated by the

Government of India for the development of the States is being spent on the right place and at the right time or not. It is my request to the hon. Finance Minister that it needs to be checked. The Government of India has given 1500 crore rupees to the State Government for expenditure on the projects but the State Governments are not spending the same properly rather they are spending the same on other items. It is the need of the hour that it must be reviewed whether that money is used properly or not.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government will give 11,257 crore rupees to the oil companies. I cannot understand that those oil companies which will issue bonds are likely to incur loss afterwards. A question was asked from the Government on 15th November whether the oil companies in our country were running in profit or in loss. The Government replied that the IOC's profit before tax was 7400 crore rupees, the net profit of BPC was 1864 crore rupees and the net profit of HPC was 1150 crore rupees. Keeping in view the appreciation in the value of rupee vis-a-vis dollar, the exchange rate is estimated to go up during April to September, 2007. According to that estimate the profit of IOC, BPC and HPC is respectively 966 crore rupees, 304 crore rupees and 264 crore rupees. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister that on the one hand the Government says that these oil companies are making profit and on the other hand funds are being given to those oil companies. I cannot understand this and whenever the Minister replies, he should clarify why the need for giving more funds to these oil companies was felt.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has provided 565 crore rupees to support and promote agriculture in the States. Agriculture is such a sector where there are larger opportunities of employment. The major part of agriculture depends on the rains. The Government has fixed the minimum support price of wheat at 1000/- rupees per quintal but the Government too acknowledges this fact, as reported in the newspapers, that the wheat crop is not likely to be good. The main reasons for it are that the

farmers do not have irrigation facilities and other resources. When the farmers do not have these facilities, they cannot be benefited even if the price of wheat is fixed by the Government at 1000/- rupees per quintal. There are no proper arrangements for irrigation.

The irrigation projects which were started in our country during Pandit Nehru's times and also during the Second and Third Five Year Plan have not been completed yet. As a result, their project costs keep escalating and the farmers are not benefited by them. I am of the view that more amount should have been allocated for this sector so that farmers would have been able to produce crops. Government is not providing any protection to farming. I would like to request the Government through you that it should set the order of priority with regard to the various sectors and provide them funds and protection accordingly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, finally, through you, I would like to request the Finance Minister to fix the order of priorities with regard to spending amount. More amounts should be spent on subjects related to basic needs of the common man. In particular I would like to request to provide more protection to the agriculture so that farmers may prosper. If farmers prosper, the country will prosper. Thank you.

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar) : Thank you Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2007-08.

Sir, farmer is the backbone of our Indian economy. This is being said by the Government for the last 60 years. But unfortunately, the condition of the Indian farmers has not improved. Our Hon'ble former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji has given a slogan "Jai Kissan Jai Jawan", but the farmers in India are born in debt, live in

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

debt and die in debt. Sir during the 16th century A.D. there was a great poet Sarvajna in Karnataka, who said "Agriculture is the best education than all other education systems". But today farmers are being neglected. As a result, farmers are committing suicides at a large scale. Being the son of a farmer, I know very well about the plights of farmers. I can understand their problems very well. Therefore, I would suggest some important steps and I also request the Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri P.Chidambaram Ji to consider these in the next Budget.

- (i) Farmers should be provided easy loan from time to time.
- (ii) Quality seeds should be made easily available to farmers.
- (iii) Appropriate information should be provided to farmers about alternative crops.
- (iv) Remunerative prices should be given to all agricultural products.

If the Government take up these steps it would be of great help to the farmers, who are feeding the whole nation. Farmers can be rescued from committing suicide.

Sir, during the period 1993-2003 about 1,00,248 farmers have committed suicide. It was the highest number in of suicides the world. The centre should come forward to check this menace.

Sir, sugarcane growers get only Rs. 800/- per tonne of sugarcane. This is a very meagre amount. That is why I urge upon the Government to fix Rs. 1,600/- as M.S.P per tonne of sugar cane. M.S.P. should also be fixed for milk, silk, wheat and other agricultural products.

Sir, milk is being sold at only Rs. 13/- per litre, whereas one litre of Bisleri water is being sold at Rs. 16/-. In the same way potato is being sold at Rs. 10/- per Kg. whereas the price of potato chips produced by multinational

companies is Rs. 200/-. Wheat is being sold at Rs. 15 per Kg. but the price of one Kg Biscuit, is Rs.80/- which is a by product of wheat.

Sir, what a great irony it is? It is very unfortunate that the Government is not looking into these anomalies. All possible steps should be taken up to rescue the farmers from destruction. The Government should understand that the progress of the nation depends upon the progress of the farmers.

Sir, as far as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is concerned, thousands of crores of rupees is being spent by the Government of India every year. But the Government has failed to bridge the gap of literacy rate between Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other communities. The situation is not much different as far as women education is concerned. Women literacy rate is very low in the country, only God knows when this gap can be abridged. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in his reply would give satisfactory reply to this problem. I would site an example. Sir, Shri D.M.Nanjundappa commission has identified 32 talukas in Karnataka as backward. 10 out of 32 taluks are identified as most backward taluks. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister what concrete steps are being taken by the Government to develop these backward taluks in Karnataka.

Sir, as far as to Software Industry in Bangalore is concerned, 35% of the total software production of the country is being exported from Bangalore alone. It is a matter of great concern, that these software companies are moving out of Bangalore due to lack of infrastructure.

Kempambudi lake, which was constructed during the regime of Shri Kempegowda, Alsur lake, and other hundreds of lakes in Bangalore are desisted. As a result, capacity of these lakes has decreased. What is the fate of these lakes?

Roads, in Bangalore are in a very bad shape. The cases of road accidents increasing day by day. At least five people are being killed in road accidents every day

in Bangalore city itself. There is acute shortage of drinking water in Bangalore. Power cut has become a routine problem all over Karnataka. In such a pathetic situation software companies are moving out of Bangalore. For instance "Apple" a software company has already moved out to United States of America. At this juncture if the Government is not coming forward to extend financial support to develop the infrastructure in Bangalore it would lose its importance. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister the measures taken up by the Government to improve the infrastructure in Bangalore. This is very urgent.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, you can lay your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Okay, Sir. Thank you.

\*Sir, my constituency, Chamarajanagar is one of the most backward districts in the country. My constituency is lagging behind in all respect as far as development is concerned.

Therefore, my humble submission to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to consider the following genuine demands related to my constituency. They are:-

- (i) There is an urgent need to set upon Indoor Stadium, in Chamarajanagar.
- (ii) Shortage of Doctors and Nurses is there in the hospital in Chamarajanagar. This aspect should be looked into immediately.
- (iii) One Central university should be established in my constituency Chamarajanagar.
- (iv) Shri Male Mahadeshwara Hill is one of the great pilgrimage centres in Karnataka. Everyday thousands of devotees are visiting this famous hill temple. But there is no development is

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\* . . . \* This part of the speech was laid on the Table

taking place here. Therefore I would like to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister whether he would take steps to provide more funds for the development of this famous hill temple. With these words Sir, I thank once again for giving me this opportunity to speak and conclude my speech.\*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Is there no other hon. Member to speak? Are there no more speakers?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : Sir, I want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to finish it by 2 o'clock.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : But we were told that it will be completed tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. At 2 o'clock, we will have to take up some other business.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, if he wants to speak, please give him a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, Shri Chandrappan, you may speak for a few minutes now.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : Sir, when the discussion was opened by Shri Swain from NDA, he said that when they were ruling their policy was a policy of plenty. Probably he was thinking of presenting that India shining slogan again. From the Government side Shri K.S. Rao spoke. He spoke of the GDP growth, the efficient tax collection, robust growth of economy and all that. When you look at certain realities, how the Government is going to answer them is an important thing.

Our criticism always about the UPA Government is that they have not faithfully implemented the Common Minimum Programme. Take for example, the newly elected

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\* . . . \* This part of the speech was laid on the Table

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

General Secretary of Congress submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding that the Employment Guarantee Scheme should be implemented all over the country. We were all demanding it during the last Budget Session also. The Finance Minister said that it will be done gradually because of the financial constraints. Once the Congress General Secretary submitted a representation to the Prime Minister, then came the announcement that all over the country it is going to be implemented. If the Government is serious about it, I welcome that but I do not see any reflection of it in the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The announcement was that remaining districts will be taken up from 1st April, 2008.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : You will do that from 1st April, 2008. That is good.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : When we introduced it in February 2006, it was to be implemented in 200 districts. Then we extended it to 130 districts. Remaining districts will be taken up from 1st April 2008. There is no contradiction in what we have said. It will be done in a phased manner.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : So, it will be there in your next Budget. To that extent it is okay.

After all, what is the growth? Is it reflected in GDP alone or the rise in the stock markets? It can be assessed in many other ways. In the morning a question was answered on the Millennium Development Goals. India is a country and we are all proud that it has achieved 9.2 per cent GDP growth. I wish there is two digit GDP growth, as Shri Rao was wishing for. The Prime Minister has repeatedly pointed out that until and unless we get 4 per cent contribution to the GDP by the agricultural sector this shining growth will perish. If you look at the Budget as a whole and the Supplementary Demands for Grants, you do not see a very conscious effort being made to make

the agrarian sector strong. Yesterday, I was reading the agricultural policy published by the Agriculture Minister. About 60 per cent of our people depend on agriculture. Swaminathan Committee recommended a number of things. He recommended a draft agrarian policy based on which the Cabinet has approved the Agrarian Policy Statement made by Shri Sharad Pawar. Now, one of the key recommendations of Swaminathan Committee was that the peasants should be provided agricultural loan at four per cent interest. The Government has not taken any steps so far to achieve that.

I was reading an economic article wherein the writer wrote rather sarcastically that the dream of 1.1 billion poor in India is to become a cow in the next life in the United States because they spend two dollar a day on a cow. Here we have one dollar a day as income. Around 1.1 billion people are having less than that income. So, we have to address how those people could be given a better life rather than looking at the glamorous figure of the GDP growth and at the billionaires who are growing.

In the last Session, there was a big criticism of inflation which was going out of control. Now, inflation is under control. But how has it been controlled? It has been controlled by importing everything. Now take one case of import. Liberal import of palm oil has been allowed. Palm oil means what? All the South Indian States produce coconut and especially Kerala produces nearly 60 per cent of the coconut in the country. The price of coconut has fallen to a level of less than Rs. 3 a coconut as palm oil import is going on merrily. In that way, if you control inflation, how does it help the people? The inflation should be controlled by taking measures so that people could be benefited. Here what happens is that inflation is reduced and edible oil shortage has been arrested by importing palm oil in a merciless manner. You are bringing millions of farmers into conditions of poverty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You have already taken ten minutes and you assured me that you will speak for five minutes.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, I would have liked to speak more but anyway, I will not take more time.

So these are certain things which I would like to bring to your notice. Yesterday, we were meeting the Minister of Civil Aviation and it was mentioned here. I was surprised to know that on aviation fuel, the Air India has to pay a tax which is not being paid by the foreign airlines which are flying in the same route. They said that due to this tax, they are losing Rs. 200 crore.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Which tax are you talking about?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : You must be knowing it. That kind of discrimination should not be there between our public sector undertakings and foreign companies. Again the burden goes on those poor people who are working abroad. They are sending foreign exchange which the Finance Minister always finds convenient to keep so that his economy is set in balance. Let me say that our people who are working there – some of your people are also there – are penalised because Air India is charging more. If you want to have the tax, other companies should also be taxed. There should be equity when you are dealing with such things.

Sir, keeping in view the constraints of time I would like to conclude my speech here by saying that we support the Budget but would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to be more concerned about the problems of the common people of this country.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh) : Sir, we are talking about the additional Demands for Grants (General) 2007-08. Many learned Members have presented their views before the House. There has been a fruitful discussion on this. I would like to present some views in this regard as to how much investment has been increased in the agricultural sector. The soul of India resides in its villages

and we are an agriculture oriented country. From time to time Additional Demands for Grants are presented before the House. The approval is asked for and is granted also. I would like to urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to pay attention while giving a reply to issues like how much investment has been increased in the agricultural sector, how much employment was generated from that, what are the schemes to be implemented and how are the funds going to be spent, with details of arrangements duly made for the purpose?

Agriculture is the mainstay of Indian economy and we constantly have discussions on agriculture. They talk about formulating big schemes but so far the employment oriented work that was to be done has not taken place. Now that they have brought Supplementary Demands I would like to know as to what does the Government propose to do to start the works that are lying pending or to initiate new works?

Everybody knows as to what is the irrigation capacity of our country. The average irrigation capacity of the country is told to be 40 per cent and in States like Bihar this capacity is merely 20 percent. Since, India is a drought prone country, whether the irrigation capacity in the country would be increased and if it will then how much? On the one hand floods occur in many rivers of the country whereas on the other hand a large part of the country is suffering from drought. Central Bihar is believed to be drought prone whereas the North Bihar has to face floods. It is being discussed since long time that talks are being held with Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Nepal and water management would be done so efficiently that North Bihar would be safeguarded from floods. Floods and drought are not just the problem of Bihar infact, it is the problem of the entire nation. Each year when floods occur, lakhs of people are displaced and a huge loss of life takes place. I would like to know from the Government as to what action it is going to take with regard to the Additional Demands for Grants presented here.

[Shri Vijoy Krishna]

13.58 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

We discuss a lot about wasteland, there is lakhs of acres of fallow land in the country. We would specifically like to know from the Government as to how much wasteland has been converted into cultivable land after the independence with the funds spent for this purpose? Because I believe that even today the Government does not have any data or draft in this regard. The UPA Government is surviving on trust and we wish that this trust remains and strengthens further to enable it to move on. Therefore, when he gives a reply on this issue, I would like to know from him as to what steps are being taken to convert stony, desert and wasteland into cultivable land and how are the funds being utilized for the said purpose, what is the progress made in regard thereto? We have had a special discussion here so I would like to conclude my speech without going into further details.

14.00 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Indo-US Nuclear Agreement

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will, of course, continue the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) tomorrow.

We will now take up the discussion under Rule 193 on the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement. Hon. Members, it is a very important matter and I am sure the debate will be of a very high order. I would request all the hon. Members and the Leaders to see to it that this is discussed with proper importance and dignity. I would request that Heads of foreign friendly Governments should not be referred to in the discussion.

Hon. Members, the discussion on the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement has been admitted in the names of Shri P. Karunakaran and Shri Rupchand Pal. Shri P. Karunakaran has since requested me to allow Shri Rupchand Pal to raise the discussion on his behalf. I have acceded to his request.

Now, Shri Rupchand Pal.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : What you have said is absolutely correct, but you have mentioned that an agreement has been reached that discussions must be held under Rule 193. We insisted that discussions should be held under Rule 184, under which voting must take place. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

It is for you to decide on the issue. I thought that I can just tell this point.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling and it was accepted by the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir, I have a point of order.

MR SPEAKER : What is your point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I would like to raise a point of order under Rule 253.

[English]

I am not going to challenge you, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Say, what is your point of order?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The legal controversy that has cropped up on this treaty has never happened before, whereas we have entered into treaties with many countries

earlier. Now, they were going to withdraw the support and topple the Government, it is my request to you,

[English]

I am not going to challenge you, Sir,

[Translation]

A legal opinion has also been given on this by Shri P.B. Sawant.

[English]

"The Union Executive has no authority to enter into a bilateral treaty unless it is ratified by the Parliament."

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry. This is not a matter for a point of order. When you would be speaking, you may make the statement and speak on it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You know that it is not a point of order.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, at long last, this august House has got an opportunity to discuss a very very important deal, the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Deal. It has a serious bearing on the future of this country, its economy, its relationship with other countries, its nuclear programme and its energy security. It is good that we are discussing it today and we are thankful to you, Sir, the Leaders of the Government and all the concerned that this opportunity at last is given to us.

In the last Session, we have been insisting on such a discussion on this important deal but we had been denied of it because of interruptions by the main Opposition. We could well understand the reason as they continued to be confused about their stand vis-a-vis the Nuclear Deal. Firstly, it is they who had initiated it and the hon. Prime Minister had very rightly mentioned, when the delegation of the BJP met him, that it is your baby. But they want to put the ownership of the baby in a different

language. What is the language going to be? We will come to know of it because different voices are being heard on it. One is by Shri L.K. Advani, the hon. Leader of the Opposition who, at a point, said, "No, no. We are in full agreement with the deal."

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Please make your stand clear. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Now some Opposition Leaders are writing articles and making speeches. They are speaking in different voices. According to the BJP, they have no objection to the strategic alliance with the US and 14 rounds of secret discussions have taken place.

Fourteen rounds of discussions have taken place between Shri Jaswant Singh and Mr. Strobe Talbott. Of course, they took place in different places and most of them were secret discussions. I demand from the Government what have been the issues that have come out in the latest book "Engaging India" by Mr. Strobe Talbott who tells us a lot of things that without the concurrence of the Government, without taking into account the national consensus about our foreign policy, without taking into account our national interests, certain commitments have been made. As it happened for their wrong economic policies, the claim for India shining when India was suffering, the people had put them in right place. So, also when people come to know about their position vis-a-vis their surrender to the US pressures people will react similarly. But we expected something different from the UPA. When the Common Minimum Programme was being framed, at that point of time, might be that some suggestion had come about the strategic relations with the United States and the Left had categorically stated 'no'. The Left cannot be a party to it. So, there was a demarcation of the UPA vis-a-vis its independent foreign policy and the policy of the previous NDA Government which had a definite tilt towards US for a strategic alliance which by now is revealed in more than one document.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Now, when the Government, the hon. Prime Minister, had come out with a joint Statement on 18th of July, 2005, even at the very beginning, the Left had expressed certain apprehensions. It is not that overnight the Left woke up and said, 'no', we cannot agree to it. If you go without our consultation, and as we are a supporting partner, we cannot be a party to it. We say that we cannot be a party to it. We have serious reservations in respect of various provisions in the 123 Agreement itself. Then, on the basis of that there have been certain discussions. We have raised nine points relating to the Deal where we differ and we have serious reservations *vis-à-vis* the Draft. The hon. Prime Minister in August gave some assurances. Then in 2006, December came the Henry Hyde Act which was reconciliation between the two earlier drafts. What came out, how to give the exemption, what sort of waiver should be given in the US Atomic Energy Act, 1954 etc.

Sir, under the leadership of Henry Hyde, a Draft was prepared and after the Left came to know of the provisions in the Draft, they made it clear to the Government that there were the nine areas where the Left had objection and the nation need to be reassured by the Government on these. In August, the hon. Prime Minister came out with assurances on all those points. But to our dismay, we found that in the Hyde Act of December, 2006, most of the important assurances given by the hon. Prime Minister on the floor of the House were trampled and ignored. This was in relation to technology transfer, in relation to fuel supply, in relation to congruence of Indian foreign policy with the US foreign policy, specific reference to Iran, uninterrupted fuel supply and on very many other issues. We shall come to that one by one.

The hon. Prime Minister had categorically stated one thing – the nuclear cycle in its entirety. This is very important.

But we found that it was selective. It was selective even in respect of lifting of the sanctions. Transfer of sensitive technology as well as transfer of dual use

technology was denied. The Government claims that from a regime of technology denial, we are entering into the mainstream global nuclear arena; we are a recognised nuclear power also. But that was not so. It is not only in respect of the technology transfer but also in the case of fuel supply, the assurance given was very vague. We have the experience of Tarapur. We found that there was no assurance regarding uninterrupted fuel supply. This was taken up again and again. The Government is trying to say:– "No. There is an assurance." Even in the case of termination, what will happen? There is a termination clause. What is the termination clause? In case the Government of India goes in for a nuclear explosion, then the termination can take place. The termination can take place for various other reasons and extraneous reasons directly unrelated to the civilian nuclear energy also. In the case of a termination of the agreement, the fuel supply, the reactors, equipment and everything will have to be returned. Although there is a clause on which the Government is trying to argue by saying: "No. In that case, the US is saying that it will help us to take corrective measures", yet you if relate the 123 Agreement to the Hyde Act. It is something else.

The relationship between these two is important. Would we find that only the US Congress can grant the permanent waiver and just condone you. The Hyde Act specifically mentions that the US will stop any other country from providing the fuel supply in such a scenario termination of the agreement. That means, you are nowhere. That is the issue that we have been making. Canards have been spread saying that we are doing it at the behest of China; we are doing it for that and we are doing it for this. So, canards have been spread. Is it not wise to ask whether our nuclear reactors will have uninterrupted fuel supply? What is the guarantee? You are going for the agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency in perpetuity. But nuclear fuel supply is not going to be in perpetuity. It is conditional. Is it not wise to ask this question? The whole gamut of the fuel issue, these extraneous issues are there. Our patriotism is being questioned. We have the past experience also.

Several times, the Communists have been charged saying that they are unpatriotic. But history says something else. In the party there are some best men and women of the country who sacrificed most for the freedom of this land, who suffered most for 30-40 years in jail, some of whom have been Members of this House. We have made suggestions about settlement Indo-China border. We had said that it should not be resolved by an armed conflict but by dialogue. The Government is now doing it. Many others believe that this is the right way. For making our suggestion, we are accused. Today also when we are saying the right thing, we are being abused like anything. But we are not going to take it lying down. We are asking: "What about your uninterrupted fuel supply?"

Now, I am coming to all the nine points given by the hon. Prime Minister. What will happen to our strategic autonomy?

If we look into the speeches prior to this agreement, we do find that it had started long back during the talks between Shri Jaswant Singh and Mr. Strobe Talbott. They talked about military exchange, strategic alliance and to have a new regional architecture in Asia to contain China and very categorically in a writing very recently published it is being said by no less a person than the Chief Interlocutor Mr. Nicolas Burns that it is an age of anti-Americanism. Yes, throughout Latin America, countries like Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Ecuador and Bolivia, Venezuela are opposing the United States of America. Look at the world, Russia is standing up against any threat which it could not do a few years back. It is a changed world. Even inside America, - I am not naming - the present President is the most hated person amongst Americans.

MR. SPEAKER : It need not be said like that.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I have not named anybody.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, but let us discuss with dignity.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, India under NDA

cooperated with them in Iraq. Some others have also done in other parts of the world. In the United Kingdom, those who have supported America have gone out of power, in Australia also they have gone out of power and in Japan also they have gone. So, this is the age of anti-Americanism. This is the admission made by Mr. Nicolas Burns and in this age, what is required? What is required, according to that article of Nicholas Burns, is that in Asia, US must have a new regional architecture, new military status, naval exercises, new friends and it is being said in the same article that "US is only just beginning to realize the benefits of this relationship for its interests in South and East Asia". So, you can well understand the situation.

Sir, why are the 'Henry's' of America losing their sleep? I am not naming anyone. Mr. Henry Hyde has done the job elsewhere and some other 'Henry's' are coming here, meeting the people in the Government, meeting the Opposition leaders and all that. Once in a millennium one benefactor has come, losing his sleep. We are questioning the Agreement and saying that we are not going to be benefited by it. They say, 'No, it is in your benefit', although we know it is in their benefit. Repeatedly it is being said that it is in their benefit for creating a new regional architecture in Asia. For a new Asian NATO, they need India. Once they wanted to balance Pakistan and India, there was talk of composite dialogue and all that, I am not going into that here. But now they want India. What do they say? The July Statement says that the Indo-US Nuclear Deal is one part of it. They say there will be collaboration in the fields of agriculture, education, economy, politics, military and it is a total package and in the midst of the total package, there is one deal. In the language of Mr. Nicolas Burns, it is the centerpiece. That is not all. So, they want us to ignore our independent foreign policy. They are openly saying that non-alignment is an old thing and telling us to leave it. Again and again they are telling us not to go in support of Iran. They want us to ignore Iran and unfortunately we have been doing it. Twice India voted against Iran in the International Atomic Energy Agency.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Our Indian delegation was amazed by the directive that had come from the top quarters. How is it? Our friend is Iran. Civilisational contacts are there. On the Republic day in recent past, we had an honoured guest from Iran. We have our relationship. We depend so much on our oil supply from Iran. Why should we ignore them? But we did. In nine references, Hyde Act says, 'India, you are going to be rewarded and Iran is not behaving properly, they are going to be punished. Help us to punish Iran'. Is it the way, Indian should pursue its independent foreign policy?

Was it the legacy we had from our Freedom Struggle – a well tested Non-aligned Policy on the basis of a national consensus? It is a new multi-polar world, unilateralism is not working anymore. It has been admitted by Nicholas Burns day by day that they are getting isolated. At such a time, India should stand by America and isolate themselves, at their dictate. We should refrain from undertaking the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas project on their instance India had voted against Iran as asked by us. It is very unfortunate.

This is not simply a vision of an independent foreign policy, it affects our strategic programme also. The hon. Prime Minister's argument is that Indian economy is growing like anything, nine per cent or nine-and-a-half per cent. They can go on saying any figure because it has nothing to do with the livelihood common people. Even his Cabinet Minister has admitted that this growth, this percentage is not reflected amongst the people. As per their own report more than 70 per cent of the people of India are living on Rs. 20 a day.

In the perspective for growth, we need more energy. Who can deny it? The Left is not denying it. Have they any policy? The only policy document they have got is the Eleventh Plan Mr. Parikh Document on Integrated Energy Policy. There what they have said. Have they got any vision? They have said Nuclear Power Projections by

2020, 2030 and so many things. Have they got any national policy on the energy mix? How do you calculate this? What is the study? What is the analysis? What is the cost of imported reactor? Nothing has been done and suddenly comes the nuclear renaissance. We cannot miss the bus. Bus to which end, to what goal, whose goal?

Nuclear renaissance is a hype. In America itself, no nuclear plant has been set up for 30 years since Three Mile Island disaster. They are depending, Westinghouse GE, etc. and all other nuclear companies, on outside sales only. Even the international document says that Nuclear Power is now 16 per cent of global electricity consumption. It is an international body. If you want, I can read it. In this our Rev. Pachauri Saheb.

[Translation]

This is hon'ble Pachauri Saheb's report. Who is a Nobel Laureate, the study group report says

[English]

that it is only 16 per cent and with the best endeavour you can reach at 18 per cent.

[Translation]

What is it that we do not have on account of climate change and energy security.

[English]

The people have been telling – the MP from Arunachal Pradesh is here, he has written to me and spoken to me – that there is 60,000 MW potential in hydro electricity in N.E. alone. What is the difficulty? There is no money. Only in the North-East, this potential is there, the study says that and we have not exploited it. Have you no coal reserves? Is it exhausted? Is there no clean technology available in India today? Is there no Coal Bed Methane (CBM) or no liquefied coal technology available? I would like to know

whether you have any national coal use and national coal policy. There is nothing like that. In such a scenario, you are opting for the nuclear energy which is costly. According to a draft calculation in Kudankulam, it was calculated that it would be – even after Russian concessional help, and the nuclear cost would be around Rs. 4 to Rs. 5.50. It is not cheap. Now the question is that if it is not cheap, why are you going for that? If you have so much to pay – our independent foreign policy, our strategic programme, our own domestic nuclear programme, we have to go at their instance, they may use nuclear blackmail in various situations which they have done - why should you go for it? Is it to benefit them? Their ailing nuclear industry will be rejuvenated and more jobs will be created there. It is the admission of Condoleezza Rice. But it will be done at the cost of India. We have so much of unemployment. We will have no jobs. There, we will have jobs because there nuclear reactors will come to India.

We have a self-reliant domestic nuclear programme. We are not against nuclear energy. We want an appropriate, judicious, nuclear energy mix. We are being told that there is no money; resources are not available. Suddenly, we are opting for the most expensive nuclear energy at their instance. Is it going to help us? No. What I want to say is that if you go for the cost benefit, India is not benefited. It is being said that 123 Agreement is different from the Hyde Act, why we are worried about the Hyde Act. Who says this? Sir, 123 Agreement is in conformity with the Hyde Act. Wherever there is no dispute, it is okay. If there is any dispute, their national law will prevail. It is very specific. The Left had put its viewpoint on the relationship between the 123 Agreement and the Hyde Act very categorically as to what is the international position, what is the Vienna Convention about international treaties and all these things. They are saying China has done it.

[Translation]

Sir, China is a nuclear weapon State.

[English]

China is a party to NPT. Why are you comparing India with China? The contract between China and the United States is being guided by international law. Ours is guided by US national law. This has happened in such case, say, about the fast breeder reactor in Japan and all these things and in all such areas. What has happened in the case of Japan? By arbitration-But Indo-US nuclear deal is put on a level which is detrimental to India. They say, no, the present President has assured us in writing. What is the use of this writing? The future President will go by the American law only. In such a situation, what we have been saying is why are you so eager that we should not miss the bus, which bus I do not know, for which goal, that also I do not know. We have the experience of ENRON. Have you forgotten that? It is not only about the price; we have said so many things about it. We have said: "Do not do it." They say: "No, it is a different world." In a different world, you have gone for ENRON and Maharashtra people will tell us better as to what is the situation.

I would just like to take this opportunity to tell the Government that ultimately – the Left has told you – you can go to the international atomic energy. But, what for? We want a concrete assurance about the uninterrupted supply. That you have not done for the Russian Programme; you have not signed it. It is a different issue, I am not going into that Kudankulam issue.

The re-assurance from IAEA has to be according to India's specific requirement because it will be India specific safeguard. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to what the India specific safeguard is? What is the guarantee?

You are saying that our fast breeder reactors will also be under the supervision of the international agency in perpetuity. Our nuclear scientists have said that our fast breeder reactors are superior to others in certain areas. We work on a particular nuclear cycle by which you can use the spent fuel, enrich it and go on.

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

Now, nuclear waste management is a big problem to the Western world. In such a situation we have certain advantages. But putting the fast breeder reactors under the supervision and under the safeguard, will it be helpful to us?

Now, I come to re-processing. It is very vague. It is notional only. Whatever assurance has been given is only notional. They say that under a dedicated arrangement, we should have this use of spent fuel and all these. What is the cost? So, it is not a simple question of a strategic alliance. It is surrendering to their pressure. As they are getting isolated, they want to get India also to be isolated. It will harm us immensely at the WTO level in our negotiations. Our friends are in G70, Gil, and G90. Against whom are we fighting? China, India and Brazil are fighting against the American agricultural subsidy. They are our friends. In so many international bodies and also in the emerging bodies, we are all friends. What message will it go now? After 60 years of India's Independence, India did what India has never done. They mentioned this in their speeches.

The Congress Party people can read these aspersions about how they had been dealing with Soviet Russia and others during the time of Pandit Nehru. They had the audacity to mention that the Soviet weapons were flooding in the Indian military. We have 126, Multi Role Combat Aircraft. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Please give me one minute.

Apart from that, they are saying that India should simultaneously open up banking, India should open up insurance and India should open up foreign retail. In such a scenario, we think that this Government is not applying its mind to the dangers in the Deal itself.

It is said that 90 per cent of the Indian civilian nuclear reactors would be under the supervision of IAEA. How do

they calculate? That is the question I am asking. Nicholas Burns, who is the Chief Interlocutor, himself is writing that 90 per cent of the Indian civilian nuclear reactors will be under the supervision of IAEA in perpetuity. That also is in perpetuity. Then, we know their concept of democracy. They are saying that with India, they will just stabilize democracy in so many countries. What will happen to our relations with so many other countries? We know as to what sort of democracy they have. We know what happened in Iraq and what happened in Afghanistan. Now, strangely we find the change in Government voice in terms of its support to Palestine and in relation to various other Middle-East issues. It is toned down so substantially. We apprehend that the pressure has started to work on them.

Sir, I am concluding now.

He further says that 'the military co-operation is impeded by the fact that much of the Indian Military still uses a considerable amount of Soviet Union equipment. A significant Indian Defence purchase from the United States, for example, of the new Advanced Multi-role Combat Aircraft that the Indian Air Force take, would be a great leap forward.' So, 123 is not 123; 123 is also 126, that is, their aircraft.

He says about the Indian Arms Bazar, Indian Insurance Market, Indian Banking, Indian Retail and India as an ally to guard the seas and the Navy. And, they are insisting on PSI, Proliferation Security Initiatives. They are insisting on many other such Agreements, which we did not agree earlier.

We know, very recently the nuclear materials equipped ship had come. There have been Australia, Singapore, the US, Japan and India joint exercises. What signal had it sent? What was the reaction to our neighbours? What happens? It is the logistic agreement that the fuel services would be allowed and they would take the fuel here, and they would just wait in the Indian Ocean or the Bay of Bengal. They are waiting. Will not our neighbours be suspicious about us? For the fault of America, we will have

to suffer, we will be punished. It had happened long back. When these people were agreeing to send the Indian troops to Iraq, the whole august House woke up and said: "No." But still they were hesitant. There was no condemnation. They used the only word 'deplorable'.

Sir, I am just concluding.

MR. SPEAKER : It should be actual concluding.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am concluding.

About the timetable, they are hurrying up and saying: "By January, you must have to do this; this has to go to the US Congress" as if their Parliament, their US Congress is superior to the Indian Parliament. The Indian Parliament must discuss it. Let there be a sense of this House. We know that in our Constitution, there is no provision of ratification of any International Treaty. We shall discuss it later on when the time comes.

But it is our earnest appeal. We have submitted our viewpoints. On the PM's assurances with regard to all the reservations we had made regarding the Draft Bill, most of them have been trampled down by the Hyde Act. Our apprehensions have been proved true repeatedly. Please take the sense of the House. Do not proceed further because the majority of this sovereign House is against this very, very important Deal, which has a serious bearing on the future of this country, on the future economy of this country, on our nuclear programme, on our self-reliance and on our relations with other countries in an emerging multipolar world.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though it is not the first time that we are discussing this particular matter, but I still believe that at this point of time, this has become a very important debate in the history of Parliament.

Just now, Shri Rupchand Pal, while concluding his speech, said that he would like a sense of the House to be taken so far as this issue is concerned. I for one see no reason why the Government should not have agreed

to have this discussion under Rule 184 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

I can understand that irrespective of what the vote is, the Government may say that the Constitution does not obligate us to seek ratification for any international treaty. Therefore, you have expressed an opinion. There are occasions when the House expressed its opinion.

MR. SPEAKER : May I interrupt you for a second? When I had given my ruling on the notice under rule 184 in the last Session, I had not consulted the Government. Therefore, Government's willingness has no relevance for me. It is because you said why did the Government involve.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I accept it. But I think that so far as the sense of the House is concerned, it has already been expressed on several occasions. Once when we staged the walk-out against something that had been said on this particular issue from the Government side, almost all sections of the House walked out. In fact, from even the UPA, the Left Parties also walked out with us. There have been other occasions also. I am not going to go into that.

Today, the Prime Minister is here and I would like to recall that when first he met President Bush way back in the year 2005 when exactly this debate started in the country among political parties, among thinking sections of the people, a question was posed to him two days after his Joint Statement with President Bush had been issued on Nuclear Cooperation. The question posed to him at a Press Conference held in Washington on 20th July 2005 was this. "Mr. Prime Minister, do you see any resistance coming forward from your Allies—obviously, they had an inkling of what is likely to happen—and the Opposition?" So, despite what my friend Mr. Rupchand Pal may say about Strobe Talbot and all that, they knew that on this particular issue, we had certain very strong reservations. So, the question posed was: "Do you see any resistance coming forward from your Allies and the Opposition in putting the new India-US Policy to practice, and will you seek a Parliamentary consensus or approval to the new

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direction you seem to be taking in Foreign Policy?" So, they take it for granted that it is a new direction in Foreign Policy that this Government is taking.

The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh replied: "Well, the Parliament in our country is sovereign. It is my intention to make a Statement in Parliament when I go back home, and it goes without saying that we can move forward only on the basis of a broad national consensus." Now, my first poser to the Prime Minister is this. Do you see this broad national consensus before which you have used the word, "only if there is a broad national consensus"? In this country, we do not have any provision in the Constitution for a referendum as is there in some other countries.

But so far as Parliament is concerned, I am sure that you are aware, everyone is aware that there is no consensus on this particular deal. So, when it is obvious that there is no broad consensus on this deal, why are you so rushing into this deal? Why? I cannot understand this. Why can you not think in terms of what we have suggested all along? Think of ways of re-negotiating the deal.

Their objection is not to the deal so much. You could see it even in the first sentence itself. It is either anti-Americanism or anti-BJPism which becomes the guideline for all of them. So their very first sentence is that they are against any kind of strategic partnership with the United States. We are not. We are not. So, when people quote me, Strobe Talbot or Jaswant Singh's book or my Statement which I made, I simply emphasized this. While in the discussions in the other House, many times it may seem that the CPI(M)'s opposition and the BJP's opposition is identical. No, it is not identical.

The difference I wanted to stress in that particular Statement which was supposed to be a shift in my stand. No, there has been no shift all along. I would like to tell you one thing. It is true that in the last Session, this issue

could not be discussed as it ought to have been. Why? It was because after all, we said why we cannot have a Joint Parliamentary Committee on this. The Government did not agree and instead first said what has been done is signed and sealed and it is not negotiable and therefore, we cannot have a Joint Parliamentary Committee going into it. But it was a surprise for the country to find that instead of a Joint Parliamentary Committee in which all could have participated including the Left, you formed a Committee of the UPA and the Left. How do you explain it?

Today, my second poser to the Prime Minister and the Government is this. What has been accomplished by this joint committee of the UPA and the Left till now? From the Press all that we see is that the Committee met and decided to meet on this day again. Very often these days it appears that while the Congress is particular about the deal and says 'bachao the deal' the Left, especially the CPI(M) suddenly says 'bachao Bengal'. Not only that, but the kind of flip flop that you are making makes me feel that you are no longer concerned with the deal; you are more concerned with the timing of elections. You do not want an election now and therefore, you say, 'All right, you go ahead with IAEA, talk to them and we will see later'. We have a veto with us. Do not deceive yourself and do not deceive the country. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We are not deceiving. . . .  
(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : You are where you are, but it is certainly expected of a party which is part of a coalition, which is part of an alliance not to behave in this manner. I will see their outlook later. I will come to the deal itself.

I was surprised to find that in one of his earlier Statements made in Parliament, the Prime Minister said on 13.8.07 :

"As I have said, this is an agreement for cooperation between India and the US on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Its genesis is the shared perception between

the India and the US that both our countries need to address their energy challenges. . ."

I can understand that we are looking at it from the energy point of view, but I do not see how America also is looking at this deal from the point of view of energy. What is mentioned in this Statement is 'its genesis is shared perception'. The US is certainly not looking for nuclear energy as a major option, leave alone the most important option to meet its energy challenges; we may be. I can say that we have our energy concern which I share, though I do not agree that this is going to be a solution to that, but the US is certainly looking at this from a strategic angle. This is the difference. They are not looking at it from the energy angle.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Would you just concede for a second?

If you just go to the second sentence of the 123 Agreement, which is an agreement between the India and the USA, it says:

"Recognizing the significance of civilian nuclear energy for meeting growing global energy demands in a cleaner and more efficient manner... "

This is the agreed text of an agreement. The agreement is yet to be finalised. Therefore, both USA and India recognise the need of sharing the common perceptions of energy.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Thank you, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. I can only endorse what my friend Shri Rupchand Pal just now said, namely, that there has been no nuclear reactor that has come up in America for many many years. Therefore, . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : You just see what you said a few seconds ago, and what was my contention.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : No, I can understand that you can have it in a format, but so far as reality is concerned, the

reality comes out very clearly in other Statements that they have made. I will quote them later on. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : You can give your own argument, and I have no problem with it.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It is my conviction that while our concern is energy, their concern has been all along strategic. The strategic approach adopted by Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1974 and pursued further by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1998 is to see that it is contained. This is their principal objective, which I will prove just now.

They are not concerned too much with this as for them it is only Russia and China who have the right to build-up nuclear arsenal. So far as India is concerned, they are opposed to it irrespective of which Government is in power whether it is the Congress Government or the NDA Government. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We are advocating universal disarmament.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I can quote even a recent Statement that: "Our approach on the nuclear weapons is clear from the very beginning. India must not go in for weaponization in the nuclear field." This is your Statement, and I can understand it. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We are supporting universal disarmament.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, Dr. Manmohan Singh in the famous statement made at the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant on August 31 said that : "India cannot afford to miss the nuclear bus." He said that : "There is today talk the world over of a nuclear renaissance, and we cannot afford to miss the bus or lag behind these global developments."

The UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, went a step further while speaking at Jhajjar in Haryana when she said that: "Those who are opposed to the deal are not only enemies of the Congress, but also of India's development." I do not know why people should use words

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like enemy in this context meaning both the Left Party, who are allies to the Government, and the NDA, which is certainly opposed to the Government. We are political adversaries, and none of us are enemies of any other Party. But this statement mentioning 'enemies of development' is difficult to believe.

I have with me the Integrated Energy Policy Report of the Expert Committee set up by the Planning Commission. It was released in August 2006. It has taken into account all the promises made in respect of energy in the nuclear deal. The Committee was headed by Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, and Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was also a Member on the Committee. I would like to quote just one portion of it. The Report says that : "Even if a 20-fold increase takes place in India's nuclear power capacity by 2031-2032, the contribution of nuclear energy to India's energy mix is also, at best, expected to be 4.0-6.4 per cent." This is the total. It further says that this is an optimistic scenario, and possibilities of imports of nuclear fuel would be made possible if the Indo-US Agreement is not impaired. Only then, will there be this scenario - 4 to 6.5 per cent. Now, how can this be called a Deal to ensure energy security for the country? Certainly not; it is so obvious. Let us not delude ourselves.

It is true that my Party, the BJP, earlier the Jan Sangh, has been the only Party - in 1964, China had its nuclear blast at Lop Nor - which in 1964 itself moved a Motion in the Lok Sabha, but in 1966, we formally adopted a Resolution in our Party's National Council at Varanasi that India must build up a nuclear deterrent of its own. I can tell you that in those days all other political parties criticized us, scoffed at us, and the argument was that we could not afford it; India just could not afford it because our resources were very limited. But we drew strength from the Principal Architect of India's Nuclear Programme, Dr. Homi Bhaba. He was among those who favoured India becoming a nuclear weapon State, and he said it very clearly. So much so that in one of his very significant

speeches made on All India Radio on 24th October, 1964, the same year as China had its nuclear blast at Lop Nor, he said: "Atomic weapons give a state possessing them in adequate numbers a deterrent power against attack from a much stronger State." This was the statement that he made in 1964 just a few days after the Lop Nor blast, though at that time the Government's policy, the Government was headed by Pandit Nehru, was that we would develop our nuclear programme, that our nuclear energy would be used only for peaceful purposes, and that it would not be used for weaponizing the country.

Our Party became the sole Party to be an advocate of this and it is going on since then till today. So, when in 1998 Vajpayee ji became the Prime Minister, he was able to make all the other parties in the Coalition agree to this that we must develop a nuclear deterrent of our own. On the 19th of March, the NDA Government took office, and on the 11th of May, we had these Pokhran-II blasts. I can say, at that time, we were criticized within the country not only by the Left Parties, but even by the Congress Party. The present Prime Minister was Leader of the House in the other House and he criticized us. His criticism was that the consequences for our economy would not be good; it would damage our economy; economic sanctions would be imposed on us, and the consequences would be these.

Sir, I think Mrs. Gandhi did the right thing when she departed from the policy laid down by Pandit Nehru, and in 1974, shortly after the Indo-Pak War in which War, America had sent its nuclear-armed Seventh Fleet to the Bay of Bengal.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : At that time, the Soviet Union protected us.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Therefore, if Soviet Union protects us or helps us, my Party has always been grateful to it. We were in favour of the Indo- Soviet Defence Agreement that we signed shortly after the War. We are not like you in which you have a closed mind in respect of America.

You would not talk about America. So far as we are concerned, even at that time, we had favoured. . . .  
(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : We are against American imperialism.

MR. SPEAKER : Advani ji, do not reply to it.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : They are not worthy of reply.

MR. SPEAKER : But you have replied to that.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I concede to the Speaker's advice. He thinks that you should not be replied.

MR. SPEAKER : I said that you should not get diverted because your speech is a very important speech.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : You always take advice from the hon. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER : It is better to take advice from me than anybody else, so far as the issue of running the House is concerned.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : It should always be like that.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Therefore, my first point to the Government is, do not try to mislead the people by telling them that this is for energy purposes only and anyone who is opposing this is in a way standing in the way of India's development. I think that we need energy.

I may even mention something that relates to our period in Government. Recently, many negotiators came from America to persuade us to support this Deal. It made me feel that even more than the Government of India, it is America which is interested in this particular Deal. One of the people who met me and who has been involved in this nuclear programme of America, he originally happens to be an Indian who has lived in Mumbai,

belongs originally to Goa, and has written an excellent, a very comprehensive book on India's nuclear policy and nuclear doctrine. His name is Ashley Tellis. I am not going to mention anything that he spoke to me personally. I would not mention it; it is not proper. But I have seen one of his interviews on Rediff.Com in which the question was that why no Deal was struck with the Vajpayee Government of this kind. His answer was that the Deal could not be reached because the Vajpayee Government did not offer much to the US in exchange for the Agreement. We got more from the Government of Dr. Manmohan Singh. The next question was: "What is it that you wanted from the Vajpayee Government but could not get?" The answer was: "I am afraid, I cannot answer this question." Now, this made me make some enquiries into those who were in the matter at that time. I am told that so far as negotiations with our Government are concerned, at that time, there was never even a suggestion that there would be a ban or a curb on our right to test. Secondly, we were willing to open only two reactors for inspection – two out of sixteen – by the IAEA and no more. There were other matters also on which we could not agree, but the sum and substance is that this particular statement, "that we could not get from the NDA Government what we were able to get from Dr. Manmohan Singh's", I do not know how to see it.

But what I do see is that Mrs. Gandhi went in for Pokhran-I. The other day the name that was mentioned, Mr. Paul, Henry – one Henry came to see me also (Henry Kissinger) – and I casually happened to tell him that my Party has always been in favour of India becoming a nuclear weapon State, which Pandit Nehru and subsequent Governments up to Mrs. Gandhi's, were not in favour. I even mentioned that Shri Morarji Desai was also not in favour of it, and we were in that Government. But Mrs. Gandhi, after US sent that nuclear-armed Seventh Fleet, was prompted to go in this direction. When I said to him, "Your Government", I meant the Government at that time, he smiled and his reaction was, "Well, I have been personally blamed for that."

[Shri L.K. Advani]

Whatever that was I cannot say. But this much I can say that Mrs. Gandhi took a step in the right direction when she thought in terms of building India as a nuclear weapon State. In between there were several Governments, in one of which Shri Venkataraman was Defence Minister. He is publicly on record having complimented Vajpayeeji when a book by Vajpayeeji was being released, and saying, "While I was Defence Minister, all the things in Pokhran were ready. Everything was ready. I also went and inspected it at the last moment and I found everything in order. The scientists were there and everything was there. But we somehow failed to do it because we came under pressure. I compliment you for disregarding all kinds of pressures and going in for Pokhran II". Shrimati Gandhi did India proud when in 1974 she conducted Pokhran I. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee did India more proud by completing the process – that was the first step really – and conducting Pokhran II.

Mr. Prime Minister, are you determined to ensure through this deal that there will be no Pokhran III? Is that your desire? Our objection to this particular deal is principally because this deal prohibits India from making another test. Our feeling is that today India is at a stage where it is in a position to gradually build up an effective nuclear deterrent against all our hostile neighbours. I am told that we are going in for it. Well, very good. But this is also true that the 123 Agreement says that national laws will prevail. American national law will prevail on this insofar as our strategic partnership is concerned. Section 106 of the Hyde Act bans Indian testing. It also specifies the consequent punitive actions that might follow including America's right of return of nuclear reactors and other materials sold to India. The 123 Agreement upholds applicability of national laws to govern its implementation. Hence, the 123 Agreement cannot override the Hyde Act. This has to be understood.

This was very clearly explained by Nicholas Burns himself when a reporter asked him in a Press Conference.

"In the Hyde Act US Congress made it quite clear that if India were to test a nuclear weapon, American cooperation with India would cease. If you are giving India assurances that there will be no interruption in its fuel supplies regardless of what happens, how does that comply with the law?" This is a very pertinent question posed by a journalist. Look at the answer that Mr. Burns has given. He states, "First of all, we were quite careful when we began this latest phase of negotiations and we reminded the Indian Government that since the President and the Prime Minister had their two agreements of July, 2005 and March, 2006, something else has happened. The United States Congress had debated over six, seven months those agreements and the Congress has now passed the Hyde Act. So, we had to make sure that everything in this US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, the 123 Agreement was completely consistent with the Hyde Act and well within the bounds of the Hyde Act itself.

So, this kind of trying to tell us that the 123 agreement does not mention Hyde Act, the 123 agreement does not mention all these restrictions, this is misleading us. No, it is not true. The two essential parts of the clarification given by Burns are – firstly, he invited the Indian negotiating team that in terms of sequence of events, the Hyde Act comes after the two agreements between Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Bush; and secondly, we had to make sure that anything in this US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, the 123 Agreement was completely consistent with the Hyde Act and well within the bounds of the Hyde Act itself.

Sir, in its present form, in the final form, the US legislation adopted the NSG guidelines, imposed extraneous conditions on India, this is what Dr. Manmohan Singhji said in Rajya Sabha on August 17 – if in the final form, the US legislation be adopted the NSG guidelines, impose extraneous conditions on India, the Government of India will draw the necessary conclusions consistent with the commitments I have made to Parliament." This is your own statement. Are these consistent with the

assurances given in both Houses that under no circumstances, would we accept the kind of restriction on our right to – you have said in this House also – test? Though it is said that provisions have been made which call for discussion and we have to convince the American side.

MR. SPEAKER : If you yield?

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH) :

Since you have quoted me on India's right to test-what our Government has committed on this issue of testing is no more than what your Government had done, that we are committed only to a unilateral moratorium and that if in our wisdom, if the necessity arises that this country has to have a test, there is nothing in this agreement which prevents the exercise of that sovereignty.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Correct. I had anticipated this comment of yours that after all, we had unilaterally decided to impose the moratorium but a country which unilaterally decides to have a moratorium on the point which we have reached, can unilaterally decided to disregard that. On both occasions - whether it was in the case of Mrs. Gandhi in 1974 or in 1998, in the case of Shri Vajpayee, America did try to penalize us. Though in 1974, the sanctions imposed on us were far severe; and secondly by 1998, India had arrived at a stage where even the severe constraints could not do us much harm so that practically they had to withdraw them. But on both occasions, the consequences followed.

Here, we are inviting consequences by signing for them this agreement that if we test, the consequences, the right on return of America. This would be something which we never agreed to. You imagine something like that happens and sometime later, some other Prime Minister has to reply in this House. What will happen? How can he defend that we have agreed to it? We have agreed that if we test, then, you have the right to take back our nuclear reactors and you have the right to take back other related necessary materials. We would have never done

it. Unilaterally, they are doing it and trying to penalize us is one thing, and by virtue of a pact, we do it and we agreed to it. We are opposed to this kind of infringement. I regard it as an infringement of India's sovereignty. That we will explain why a test became necessary? China did this; Pakistan did this; so and so country did this. They say, no, we are not satisfied. It is for them to be satisfied that the argument that we have for going in for a test is justifying. This is the Pact and we have agreed to. We said that if you are not satisfied, you can take back all this.

Mr. Prime Minister, the whole thing is so apparent that no self-respecting country should agree to it. I am sure that if Mrs. Gandhi were there; if Shri Vajpayee were there, they would not have agreed to this kind of encroachment of our sovereignty.

Sir, I had mentioned about Dr. Bhabha being an advocate of India becoming a nuclear weapon State. These days, while studying the whole thing, I was surprised at least I did not recall it that way but a small thing that I had thought might be worth mentioning on this occasion.

On 11th January 1966, just hours after he had signed the Tashkent Declaration, formalizing the end of hostilities in the war with Pakistan, the Prime Minister Shastri died of a heart attack. This is a casual mention of a fact.

Just two weeks later, on January 24, on the very day Shastri's successor Indira Gandhi was sworn in as the Prime Minister, Dr. Homi Bhabha was killed while on a trip to Europe, when the plane in which he was flying collided with Mont Blanc in France. India's impressively large nuclear establishment was suddenly left without any official plan or policy to give a direction.

Now, it makes me wonder – was it just an accident? I do not know. I have no further information than what I have come across in this. To me, it seems a mischief, that a person who was the head of our nuclear establishment and who had not kept it secret to himself and who had publicly said that India should have a nuclear

[Shri L.K. Advani]

weapon, died like this. And he had publicly said, in reply to a question during a Press Conference, which I had participated in, as a Journalist in those days, that if the Government of India were to give me clearance, our own atom bomb would be ready within 18 months to two years. Such a person suddenly being killed in an accident of this kind, it does make me wonder. Maybe, you have more facts about those days, but I do not have. I thought, I might put it on record, that it is, to me, an enigma and a mischief.

In the same context, I would say that today we are outside the Nuclear Weapons' Club. Why? It is only because of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The NPT Act passed in 1967 and implemented in 1970 said that only those countries which have developed a nuclear weapon of their own before 1970, would be deemed as nuclear weapon States. I today wonder if we had not committed that mistake, in those days, in the 1960s and had gone by Dr. Homi Bhabha's advice, we would have been a part of that club.

He even requested Pandit Nehru that we should have it. But Pandit Nehru said, 'No. Not so long as I am there and I would not favour it'. If we had done it at that time, we would have been a part of this Nuclear Weapons' Club, before 1970 and all the debate that is now taking place, would not have been needed. We would not have been in this situation. We are now being pushed into the non-proliferation regime in this manner because we need nuclear energy; and therefore, they are taking advantage of it, by pushing us into the non-proliferation regime.

I must compliment Mr. Nicolas Burns, the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, who was one of the main negotiators and the Principal Spokesman for all that had happened. He said that this deal brings India back into the Non-Proliferation mainstream in a way, it was never before. It is true. Never before had any Prime Minister agreed to this. But we agreed to this.

He went on to say that – he did not talk about 'energy' – this deal is the centrepiece of Indo-US strategic relationship. I am not against strategic relationship; I am not against strategic partnership. But this strategic relationship and partnership is in the nature of a junior or of an unequal partner; India cannot be an unequal and a junior partner of America or of Russia or of any other country. India, this one billion strong Indians, is a proud nation, which cannot be subservient or junior to any other country.

My objection to this particular deal is principally because firstly it bars our right to test.

Secondly, it makes us a junior partner in this partnership with America.

Thirdly, whatever we may say, they have also said that it is not merely IAEA but even American inspectors can come and see the nuclear reactors that are opened. You assured us the other day that under no circumstances will you allow Americans to come here and see, yet it is there.

I would say that if in the sixties we had done what Dr. Homi Bhabha advised us to do, we would not have missed the nuclear weapon club or the nuclear weapon bus. We missed it. Now, let us not commit ourselves to that situation in perpetuation. This particular 123 deal says that it will last for 40 years.

One of the leading papers of Delhi, one of the leading editors who had been a Member of the Congress Party at one time, Shri M.J. Akbar wrote on that day that it is a day of dependence. After sixty years of independence are we going to sign a deal which make us dependent for 40 years? 123 deal itself says that this will last for 40 years.

Only recently the Prime Minister went to Moscow, Russia. Among the journalists who accompanied him, one was a well known editor of *The Hindu*, Shri N. Ram. I saw an editorial in *The Hindu* after the Prime Minister's return. The editorial says: "According to Russian official sources

an inter-Governmental agreement, presumably on par with India's 123 Agreement with the United States, was fully prepared for signatures during the Summit but the Indian side backed out at the last moment." I do not know why. I do not know what the proposed agreement was. Why the Indian side backed out? *The Hindu* itself says that it was according to the Russian official sources. This is what he gathered. Shri N. Ram is a very responsible editor.

I would urge the Government to come to Parliament clean on this matter. What exactly happened? What was the proposal? What transpired? Why did you back out if you had agreed to it earlier? All these things must be known, otherwise, some of the complaints people have about how independent is our direction of Foreign Policy would certainly come under question mark.

I shall conclude my remarks by saying that 123 Agreement, as it stands, is unacceptable to the nation because it is deeply detrimental to India's vital and long-term interest. Let me say that hereafter if NDA gets a mandate, we will re-negotiate this deal to see that all the adverse provisions in it are either deleted or this treaty is rejected completely.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise today in support of Indo-US nuclear deal signed by this Government. Of the numerous initiatives taken by our Government to ensure that India retains its rightful place in the global arena, none compare with the 123 Agreement signed by the US. This is a path breaking Agreement. Rupchand Palji also said that this is a historic Agreement. In one stroke, it induces the global community to accept India's nuclear weapons and strategic deterrent. With the signing of this 123 Agreement, the UPA Government has for once and for all eliminated the nuclear apartheid that had been created against India.

The 123 Deal is very clear. It keeps our military reactors outside the purview of the safeguards to be signed with the IAEA. We now have the freedom to build our nuclear deterrent without the fear of inviting sanctions

and without undertaking the obligations of the NPT. India being granted a single-nation exemption to the international regime is unprecedented in the history of global diplomacy.

Members here would recall that our civilian nuclear programmes have been severely constrained due to the shortage of fuel. Our reactors today are operating at roughly 70 per cent Plant Load Factor thereby nuclear energy in our midst is only at 4000 megawatt contributing only about three and a half to four per cent of power generation capacity in our country. If India has to grow at 9 to 10 per cent and I think there is unanimity on that cause, and if that growth has to go to grass root level, we cannot ignore the civilian nuclear option. This Agreement opens the doors for that. By 2020, we should have in place close to 30,000 to 40,000 megawatt of nuclear energy in our midst. But far more important than this, the Deal also raised the stature of India. Mr. Nicholas Burns, Under Secretary of Political Affairs of US Government, in his official Statement said on July 25, 2007:

"I can assure you that the United States is not going to suggest a similar deal with any other country in the world. We have always felt of India as an exception."

We have been recognized as a responsible nuclear nation that can be trusted not to proliferate weapons technology and not to illegally export any fissile material. Our record and behaviour have been praised and unlike some of our neighbours, we have been found today a responsible global player and trustworthy global player. Arguably, this definitely clears the decks for India's greater involvement in global affairs. Therefore, we must all join hands today and congratulate our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji and his team for achieving an outstanding accomplishment in foreign policy.

As I see it, this is a one sided balance sheet. There are only gains and no losses. Yet, we find a disturbing crescendo of criticism in our midst. Our Government is charged with bartering our sovereignty, surrendering our

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

strategic programme and our right to test. We are accused of becoming unquestionable camp follower of the US. It is being said that our foreign policy will now be dictated from Washington. I have great respect for our democratic traditions but we must not respect dissent when it seeks to perpetrate falsehood. We must not respect dissent when it seeks to vitiate the atmosphere by fear mongering. But before I deal with what our friends in the Opposition have said, let me, at least, recount to this House what some of our rivals in the Asian nuclear balance are saying. An official statement issued by the National Command Authority of Pakistan after assessing Indo-US deal said :

"This Agreement would enable India to produce significant quantities of fissile material and nuclear weapons from unsafeguarded nuclear reactors."

Pakistan has urged that a similar deal should be offered to them. Why would Pakistan want a deal that would barter their sovereignty; that would kill their weapons programme and take away their right to test? The truth is that it does none of that. All that it does is that it gives them the same right that it has given to India which is to continue its strategic programme.

The NCA of Pakistan has only reiterated the same concern with the Chinese last year. The official paper of the Chinese CCP has said:

"The Bush Administration has made a generous gift, granted India the status of a de facto nuclear power."

This, Mr. Speaker, Sir, is why Pakistan wants the deal.

Let me first deal with the first allegation. I will come to each of the allegations. The first allegation is that our foreign policy would now be dictated by Washington. I would like to quote the hon. Prime Minister here.

"India is too large and too important a country to have the independence of its foreign policy taken away by

any power. There is independence in our thoughts and independence in our actions."

There are many areas of dissonance where we do not agree with the United States. Take the example of the WTO. Shri Rupchand Pal talked about it. We have opposed their stand tooth and nail. We have never surrendered the interest of our farmers or

[*Translation*]

we will never compromise with the interest of the farmers.

[*English*]

We stand by our democratic responsibility. We are answerable to our people. We have opposed the US on UN reforms; on the composition of the Security Council. Based on our interest in enlarging our oil security we are continuing to negotiate on the Indo-Iran gas pipeline contrary to the wishes of the US. In order to diversify our risk we are negotiating with China; we are negotiating with France; we are negotiating with Russia on nuclear power. In fact, during the last visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to India we actually talked about nuclear co-operation and they greatly evinced interest in our market, as has Australia. The hon. Prime Minister said:

"I urge those who question our commitment to an independent foreign policy to display the same degree of confidence in India as those from outside do. There is no question that we will ever compromise in any manner our independent foreign policy."

The second allegation that we are bartering our sovereignty, our right to test and what happens when the US decides to terminate. I would like to follow on what Shri Pranab Mukherjee said, the Preamble to the Agreement:

"This agreement is based on mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit and reciprocity and with due respect for each other's nuclear programmes."

It is clear that India is entering into this agreement as a sovereign nation, as an equal and not as subordinate. This agreement makes no mention whatsoever, I beg to differ with Shri Advaniji, limiting our right to test. The hon. Prime Minister said:

"A decision to undertake a future nuclear test would be our sovereign decision one that rests solely with the Government."

Standard 123 with a non-nuclear weapon states does provide that in the event of a nuclear test there will be automatic termination if there is any clause of the agreement that is violated. But this is the first time in the history of global diplomacy that this 123 agreement with India obliges the US to understand the context in which India has tested resulting from a changed security environment. In place of the earlier proposal that would have converted a unilateral moratorium into a legal obligation, this time around the 123 agreement commits the two sides to a process of consultation to take into account India's strategic compulsions.

To me it is all the more surprising to see that our principal Opposition Party, the BJP, is criticizing us on this. When they were on this side of the Bench they nearly went ahead and signed the CTBT and I would like to quote our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he addressed the UN General Assembly on the 24th of September, 1998. He said:

"India announced a voluntary moratorium on further underground nuclear test explosions. We conveyed our willingness to move towards a *de jure* formalization of this obligation. In announcing the moratorium India has already accepted the basic obligations of the CTBT."

"India is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed."

The former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee echoed the same sentiment in his address to Parliament on 15th December, 1998 and the former Minister for External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh, expressed and echoed the same sentiments in his article in Foreign Affairs. We had opposed the CTBT then. We have not allowed it in the 123 Agreement. We are consistent. The BJP wanted the CTBT then. It is now worried that we will not be allowed to test. The BJP has always been inconsistent, hypocritical driven by their greed for momentary gain and not for national interests.

The third allegation is levelled against us all the time – The towering scepter of the Hyde Act: The Opposition's scarecrow! The Left's scarecrow! Every time the issue of the Hyde Act is raised. Let me be very clear, Sir, that India as a sovereign nation is only committed to what it has appended its signature to, which is the 123 Agreement. There is no question of us being bound by any law passed by a foreign legislature. Nowhere in the 123 Agreement does it talk about US cooperation with India being subject to an annual certification process.

President Bush, ruling on the so-called contentious clauses, while signing the Hyde Act very clearly said and I would like to quote him.

"Section 103 of the Act purports to establish US policy with respect to various international affairs matters. My approval of the Act does not constitute my adoption of the statements of policy as US foreign policy. Given the Constitution's commitment to the presidency of the authority to conduct the nation's foreign affairs, the Executive Branch shall construe such policy statements as advisory. Also, if section 104(d)(2) of the Act were construed to prohibit the Executive Branch from transferring or approving the transfer of an item to India contrary to Nuclear Suppliers Group transfer guidelines that may be in effect at the time of such future transfer, a serious question would exist as to whether the provision unconstitutionally delegated legislative power to an international body. In order to

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

avoid this constitutional question, the Executive Branch shall also construe section 104(d)(2) as advisory."

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Glib readers of the Hyde Act, unfortunately, has lost over these very important clarifications. Clearly then these clauses are non-binding. The Hyde Act in Sections 102, 103 and 104 are not enforceable and cannot be acted upon. The Hyde Act does not have the power to determine US foreign policy.

The fourth allegation that is made about consistently is American intervention and surrendering our strategic programme. It is very clear, Sir, and I would beg to differ again with Shri Advani that we would accept only IAEA safeguards on our civilian nuclear facilities and that too post our separation plan being in place and first lifting of all international restrictions on nuclear trade. Here, I would like to quote Shri Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. He said:

"Even if it comes to a situation where the IAEA determines that the application of safeguards is not possible, which is almost an impossibility, there will be consultation between the supplier and the recipient on verification measures. Verification measures are not the same as safeguards. Verification means you basically verify that the material that is supposed to be there is there."

Sir, this Agreement does not affect our unsafeguarded strategic nuclear facilities and our indigenous technology programme. Nicholas Burns said in his briefing on 27th July, 2007 as:

"We work with India on the civil side; that is safeguarded. What India does on the strategic side is India's business. This Agreement does not aid that programme and it does not have an effect."

Many times, Mr. Speaker Sir, parallels are consistently drawn with China-US Bilateral Agreement signed in 1985

and comparisons are consistently made with the 123 Agreement.

I would like to point out five important points here.

Firstly, Upfront rights to reprocess spent fuel was not granted to China. They must seek permission for that and while that permission is being given, they cannot act. In all the other 123 agreements the standard language is that no material can be reprocessed unless the US agrees. India has been given those upfront rights to reprocess.

Secondly, China's relations with Pakistan, China's non-proliferation record and China's progress on Tibet are all linked to their China-US Bilateral of 1985. There are no such linkages in India's case.

China has given Australia a role in its separation plan. India has the sole decision making authority with regard to our separation plan.

China has accepted bilateral inspections by US and Australian inspectors. Sir, I again differ with Shri L.K. Advani that India has not accepted US inspectors to be part of this transaction.

India's agreement assures uninterrupted fuel supplies and China's does not.

Therefore, Sir, clearly India though a non-NPT signatory, has achieved major distinct advantages over the China-US bilateral.

Sir, every country wants this deal. There is a dominant voice in the US that is even saying that this deal is completely in India's favour. *The New York Times* editorial dated 5th August, 2007 said:

"Bringing India in from the cold is not a bad idea. The problem is that the US got very little back. No promise to stop producing bomb-making material. No promise not to expand its arsenal. And no promise not to resume nuclear testing."

Yes, Sir, to our utter dismay, there are some of us in this House who are raising a din against this agreement. Those of us who are doing so are not only doing a disservice to the nation but also a disservice to the generations to come.

The hon. Prime Minister has upheld the commitments he made to Parliament in his last address. The coming generations will own him a debt of gratitude and he will be remembered for posterity as the visionary and enabler that ushered India to its rightful place as a global power. We must have courage and the conviction in our actions and in our dealings to stand up and be counted amongst the tallest nations in the world and this agreement will do just that!

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal) : Sir, the issue being discussed by this august House today, is being discussed widely in the country for the last few months. I think that no other issue has been discussed as much as it has been debated and written about in the newspapers and other media. Renowned defence experts and other persons have given statements for and against it in a very logical manner. I will put my views before you in two parts. Firstly, on the circumstances prevailing in the country and then some doubts related to the Agreement.

Sir, as far as our country is concerned, we have no good relations with any neighbouring country. It will not be an exaggeration to say that most of our neighbouring countries are hostile towards us. Our most trusted country in the international politics was Soviet Union which itself is facing crisis after disintegration. It cannot be a saviour for anyone now. The most important treaty in the defence area-Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty was signed by Shrimati Indira ji in 1971 after which Bangladesh was created. The two biggest powers in the world today are – USA and our neighbour China.

15.46 hrs

[*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY in the Chair*]

We will also have to know as to how our relations with these countries have had been when we had great friendship with China and when the principle of Panchsheel was propounded and we were shouting the slogan "Hindi-Chini Bhai-Bhai". Then our friendly country attacked us and lakhs of square miles of land is still in its possession. China had recently said that Arunachal is also its part. It is true that US has had very good relations with Pakistan. We have been a leader of the non-aligned nations since Pandit Nehru's time. US has military alliance with Pakistan through Central Treaty Organisation and South East Asia Treaty Organisation and whenever Pakistan faced crisis, particularly during Bangalash War, both China and US had taken anti-India stance. When the seventh fleet with its nuclear weapons carrier was moving towards the Bay of Bengal, China falsely alleged that India had made some posts in Chinese territory and warned India to dismantle the same within 24 hours otherwise be ready to face the consequences. Both the countries had similar attitude towards India. Though such a situation was created that India came out of the crisis and did not lose anything. Now, the question is whether we should remain isolated or if we should establish relations, then with whom? Past is witness that China attacked us and the history of China shows that it attacked every country which was its close friend. They attacked India. They attacked Vietnam on the day when our Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in Beijing, China. In such circumstances, US proposed an agreement. Our Prime Minister gave a statement here also. There are many doubts regarding some points of the text of the Agreement, which we have received through internet and it is being criticized.

I have recounted the previous points because now we have no ally like Soviet Union. In our neighbourhood, all the countries are hostile. We cannot live in isolation and if we cannot, then we will have to make relations with

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

some country. But the proposed agreement with US on Civil Nuclear Cooperation contain some points raising doubts and it seems that it may affect our sovereign foreign policy and other matters also. I would raise some of these points and want the hon. Prime Minister to clarify the doubts while replying as it will be in the interest of country and a contentious debate can be stopped.

I would like to draw your attention to the sub-section 6 of the section 102 of the Henry Hyde Act. It says—

[English]

"It is in the interest of United States to enter into agreement for nuclear cooperation arranged pursuant to Section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 with a country that has never been a State party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. . ."

[Translation]

It further says—

[English]

"The country has a functioning and uninterrupted democratic system of Government, has a foreign policy that is congruent to that of the United States and is working with the United States in key foreign policy initiatives related to non-proliferation. . ."

[Translation]

One point in the Agreement is that our foreign policy should be parallel or congruent to the American foreign policy. It implies that there can be problems from the Agreement in case our foreign policy does not go along with the American foreign policy.

The next section says—

[English]

"With respect to South Asia, to secure India's full

and active participation in United States' efforts to dissuade, isolate and, if necessary, sanction and contain Iran for its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction including a nuclear weapons capability. . ."

[Translation]

Whether we will be bound after the Agreement to nod in agreement with US and say, like US is threatening Iran that Iran cannot do this, Iran cannot make atom bomb, it cannot produce weapons of mass destruction. If we do so, then will it be our independent foreign policy? This was the second apprehension.

Thirdly, section 104 says—

[English]

"The President shall submit to the appropriate Congressional Committees a report including all sorts of information of nuclear activities in India, the amount of uranium mined and milled in India during the previous year."

[Translation]

How much of that Uranium was used for the Atomic Weapons, the American President will submit this information to the related Congressional Committee every year. On one hand, we say that it is only a civil nuclear cooperation. Does it mean that information regarding all our nuclear activities, including military nuclear activities, reactors for producing atomic weapons must be provided to US and the US President will provide all the information to the American Congress? If it is so, then it is the biggest problem. Now, the BARC scientists are working on a third stage or cycle wherein thorium and plutonium can be used as a feasible material in the form of Uranium-233. If all this information will have to be given to US then the American Congress or the American President can cancel the Agreement by taking the otherwise view under the Hyde Act. Everyone knows that the day India would be in a

position to use thorium as Uranium-233 then imported Uranium-235 will not be required. The actual crisis relates to Uranium-235 which is needed to make atom bombs and nuclear weapons. It is supplied through the nuclear supplier countries. Our country has large reserves of uranium and thorium and if our scientists master the third cycle, the country will attain self-sufficiency in the field and we will not have to remain dependent on anyone. There are apprehensions that our foreign policy may be affected due to this dependence. Our scientists may also get discouraged if they feel that restraints may be imposed on further researches in the field.

Sir, the third important point being put forward in the discussion is that we are taking this step to become self-reliant in energy generation. On the basis of the present situation in the country it is estimated that the established thermal and hydel capacity of the country will rise to 2,10,000 megawatts in the course of the next five years, i.e. by 2012. Atomic energy generation capacity, which is around 4200 megawatts at present, will rise by 3300 megawatts in the course of the next five years. Hence, atomic energy generation in the country is three or four percent of the total energy generated. If we generate 40,000 megawatts of power by 2020 a substantial quantity of hydel or thermal power generation would be in place and atomic energy generation would be in place and atomic energy generation is not likely to be more than five to seven percent of the total energy generation. Has the Government conducted any survey to find out the quantity of energy generation likely to be added through nuclear reactors which we intend to set up and the estimated thermal and hydel power generation capacity of the country by that time?

16.00 hrs.

There has been a lot of discussion and experts have also commented extensively on the issue that the cost of atomic energy will be almost double of thermal energy and the cost of nuclear reactor will be almost three times the cost of the thermal power plant having the same

generation capacity. In this way including reactor and energy board there will be six fold difference in the price. If electricity costs increase six-fold how will the poor be able to afford it. I don't know whether this is a fact or merely conjecture but this rumour has spread all over the country. I would also like to know the truth in this regard. . . . (Interruptions) if the Prime Minister vouches for any information I will accept it on face-value. I had said, at the start, that the number of comments and articles that have been written in favour of and against the deal are unprecedented in my experience. I have never seen any other issue debated so hotly in the last twenty years.

Recently a joint statement was issued by persons associated with atomic energy, defence services and foreign services such as a former Air Chief Marshal, foreign secretaries, scientists, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission etc. All these people had lauded the agreement. Yesterday's Hindustan Times published the statement of a former Secretary of RAW who denounced the deal as being detrimental for the country. These kinds of contradictory statements create confusion in the minds of laymen like myself who are not experts in the scientific or defence field. It is the responsibility of the hon. Prime Minister and members of the Party associated with the Government to dispel the confusion and clarify the situation. Not one can doubt the patriotism, wisdom and integrity of the Prime Minister. He had given a clear-cut assurance in the House that the country's interests would not be compromised in any manner. None of us had any inkling that this agreement would lead to so much dissent that the future of the Government would hang in balance and that elections would become imminent. Had a warning been given at the start the matter would not have been taken forward. I am speaking from a humanitarian point of view-it is not a question of party or politics. If a person makes an agreement somewhere and later he is told to break it off it creates a moral crisis for him. It affects his credibility and if the credibility of the Prime Minister comes under cloud then it becomes a matter of prestige for the entire country. If he backs off from the agreement

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

now the international community will make it a reference point for future deals with the country. It will think that the word of the country cannot be relied upon – that it can back-off from its commitments at any time and no weightage will be given to the country at the international level. I think that such a situation may occur. Hence I would like to request the Prime Minister to clear any doubts the people may have. I am sure that the Prime Minister would be able to resolve the doubts of the people and assuage their fears and he would be able to make it clear to the people that the independent foreign policy of the country would not be compromised in any manner.

As regards nuclear tests, no one can stop them. You may recall that Soviet Union had conducted nuclear explosion immediately after the United Nations Organisation had constituted the Disarmament Commission. After that, China had similarly conducted an atomic explosion almost as soon as the non-proliferation treaty was signed. Many other such incidents at the international level come to mind—be it CTBT or any other treaty, some or the other country shows its defiance by conducting explosions. If it is in the interest of the country, India will also take a similar step and it will not be stopped from doing so by any agreement or deal. It is another matter altogether if the deal has any provision that would allow America to take away the nuclear reactor itself in case the deal fails. For that he should make sure that such a provision is not encompassed in the agreement. I would like to urge him that he should remove the apprehensions of the people so that he continues to enjoy the support of the Parliament and the people.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Indo-America Nuclear Deal, the topic of our debate is not a matter concerning treasury benches or the opposition, it is a matter of international importance concerning India's broader interests. Just now Shri Ram Gopalji has rightly said that so far as the debate on this

deal is concerned, it is not proper to have doubt on the intention of the hon'ble Prime Minister. This debate is in the broader interest of our country and our hon'ble Prime Minister is fully committed to the nation so it is not proper to doubt his intention. One may differ on views but so far as intention behind this nuclear deal is concerned, there can be no doubt about it. Country's broader interests cannot be put at stake as it is the first nuclear agreement for the country. There is no exaggeration in saying that it is the first deal of its kind which the House is debating in detail. So far no agreement invited such a broader debate. For the first time efforts have been made to take the Parliament and the country into confidence. A joint statement was made on it in the month of July. Later on, in August efforts were made to clear the doubts and apprehensions of Leftists and some other parties. I would like to thank the Government for adopting such a democratic gesture on this agreement. It is good that efforts have been made to bring transparency in it. There is no doubt that power is the foremost need of the country at present as basic infrastructure depends on it.

Power is necessary for basic infrastructure and development of our country. Apart from that it is a contemporary requirement of the country. In view of the current need of power the deal in question was thought of and a number of drafts were discussed. Nuclear power can be a positive step in the development of the country. But there are some doubts about 123 Agreement or the Hyde Act. The question is whether there is any alternative source or not? The alternative source of energy can be hydro-electric power or wind power or thermal power. But can alternative arrangements be made?

Prof. Ram Gopal ji has spoken on alternative arrangements. The Government should endeavour for it. Whether alternative arrangements are made or not, the agreement is going ahead. Our leftist colleagues have permitted the Government to hold talks with IAEA, but they are apprehensive of its conclusion. Employment and

livelihood is directly linked with power. The Government should make efforts to generate power through alternative sources, if we need it. People from several sections are apprehensive about it. Some say it would cast aspersion on our non aligned policy, while others say it would adversely affect our foreign policy. Some go upto the extent of saying that it would adversely affect our sovereignty and deprive us of our right to conduct nuclear tests. Some say, Agreement 123 under Hyde Act would surely have adverse-effects. So far as Hyde Act is concerned, it is an American law and how it would affect us? It is a technicality that Hyde Act is an American law. Shri Rupchand Pal has provided detailed information about Agreement 123. I reiterate that it is an American law and it won't affect us as it is for them and not for us. People are so apprehensive that they mingled Hyde Act with Agreement 123. Prof. Ram Gopalji has aptly said that if we intend otherwise America will remove its reactor, as supplied by them, and claim very high royalty from us. Are we less cautious? If that imperialist country neglects our interest, the agreement clause provides for termination of said deal after giving a notice before one year. Who can stop us from distancing ourselves from the deal? So far as impact on our foreign policy or the sovereignty, the right to conduct tests is concerned, the hon'ble Prime Minister has made it clear in the Parliament that our right to conduct nuclear test will remain intact. Therefore, the agreement will provide us energy security. A developed country like China is also in principle not against this deal.

A solar power survey has revealed that India would need one lakh MW additional Power by 2012. We need additional power resources to meet this demand. We should consider it in view of our energy requirement. Now we generate one lakh 34 thousand MW power. Atomic energy comprises only 3.1 percent out of it against our requirement of 8 percent, so there is a need to generate additional 5-6 percent. We need power in our country to develop agriculture and infrastructure. Future age is going to be the era of nuclear age and we need international cooperation in this regard. But, we cannot overlook our

interests and seek international cooperation. There is a need to ponder over this aspect also. Therefore, I would say that hon'ble Prime Minister has made it clear time and again that it would neither take away our right to conduct nuclear tests, nor affect our foreign policy nor sovereignty. Our Prime Minister or the Minister of External Affairs should clarify if we have any alternative source of energy be it hydro. If we take recourse to hydel power, I fear, Shri Bahuguna ji will straight away sit on protest. It involves many kinds of *bottle necks*. In view of, this there is a need to keep our permanent right to reprocess the used fuel. The hon'ble Prime Minister should also make a statement whether America proposes to continue supply of nuclear fuel to our plants. This will clear the doubts of all of us. We will not bow down before an imperialistic country like America in their wider interest. We do need to have friendly relations but we will not submit to slavery at any cost, that is our resolution. The way Hon'ble Prime Minister has tried repeatedly to hold discussions on this issue in a democratic way, has never happened earlier in case of any international treaty in the history of Parliamentary democracy in India. This is a good effort and method adopted by the UPA Government Hon'ble Prime Minister must be congratulated for this.

I would like to clearly mention that we must make genuine efforts for exploring better options of power available before us. I would like to say that if this does not clear the doubts of our friends from the left front, then we can hold a meeting between UPA and Left parties for finding another way of generating clean power. Our national leader Shri Lalu ji is also a Member of that. A consensus would be formed at the meeting between UPA and Left Parties. This agreement would be implemented only when a consensus is formed. Continuous meetings have been taking place. All the points, technical subjects and wider interests of the country are being discussed at length in these meetings. This agreement would be implemented only after the approval of the Committee. Therefore, there is no scope for any other doubt. Environment is also an issue these days. That is why

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

clean energy is required. There is a need to pay attention towards all these things. That is why it would only be considered after receiving the approval from the Co-ordination Committee which constitutes of UPA and Left Parties. I would like to tell you that this Agreement is necessary in view of Energy security. In the end, I would take one more minute and would like to talk about the situations that have developed in the country today. . . .  
*(Interruptions)*. We cannot enter into any agreement with imperialistic countries. At the time when Iraq issue was raised we had protested with lathi in our hands. We cannot afford to lose our sovereignty at any cost. We are against imperialistic country, but the matter here concerns with agreement and energy security. It is just a matter of one issue. I would like to discuss the present situation. . . .  
*(Interruptions)* Advani ji has apprehension that 90 percent of the test reactor inspection will be done by them. . . .  
*(Interruptions)*. All this is just a myth. No compromise can be made with the wider interests of the nation. Today, the farmers and poor people of the country need this. The wider interests of the country would be kept in mind and no compromise can be made with the imperialistic country in this regard. I would also like to say something about the present situation. Today, when a discussion was being held on nuclear issue in the morning, I had composed a small poem which I would like to read out here—

"Aaj ho raha hai Bharat aur America ke beech  
Parmanu Karar,

Is Parmanu Karar ne desh ko kar diya hai bekarar,  
UPA tatha pratipaksh mei bhi pad rahi hai choti si  
darar,

Yadi Kendra sarkar rakhe August, 2007 wala sankalp  
barkarar,

Aur swatantra videesh neeti, Sarvabhoomikta va parmanu  
pareekshan Ka mahfooj rahe hamara adhikar,

To ho jayega parmanu karar, tab nahi rahega kisi dal  
ko shanka aur koi malal,

Desh ke vyaapak hit me ho jaye yeh karar, tab pat jayegi  
UPA aur pratipaksha kei bhee darar,

Sampoomn desh ko ho jayega is parmanu karar se  
poora sarokar,

Dosti badhegi America se, nahi hoga koi dasta aur  
wasta se sarokar,

Bijli mehngi nahi ho, is par bhee kama hai vichaar,  
Kisi halat mei desh ka vyapak hit rahe barkarar,  
Tab ho payega mazbooti se yeh parmanu karar,  
Yahi hai hamara vichar."

SHRI BRIJESH PATHAK (Unnao) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I rise to present the views of Bahujan Samaj Party on the important issue of Nuclear Agreement between India and America. The India-America Nuclear Agreement, which is also known as 123 agreement, is an important issue because this deals with the future of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this regard the Bahujan Samaj party believes that before finalizing such an important agreement, the Union Government must clear the misconceptions arising in the minds of people. It is true that power is our major requirement so that we can expedite the development process, but would it be wrong to take the leaders of all the parties into confidence and form a consensus with regard to the Indo-America Nuclear Agreement? Besides, there are various misconceptions arising in the minds of people regarding the Indo-America Nuclear Agreement that India will mortgage its identity, independent foreign policy and the right of future nuclear independence to America. These misconceptions prevailing in the public must be cleared because our party believes that the country should remain united on such an important and sensitive issue. There is a need to keep the country united on issues concerning its identity and security and this responsibility mainly lies with the Union Government. Along with this the views of our nuclear experts on the Indo-America Nuclear Agreement must be disclosed clearly. American Ministers and officials have said that the nuclear agreement between India and America is primarily in favour of America, but some American officials are also associating this with the Gas pipeline with Iran, towards which the Union Government is required to pay special attention.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Union Government must make America realize that it needs to strengthen its ties with India. If America wants to prove that it is India's friend then it must get India the status of a permanent veto power Member in order to prove its good intentions and thereby take the people of India into confidence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end Bahujan Samaj Party suggests the Central Government to call an all party meeting to take leaders of all the parties into confidence before taking any step forward on the Indo-US nuclear deal so that all the parties could become aware of the real intention of the Central Government behind this deal and its far reaching effects and the nuclear future of India on the basis of this deal, because our country does not want to lose nuclear freedom at any cost. Besides, they prefer to have an independent defence and foreign policy than being a party to some strategic alliance i.e. they want to establish India as an example before the world.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, keeping all these points in mind, the Bahujan Samaj Party is of the clear view that in case the Congress led UPA Government does not accept its suggestions then it reserves the right to choose its own path. Sir, the BSP has given the right to take any decision in accordance with the circumstances to the national president of the party and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Kum. Mayawati ji. She can take any decision any time in this regard in case any decision is taken in connection with the nuclear deal against the national interest. With these words, while expressing my gratitude to the House and you, I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), and my hon. Leader Dr. Kalaignar on the issue of nuclear deal signed between India and the United States of America.

India is witnessing an unprecedented all-round progress over the past few years. Our economy is growing at a rate of between 8 per cent and 9 per cent per annum; our foreign exchange reserves are rising; our stock market is booming; and our export growth is experiencing a growth of 20 per cent per annum. Therefore, the world is looking at India as a favourable investment destination.

Millions of people, who have been suffering a lot, are watching with new hope and optimism. I feel that this is largely because of the macro-economic management of the UPA Government. However, not everyone is rejoicing at what we have attained or what we have achieved so far. I need not adduce statistics, evidence or give material particulars to establish the fact that millions of our brothers and sisters are still starving; millions are still sleeping on the pavements without any shelter; millions of children are severely malnourished and remain illiterate; and millions of people are yet to get the basic amenities like drinking water, health facilities, or electricity. Therefore, this generation has to get energy at any cost.

We should maintain the growth momentum in order to give specific relief to the people, and we require among other things a conducive policy environment; infrastructural facilities and quality inputs in order to sustain the growth momentum. Uninterrupted energy supply is vital to all our economic activities, and it will be more helpful towards the development of the nation.

The per capita consumption of energy is very much necessary as it is the indicator of the level of economic development of a country. On an average, our energy consumption is only 1/20th of energy consumed by a person living in a developed nation. Despite the critical linkage between energy and development, access to energy for the poor has not received sufficient attention. Our economic development is dependent on energy because the economic development is energy intensive.

Our domestic reserves of fossil fuels are rather limited. Therefore, we have to import major proportion of

[Shri K. Venkatapathy]

gas, crude oil and petroleum products. This import incurs heavy expenditure, and that cost is putting severe strain on our economy. Therefore, augmenting and diversifying our energy resources is essential for our nation. This is important not only from the economic point of view, but also on strategic considerations.

We must explore all the sources of energy – whether hydel, thermal, non-conventional or nuclear. Nuclear power generating capacity should be improved because that is the only avenue available now. To meet the demands of expanding economy, this Deal is very, very important. This Deal frees our country from 33 years of unfair restrictions imposed on us following the peaceful nuclear test conducted by hon. Indira Gandhi in 1974.

I congratulate our Prime Minister and the team of negotiators for having negotiated this Deal. Our Prime Minister is a man of honesty, integrity and uprightness, and nobody can question his *bona fides*. Without compromising on India's key positions, he has clinched this Deal. It enables India to acquire civilian nuclear technology. At the same time, we are able to have access to the dual-use technologies.

This Agreement with India is unique, singular and exceptional in view of the fact that we are the only country who is a non-NPT member. Therefore, they have entered into an Agreement with a non-NPT member. It recognizes India as a responsible country with advanced nuclear technology. Therefore, this Deal is in favour of India which nobody can question. Other countries who are our neighbours are very particular to have this type of pact with the US with the same terms and conditions that have been extended to India. That itself is a proof that our Deal is in our favour.

Concerns have been expressed about the right to conduct further nuclear tests and whether we have been curbed from conducting nuclear tests in the future. So far as this issue is concerned, our concerns are misplaced.

A mere reading of the text will clearly go to show that if at all there is a test, we have to explain the circumstances under which we carried out the tests. That point should be taken into account. Also, it provides for a process of consultation before terminating it.

We have got a provision for compensation also. Suppose, America decides to take back all the materials that have been furnished, we have got a provision for compensation. These things are provided for in the Deal. So far as the nuclear stockpiles are concerned, it is not good for India. We are not after waging any wars. India is a country which does not believe in wars. The military strategic argument for stockpiling arms is detrimental to the interest of any nation. We stand for peace and tranquillity. We have been fighting for that. We do not have intransigent attitude or uncompromising attitude. We have been preaching Panchasheel Policy and, therefore, India must focus on faster economic development and equitable distribution of opportunities, wealth and resources to every one of its citizens.

Certain genuine concerns have been expressed by our Left allies. They stem not only from the Agreement *per se* but also from the general direction of our foreign policy initiatives. Therefore, not only from the text, but also from the context, they are raising certain questions. Our Prime Minister has taken effective steps by issuing statements twice with regard to them. He has allayed their fears and he has also clarified the apprehensions. A mere reading of those two statements clearly establish that there is no point in having those apprehensions and that we can get on with the Deal.

Some other parties are opposing it and I do not know why they are opposing it. Without showing any reason or without knowing the reasons, they are opposing it tooth and nail. Had they continued in power, they would have clinched this Deal and they would have claimed that they had done a wonderful job. But quite unfortunately or fortunately, they were sent out of power, and now they are opposing this Deal. Like a Chameleon,

they are changing their colours. After crossing the fence, they have changed their colours. When they were in power they were of one opinion and they are airing a different opinion now when they are in the Opposition. They are taking a different stance now. They are famous for their doublespeak. They are determined to oppose whatever the Government does. They are ready to oppose the Government view either in the name of Ram or in the name of bomb. They are all men of diction but they tell untruth. We are fighting for power for the betterment of the public. They are fighting for power, the political power. They are men of diction but have now become men of addiction to power.

Renowned Tamil poet Thiru Valluvar said,

*"Gunam Naadi Kuttramum Naadi Avattrul  
Migai Naadi Mikka Kollal"*

That means, "Weigh good and evil well. Weigh merits and demerits. Judge by virtues that prevail". Whenever we look into this agreement, there are merits and there is good. Therefore, it is the virtues that prevail. Therefore, we have to support the agreement. I welcome this agreement because it is not entered at the cost of the three important aspirations of our country – (1) autonomy of our strategic nuclear programme, (2) indigenous three-stage nuclear programme, (3) India's research and developmental activities.

I consider this agreement to be a unique and historical agreement by which India will become the only country in the world to pursue a nuclear development programme even without signing the NPT and still being allowed to conduct nuclear trade with the NSG member-countries. What else do we want? This is a win-win situation for us. I would request all our friends to have oneness of opinion, modicum of thought and perfect symphony in supporting this agreement. I hope that all of us would support this agreement. I on behalf of my DMK Party and my beloved leader Kalaignar support this agreement.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir, I want to speak about the recently reached Agreement or treaty. Today morning, when I was watching TV, Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, who is not here, gave a statement. He stated that the treaty will be discussed. It has not been consented to. It could have consent if there could be a vote on it. What objection do you have in obtaining consent on it? It is for the first time that a deal signed by India has run into controversy. In this regard, I would like to quote what a judge of the supreme court has said. He has said that

*[English]*

"Legal experts on the nuclear deal questioned the claim that the 123 agreement does not require ratification by the Indian Parliament. The Union Executive has no authority to enter into any binding treaty unless it is agreed to by the Parliament. In support of this assertion, articles 53, 73 and 253 of Indian Constitution were cited." He further said, "The nuclear deal without ratification by Parliament is not only undemocratic but is also unconstitutional. The national laws of US are already embedded in the 123 agreement. The Government cannot deny that Hyde Act will apply to the deal."

*[Translation]*

The Prime Minister started the process with the US from 2005. Talks were held between the Prime Minister and US President Bush regarding the deal. Later, voting in Senate was in favour of Agreement by 85/12. If voting can take place there, then why it cannot take place here? It is unilateral.

*[English]*

This is not bilateral.

*[Translation]*

I would like to quote for you.

[English]

Article 253 reads, "Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, Parliament has power to make any law for the whole or any part of the territory of India for implementing any treaty, agreement or convention with any other country or countries or any decision made at any international conference, association or other body".

[Translation]

Why it cannot be passed here? For the first time, so much controversy has taken place. Our friends were about to withdraw support to the Government. It is such a treaty which will handicap India. I want to say that China has entered into an Agreement with the US in 1985.

[English]

The China-US Agreement of 1985 states that both States would observe the principal of the international law under which neither party could invoke the domestic law to justify failure to perform the treaty.

[Translation]

China can do it but it did not accept it. China did not sign directly, it did not bow before the US. It saved its self-respect. Why our Government is not saving our self respect? Why our Government bows before the US?

US has signed an Agreement with China recently. This Agreement is between US and India. Suppose we dishonour the 123 Agreement, then we cannot even go to the International Court but China can because it has signed the Agreement under the International Agreement. I do not know why they were in such a hurry. China took many years and Japan took 6 years. I think this is an unilateral Agreement and not a bilateral one.

I want to tell about the nuclear cooperation. Pakistan, China, Maldives and Sri Lanka are our neighbours surrounded by the Indian Ocean. China has monitoring

centers in all these places. Bush said that we cannot conduct nuclear tests. If US is saying that we all are its partner, then why it is not according the status of a partner to India? We should get a partner's status. We should also be free to conduct nuclear tests.

Our intelligent leader Shri Lal Krishna Advani has just cited many examples in this regard. He told about Dr. Bhabha. We could have become self-reliant in nuclear weapons but, unfortunately, he died or he was murdered. The situation could have been different, if we could have listened to him.

India is not a signatory to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The Government of India had taken the stand that it will not become a signatory to both the Treaties. The NDA Government conducted 5 nuclear tests after Pokharan-II and announced a self imposed moratorium saying that, for the time being, India will not conduct any nuclear test. It does not mean that India will not conduct any test. US has given this facility to Pakistan and China. Will we keep looking at them if they ever conduct nuclear tests? If they bomb us, should we not retaliate? The intention of the Government should be clear.

Pakistan is our neighbouring country. Few days back, the US Government had declared that all the funds given to Pakistan for development is being used for terrorist activities against India. US has provided 6000 billion dollars aid to it today. Bombs are exploding all over India today – be it Mumbai, trains, bazaar or any other place. Pakistan's agency ISI is behind bomb blasts everywhere and Pakistan is supporting it.

I would like to say that Iran got nuclear weapons technology from black market. China has given the nuclear test technology to Pakistan in an underhand manner which in turn passed it on to Libya, Iran and North Korea.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to state something about thorium. I had written a letter to the hon'ble Prime Minister. Our Late Homi Bhabha, the great scientist had

said that thorium should be used. Our Government did not pay attention to him. Had the Government listened to him we would not have needed uranium and Plutonium for thorium. I have met many scientists. Plutonium is needed for thorium. We do not have adequate reserves of plutonium. It will only last for two years.

16.46 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, if we acquire plutonium from Russia we will be able to create a material similar to uranium by mixing plutonium and thorium. Two days earlier, in reply to a question asked by Shri Ranjan Saheb regarding thorium, hon. Prithviraj Chauhan had said that we have sufficient quantities of thorium. We have a thorium programme but it should be utilized. We have two lakh ninety thousand tonnes of thorium. We could have supplied thorium to the entire world. Shri Homi Bhabha had said about this but he died in 1966. 41 years have passed since then. Why did we not make a time-bound programme? I would like to ask the Government, through you, if it has any time-bound programme? . . . *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, please let me speak.

[*English*]

India has developed nuclear weapons, but it is not recognized as a nuclear weapons state by the five official Nuclear Weapons States-US, Russia, Britain, France and China, which had all tested their nuclear devices prior to the existence of the NPT.

[*Translation*]

But they do not let us conduct nuclear tests.

[*English*]

The Hyde Act calls for achieving a moratorium on the production of fissile material for explosive purposes by India, Pakistan and the People's Republic of China. It may

be recalled that China has been producing fissile material for weapons purposes for a long time, while India was not allowed to do so by the NWS. The Hyde Act that President Bush signed categorically demands that India should ban all nuclear tests.

[*Translation*]

I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he wants to stall progress? the Prime Minister keeps on saying that we would get energy from this, that is, we would get 20 thousand megawatt electricity from this. I would like to say that we will get this 20 thousand megawatt electricity in 2020. Power Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde had said in this very House that we need 2 lakh megawatts of power. This means that there is a shortage of 86 thousand megawatts of power in the country. We need to generate the 86 thousand megawatts of power by 2013. Our industrial growth is about to touch 11.5 percent. This is what the Government says. This means that we are going to need 4 lakh megawatts of power by 2020. How can 20 thousand megawatts of power be sufficient? These people only want to talk about the 20 thousand megawatts of power that will be generated and which will not be sufficient to fulfill the needs of even one State. We will get merely 20 thousand megawatts of power after putting in so much efforts. We are putting our self respect on line for this. I have many points on which I want to speak.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : You can lay your speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please permit me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : What can I do? You were given five minutes to speak and you have taken twelve.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, I thank you for that. You have been very kind. . . *(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

would like to say on Shiv Sena's behalf that this crippling agreement made by the Government is unconstitutional. It has not taken Parliament's consent. The Communists had protested against it. They had challenged the Prime Minister in West Bengal and he had become angry. He had told the Communists to do whatever they wanted to. I request that it should be denounced in the course of this debate.

MR. SPEAKER : You can say this in one line.

[English]

You can say that you reject this.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Let the Government come forward.

[Translation]

As Dasmunjsiji said in the morning that debate does not mean that the agreement has been validated by everyone.

Sir, I have many points. If you permit I would like to lay my speech on the Table.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you can lay it. I hope it deals with the Nuclear Deal.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Yes, it relates to the nuclear deal.

\*A lot of hue and cry is being raised about the nuclear deal with America but no one is willing to examine the facts behind the deal. The steeply rising demand for electricity lies at the root of the problem. India has adopted the modern living style. Electricity has

become an integral part of life and as a result supply of electricity has become the primary problem for the Government. Thermal power, hydel power and power generated from other such sources use up our non-replenishable resources. There is a single source which can be used for long term power generation and this is nuclear energy. For this Uranium 233 is needed in adequate quantities. Our country has had to resort to making this agreement to ensure adequate supply of uranium. We have been told in this very House that our country has abundant thorium reserves. Why were steps not taken to treat thorium to make it usable for power generation? Why did the Ministry neglect this important matter?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the root cause of all the problems. Because these people never thought about the interests of the common people. A few uncaring political parties even got busy with efforts to topple the Government instead of resolving the problem. I can't understand how toppling the Government will result in supply of power. Here I am not going to advocate the Government side but why should we spoil the future of those poor workers whose wages depend on the viable supply of power. Why should we complicate the problem? These people do not want a solution of the problem because they have to make this August House an arena of politics. Come and let us think on some basic things. If you do not want the help of any foreign country including USA, then give some suggestions for self-reliance. Do not complicate the power problem of the country. We must not forget even in our dreams that our country India is a sovereign country. We would not like to gift our independence to any stranger country for which lakhs of the freedom fighters sacrificed their lives. We have been following our principles and India is all set to become a super power in future.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hard work and devotion is required for becoming great. History shows that no country can be great by envying, talking ill of others and spreading hatred among the countries. The so-called friend America is a very generous country. It helps us as it helps Pakistan.

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\*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

The only difference is that the assistance received by us is spent on development work in real sense but the assistance given to Pakistan is used for spreading hatred against India. No, I am not saying this in this August House as an opponent but the great leaders of our country have acknowledged publicly that the assistance provided to Pakistan by America is being spent on spreading hatred against India, expanding terrorism, killing of innocent people, blasting private and public property and watching the heart-rending Walls of the people mourning the loss of lives and property. Now you think-whether it is this that needs discussion or the financial assistance provided by America should be discussed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the increasing demand of power is an important problem of our country because India is emerging as a great country and the Government is compelled to look for new options so as to meet this demand. The focus is on how to meet the demand of power. Now you guide us-what do we need—the politics of conflict or the road of development?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is being opposed in India in an entirely different perspective. So far as nuclear non-proliferation treaty is concerned, India has remained a non-signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty since the treaty came into force in 1970. All the people know that India staying outside of the NPT regime carried on nuclear tests for five times between 1974 and 1998. It has another meaning that India has used its nuclear capacity not for enhancing its military might but for the betterment of common people. Keeping the successful nuclear tests carried out by India in view, our country should have been recognized as a nuclear weapons State like the five official Nuclear Weapons States of the world but the reality is before all of us to see.

Acquiring nuclear power is important for India as the developed countries all over the world are making efforts to take optimum leverage of the nuclear weapons possessed by them. Keeping in view the efforts made by other countries, what is wrong if our efforts for the security

of our country have gained momentum. It has been categorically mentioned in the Hyde Act signed by President Bush that India would not conduct any nuclear test in future. Now the circumstances are such that USA itself is busy with development of its reliable replacement weapons and it is highly unlikely that USA will not conduct nuclear tests in future.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue need not be discussed with a political approach, vested interests of any political party or an eye on profit of a group of people or individuals rather it is the time to ponder over the fact as to how much effective our one step will be in taking our country one step forward.

All the people know that Pakistan was formed on the basis of religion. Pakistan has always been making efforts not to promote its development but to promote religious bigotry/fundamentalism in its country. That is why it has allowed 52 terrorist training camps to operate in Pakistan and India is the main target for those terrorist camps. These terrorists are causing loss of lives as well as property by exploding bombs at crowded places like railways, markets, buses, temples, mosques etc. The dictator of Pakistan is reaping the benefits of terrorism being spread in the name of Islam. But India is a non-Islamic country. India has created its own image as a peace-loving country due to its development oriented policy. That is why USA wants to enter into a treaty with India. We have to use this treaty not to dance to the tunes of America but to make our country a sovereign country. The Government of India has certainly got the right to enter into treaties with the foreign countries but I expect that this right must be exercised not to mortgage the independence of the country but to make this country powerful.

*[English]*

In India, the opposition to the bill is based on an entirely different perspective. India has remained a non-signatory of the Nuclear-Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) since the Treaty entered into force in 1970, following U.S.

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

ratification. Staying outside of the NPT-regime, India has tested its nuclear devices on three occasions—once in 1974 and twice in 1998. In other words, India has developed nuclear weapons, but it is not recognized as a nuclear weapons State by the five official Nuclear Weapons States-(NWS)—United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China—which had all tested their nuclear devices prior to the existence of the NPT.

The issue of future nuclear tests is important to the opponents of the bill in India, because they consider that such tests are necessary in order to upgrade India's nuclear weapons to match nuclear developments elsewhere, and provide security to the nation. The Hyde Act that President Bush signed categorically demands that India ban all nuclear explosive tests in the future. It, however, does not address the fact that the United States itself is working on the design of a "Reliable Replacement Weapon" (RRW) to modernize its nuclear arsenal, and may indeed carry out a test in the future!

Moreover, in the "Definitions" section of the contested 11, it is clearly stated that the "Additional Protocol" is to be based on the Model Additional protocol of the IAEA applicable to non-nuclear-weapon States, which is highly intrusive. It is maybe pointed out that the Hyde Act makes it clear that the U.S. President has to satisfy himself that India is working actively on an early conclusion of the "Fissile Material Control" regime (FMCT); that India is supporting the United States in preventing the spread of enrichment and reprocessing technologies; and that India adheres to the Missile Test Control Regime (MTCR) and NSG guidelines (without actually being invited to be a member of these bodies). These actions which India is obliged to take are not consistent with what "a strategic partner" (which Washington wishes India<sup>3</sup> to be) should be taking. Neither are they consistent with what India—described as a "responsible State with advanced technology"—should be mandated to take.

What also concerns India's planners about the bill is the way it has been formulated. The Hyde Act calls for achieving a moratorium on the production of fissile material for explosive purposes by India, Pakistan, and the People's Republic of China. It may be recalled that China has been producing fissile material for weapons purposes for a long time, while India was not allowed to by the NWS. Therefore, stopping production of fissile material at the same point of time would lead to a serious imbalance. The statement of policy goes on to say that the United States shall "seek to halt the increase of nuclear weapon arsenals in South Asia and to promote their reduction and eventual elimination."

Indian scientists have made their views known about the inadequacy of the Hyde Act, citing two specific areas. First-, the bill says categorically that India cannot reprocess spent fuel from its reactors, it demands this because the United States claims that the "no reprocessing" clause would-prevent from getting plutonium, which could be used later for making nuclear weapons. However, there is more to the clause than meets the eye, India atomic scientists point out.

India decided on a three-stage nuclear program back in the 1950s, when India's nuclear power generation program was set up. In the first stage, natural uranium (U-238) was used in pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWRs). In the second stage, the plutonium extracted through reprocessing from the used fuel of the PHWRs was scheduled to be used to run fast-breeder reactors (FBRs). The plutonium was used in the FBRs in 70% mixed oxide (MOX)-fuel, to breed uranium-233 in a thorium-232 blanket around the core. In the final stage, the FBRs use thorium-232 and produce uranium-233 for use in the third stage reactors.

To a certain extent, India has completed the first stage, although it has realized a dozen nuclear power plants so far. The second stage is only realized by a small experimental fast breeder reactor (13 MW), at Kalpakkam.

Meanwhile, the Indian authorities have cleared the Department of Atomic Energy's proposal to set up a 500 MW prototype of the next-generation fast-breeder nuclear power, reactor at Kalpakkam, thereby setting the stage for the commercial exploitation of thorium as a fuel source.

One reason for India's commitment to switch over to thorium is its large indigenous supply. With estimated thorium reserves of some 290,000 tons, it ranks second only to Australia. Further, the nation's pursuit of thorium helps to bring independence from overseas uranium sources. Since India is a non-signatory of the NPT, its leaders foresaw that its civil nuclear-energy-generation program would be constrained in the long term by the provisions laid down by the commercial uranium suppliers. The 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group demand that purchasers sign the NPT and thereby allow enough oversight to ensure that the fuel (or the plutonium spawned from it) is not used for making nuclear weapons. A non-signatory of the NPT is prevented from receiving any nuclear-related technology and nuclear fuel.

India already began the construction of the Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) in 2005. The AHWR will use thorium, the "fuel of the future," to generate 300 MW of electricity—up from its original design output of 235 MW. The fuel for the AHWR will be a hybrid core, partly thorium-uranium 233 and partly thorium-plutonium.

In other words, if India cannot reprocess the spent fuel to secure plutonium for the sake of converting thorium into fuel, the thorium reactors will never take off. Separation of plutonium is essential for the eventual use of thorium as a nuclear fuel. India therefore expects that reprocessing will be an important activity of its nuclear energy program. This is what has put the Indian atomic scientists on a warpath against the Singh Government's willingness to accept the bill.

Natural uranium contains about 99.3% of the isotope uranium-238 and 0.7% of the fissionable isotope uranium-235. Although uranium-235 is the rarer of the uranium

isotopes, it is the one that most readily undergoes nuclear fission, and is thus the most useful for common nuclear applications. Therefore, to use uranium, the proportion of the uranium-235 isotope found in natural uranium must be increased. This process of increasing the fraction of uranium-235 in natural uranium is called enrichment. At the same time, one must note that while uranium-235 is present in natural uranium in small amounts, uranium-233 does not exist in nature. Therefore, thorium-232 must be converted to uranium-233 in order to generate nuclear power.

The second concern of the Indian scientists is the scope of "full civilian nuclear energy cooperation" (Section 123 of the U.S. Atomic Energy Act) that was promised to India in July 2005. India had assumed that this term encompassed the fuel cycle, namely enrichment of uranium and reprocessing of spent fuel. In the discussions leading to the adoption of the Hyde Act, U.S. legislators argued that the U.S. Atomic Energy Act Of.1954 specifically forbids export of these technologies, as also heavy water production technology, to other countries. India has developed its own technologies in these three important areas. India's top atomic scientists have spelled out some of the key points to be incorporated in the 123 agreement are:

- India should not be asked to participate in international non-proliferation efforts with a policy congruent to that of the United States.
- There should be full-scale civilian nuclear cooperation, with an assurance of constant fuel supply.
- India should be free to carry out more nuclear weapons tests.

There are four main areas of interest for the US to enter into the nuclear cooperation agreement with India. Firstly, this will generate over \$150 billion worth of business opportunities to companies producing nuclear

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reactors, which would in turn be financed by US based transnational banks. Secondly, the Defence Cooperation Agreement, which preceded the nuclear cooperation agreement, would pave the way for the sale of sophisticated weaponry to India creating a huge market for the military industrial complex of the US. Thirdly, this would enable the US to draw India into the National Missile Defence System, which symbolizes the hegemonic design of the US to dominate the entire world. Fourthly, the US wants India to become its strategic ally in Asia, especially in the backdrop of the ASEAN taking a position against the Iraq War and the strengthening of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization comprising of Russia, China and other Central Asian republics. The provisions in the Hyde Act clearly point towards these strategic goals of the US. Nuclear cooperation would provide the leverage to the US to make India fall in line.

Our main weakness regarding nuclear energy is a limited supply of uranium which can be expanded by more mining or going for the thorium cycle. The Government without doing any of this has suddenly pushed 123 Agreement with the US, when India today is on the threshold of completing the Thorium cycle. Contrary to the assurance made by the Prime Minister, the nuclear deal has not assured "full" nuclear cooperation. Technology would continue to be denied to India in crucial areas.

The legal aspects of the nuclear deal question the claim that the 123 Agreement does not require ratification by the Indian Parliament. The union Executive has no authority to enter into any binding treaty unless it is ratified by parliament. In support of this assertion, three articles from the Indian constitution are sighted: Articles 53, 73 and 253 along with entry numbers 6 and 30 from the union list. On the basis of these— to go ahead with the nuclear deal without ratification of parliament is not only undemocratic but also unconstitutional. The national laws

of the US are already embedded in the 123 Agreement and the Government cannot deny that Hyde Act will apply to the deal.

What are India's problems that force us into needing this agreement?

First off, we need energy to sustain our growing economy. We can't depend too much on the middle-east to supply fossil fuel for two reasons:

- (1) They are getting costlier
- (2) That region is constantly volatile. Also, we don't have quality coal available freely in India anymore. Some are hidden underneath our rainforests and we will have to destroy a bit of our ecology to plough them out.

We have very minimal uranium. We need nuclear fuel badly.

In the last 40 years, we have been zealously developing this technology all by our own, though the advanced technology that this agreement is going to bring will help.

What are we losing in this bargain?

We have to agree not to develop nuclear weapons using the fuel and the technology that the US is going to provide us. In order to do this, we have to identify a set of reactors that will use the fuel and the techie stuff comes from them. And understandably, there will be audits to ensure that we are not 'sneaking' out any stuff outside to the reactors used for military purposes. These audits will be carried out by IAEA, International Atomic Energy Agency. India has identified 14 out of 22 reactors as 'civilian' and hence these will come under the IAEA surveillance.

We will also have to work with US in terms of combating other countries that are aspiring for nuclear weapons, namely Iran.

The third most important aspect is about our right to conduct further tests. Interestingly, India has voluntarily capped a moratorium on further tests but we still have the right to test a nuke or two in case the situation demands. Going back a couple of decades, all the signatories of NPT have tested nukes after that. Considering the prevailing situation, India will not want to conduct another test, unless or otherwise it sees a threat.

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MR. SPEAKER : Next speaker is Shri B. Mahtab. You will speak for only five minutes. I know you are very articulate.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Respected Speaker, Sir, the discussion taking place today when the Government is taken as a hostage. It is not only peculiar but also very interesting. Objections to the Agreement are basically two. One, this 123 Agreement will adversely affect India's weapons programme and India's ability to test in the future. The second objection is opposition to the Agreement because it is with the United States of America.

The debate on the Nuclear Deal in the country throws light on how poorly certain sections of our society have developed a sense of national sovereignty during the last 60 years of our Independence. Jawaharlal Nehru was criticized in harsh words when India joined Commonwealth as a Republic. His decision was denounced even in this House. When he appealed for arms aid following the Chinese aggression, he was derided. Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1971 was severely criticized and there were predictions that India was now being made a Soviet Satellite. India recognizing the Heng Samrin regime in Cambodia was attributed wrongly. Indian stand on Soviet entry into Afghanistan was also denounced as siding with the Soviets. Such criticisms were voiced at the time of the happenings, yet critics talk nostalgically about traditional independent Foreign Policy during the last 60 years and fear that it will be compromised if the proposed Indo-US Deal goes through.

What do they worry? What they seem to worry about is that future Indian Governments would not be as strong as the past Indian Governments in asserting Indian sovereignty. But one knows that a sovereign nation when faced with a conflict between its perceived national interests and its contractual obligation or pledged word, exercises its sovereignty to sustain its national security interests and accepts its consequences in the international system. This is what India did during the Bangladesh war. When it ignored the UN Resolution passed by 110 nations mostly our non-aligned friends asking India to stop war. India defied the entire international community when it stood alone in the United Nation General Assembly and declared that it would not sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

That was done while the United Front Coalition Government under Shri I.K. Gujral was in Office.

The nuclear tests of May 11, 1998 were exercises in assertion of our sovereignty when India defied almost the entire international community and conducted the nuclear tests. We have a record of safeguarding our national

[Shri B. Mahtab]

interests at a time when the United States was the dominant super power leading Western Europe, Japan and China. At that time India was weak economically, politically and militarily.

Today, India's strategic partnership is sought not only by the United States but also by the European Union, Japan, and China. India today – a nuclear power State, a missile and space power and IT power – is growing at nine per cent GDP. Therefore, I am puzzled why some sections are terrified of India's sovereignty being compromised by the Indo-US nuclear deal. That shows lack of adequate understanding of the current international realities and an obsession with images not the reality. This indicates a total lack of self-confidence.

MR. SPEAKER : You can lay it, if you want.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I have certain amendments also relating to it. I would say that a debate on the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement cannot be conducted in a vacuum. This Indo-US Agreement on Civilian Nuclear Cooperation is a complex accord having few parallels in international Treaties and Agreements. It has both bilateral and international dimensions. The Agreement is on civilian nuclear cooperation but its military dimension is in a sense even more important. I believe the accord straightaway confers *de facto* nuclear weapon power status on India bypassing NPT. Encased in the 123 Agreement, this status is to be sealed by the IAEA, an institution under United Nations within the terms of India specific "safeguards" agreement that the IAEA is to work out with the Indian nuclear establishments. What are the major issues of concern? Can a strategic programme continue for a credible minimum deterrent? Are we prepared for the possible consequences should India find it necessary to test again? I am of the opinion that the Hyde Act enables the US Administration to enter into civilian nuclear cooperation agreements with India. This was earlier prohibited by US law. This law does not impact

on our strategic programme nor on our vital interests or the independence of our decision making.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry your time is long exhausted.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : In article 2, paragraph 4 of 123 Agreement, it is stated that the implementation of the Agreement would neither hinder nor interfere with the military programme of either country. It is not unknown that the United States does not approve of our weapons programme and we do not approve of theirs either. India's nuclear weapon programme was the cause of 30 years embargo on dual-use high technology flows to India. The US is now bound not to hinder or interfere with our weapons programme while promoting civilian nuclear cooperation with India and this commitment will – if this Agreement gets through – become part of the United States law.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry to interrupt you but I cannot otherwise finish this. Please cooperate. I am very sorry to do this.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, there is no point in laying it down.

MR. SPEAKER : Why not? It will be recorded fully. It is very painful for me to do that. You always make good points but you can summarize in another one minute. The Chair does not feel happy at all to interrupt Members.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : These are certain issues which I did not speak earlier on two other occasions.

17.00 hrs.

The issue of testing is more complex. After 1998, the then Government declared that we did not need any more explosive tests. A voluntary moratorium on testing was announced. In article V part (vi) and article 14 part (2) and (5) of the agreement it clearly States. When one reads together, these clauses have been so drafted that without

mentioning the issue of testing sufficient safeguards have been put in place to protect India's interest in the event it did, for whatever reasons. What did it say? "To create the necessary conditions for India to obtain fuel access to the international fuel market including reliable and uninterrupted and continual fuel supply from firms in several nations, and towards the end in part © it says that in the light of the above and the rest". Without stating in so many words the US has agreed to treat India, as it would, a nuclear weapon State conducting tests even with additional concessions. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may please conclude now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, I need go to the fissile material. But I have a query to ask. The topic is on the moratorium on production of fissile material. The hon. Prime Minister on the 17th of August, 2006, in his statement in Parliament had said that we are not willing to accept moratorium on the production of fissile material. We are only committed to negotiating. That was his statement on the 17th of August, 2006. In the Hyde Act, which came later, in section 104 © (2) (d) it is mentioned that the President must submit to Congress a description of the steps that India is taking. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should be aware of our numbers and the time allotted. What can we do? I have already allowed you almost 150 per cent more than your allotted time.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, there is no time limit for this.

MR. SPEAKER : There is time limit and there has to be a time limit. There is time limit even for the Members of the Ruling Party and the Opposition. Even then I have allowed you more than double the time allotted to you.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, I am not challenging your decision.

MR. SPEAKER : I know the ability of Shri Mahtab. He can speak for two hours on this topic. But it cannot be

helped. You can think when Shri Gurudas Dasgupta takes over. What will you do? So, please co-operate with the Chair. I am sorry about it, but please co-operate with the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, give me another three to four minutes, I would conclude.

In the agreed text, "the quantity agreed in special reasonable material that may be separated may only be utilized in national facility under IAEA." On 13th of August, 2007 the hon. Prime Minister had stated that "any special reasonable material that may be separated may be utilized in national facilities under IAEA safeguards. Thus the interests of our three-stage nuclear programme have been protected." We would like from the hon. Prime Minister to understand the statement which he had made on the 17th of August, 2006 and the statement he made on the 13th of August, 2007. There is a little bit of difference and there is a little bit of confusion in this. To a great extent the nuclear deal is becoming, to many minds, very unclear also. There are other issues and there are certain amendments about which it is being discussed outside. A suggestion has been made that it is the domestic law of the US which is causing all problems and we should examine whether we can alter our law such as the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 in such a way so as to insulate. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have got a list another 21 Members. If I have to give 15 minutes to each one of them, then the discussion would extend up to tomorrow. I am sorry it cannot be done. We have agreed that we will complete it today. I have given you triple the time allotted to you.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : We should examine whether we can alter our law, that is, the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 in such a way as to insulate our strategic objectives. If that can be done, we would be strengthening our law and on the basis of those altered laws renegotiate the 123 Agreement. Though article 14 of the 123 Agreement

[Shri B. Mahtab]

provides effective protection for India, the Government should consider the merit of adding a further layer of insurance under our domestic statute. Let us be doubly sure of it. Specially Parliament could enact an amendment to the Atomic Energy Act of 1962 as well as a change in the Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipments and Technology Guidelines making it illegal for nuclear materials or equipments to be transferred outside the country.

Before I conclude, I am reminded of what Jane Wells had said. She said:

"Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break."

Perhaps the Prime Minister was reminded of this in this autumn but at the cost of the prestige of this Cabinet. We have a super Cabinet now. That is accountable neither to the Legislature nor to the nation. This is a disquieting precedent. It may be used by future Governments and future coalitions.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I did not expect this from you.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : It can reduce almost any Treaty, any Agreement and any policy matter to a private enterprise pushing both the Executive and the Legislature to the margins of policy-making. A far better option would have been to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee to study the deal. At least, the prestige of the Cabinet could have been retained.

[Translation]

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. Today is a very important day and it is important because today finally light is going to be thrown on the facts on nuclear treaty, which has been discussed in the country for last one and a half years. Today the whole

country including this House as well as the voters in the country will know the truth and chaff would be segregated from the grain. I have got many facts relating to nuclear energy. The speakers preceding me have given detailed information to you. Much more data relating to nuclear energy generation have been presented. I want to discuss roughly those principles and issues, which have been unfortunately made controversial.

[English]

Sir, resurgence of nuclear energy is now a worldwide phenomenon. Japan, for example, in the early 1970s and 1980s, had 90 per cent of their energy imported and India today imports 76 per cent of all its energy and by 2015, the percentage will go up to 90 per cent. So, the need of diversifying our energy basket is very well known. The nuclear deal with the US is one step in adding a resource to our energy basket. I think; the larger issue is why are we succumbing to the US.

[Translation]

I am very happy that today this issue is being discussed and the duality and double speak of those who chose to adopt it will stand exposed today. I have deep respect for my leftist friends. I may not fully agree with the ideology of leftists, but I am happy that they have a conviction, a principle.

[English]

The Left Parties are not in favour of developing nuclear weapons. That is their ideology. That is their mind set. I respect that. I may not agree with it.

[Translation]

Four-five years ago it was said that the BJP has dual personality. Now I have understood that during last many years when BJP was in power it used to raise different issues and now, since it is in opposition it talks of altogether different issues.

[English]

The next step of strategic partnership with the United States was started by the NDA Government. What we have done is merely secure our right to participate in global nuclear trade. The crux of this deal is that the Americans are only helping us to facilitate the talks in the NSG because it is a 45 member group.

Sir I might remind the House that the NSG was itself created to keep India out of the nuclear trade after the 1974 test explosions.

[Translation]

I am very happy that hon. Advani ji, though he is not present in the House, today promised late Smt. Indira Gandhi whole heartedly.

[English]

Sir, just because we conducted those nuclear tests, we were excluded from the global trade of nuclear technologies, nuclear knowledge and nuclear know how. But now the time has come where the world, Europe, United States and Asia have recognised the global prominence and the geo-political role that India is going to play and is playing in world affairs.

[Translation]

If any country signs an agreement with us, that country is not doing any favour. It is a matter of principle that our Communist friends.

[English]

communism is one school of thought. It is receding. I grant that.

[Translation]

Now it is left only in China and Cuba.

[English]

Communism is a school of thought. It is one school of

thought. But in our country, we are so democratic that even that school of thought has five different sections. The Americans have not done us a favour. This is a deal on parity, on equity and solely to ensure that India is able to develop its nuclear assets. Nuclear energy is important to us and we will develop it and that is our right.

Sir, the NPT which India has not signed is a flawed Treaty. This is the Government's stand from day one. How can four or five countries in the world decide that 1st January, 1967 is the cut off date and beyond that no other country can have the right to possess nuclear weapons? This is precisely the reason that we did not sign the NPT and we still have not signed it. On the contrary, after the 1998 test, when respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, the Government went to the United Nations and accepted the fact that we are ready to concede this self-imposed moratorium and give it a legal framework. That would have stopped the Indian nuclear strategic programme. I am happy to report that today the agreement with the United States is only for civilian and nuclear energy. Of the 14 installations that we have opened up for India-specific safeguards in the IAEA will remain just that.

Sir, L.K. Advani was speaking before us. He said that his Government was only offering two sides. First, the IAEA safeguards to be implemented and to open up for inspections. He failed to mention that his Government had agreed to cap and not build any more nuclear reactors which are of strategic purposes.

Sir, I, on behalf of the Congress Party, am proud to say that whatever nuclear facilities we have today for our strategic programme, it is our decision – how many we have today and how many we have tomorrow. Today, we have six and tomorrow we need to make 60. We deserve and we deserve the right to make those 60 strategic nuclear installations in our country.

Sir, it is our sovereign right and I think we have not compromised. The problem is that there is so much

[Shri Sachin Pilot]

confusion created, around the nuclear deal that today it is coming in the eye of the people.

[Translation]

Yadav ji has said that many articles have been written on it in newspaper, magazines. It has been covered on TV as well, including debate on it in the Parliament. But we have got a chance, today, to speak on the real issue.

[English]

The NPT has been defined by an Argentinean President as a Treaty of disarming the disarmed. We have been against that Treaty. Till date, our conviction and our principled stand is what it was before.

One of the things that makes me very proud as an Indian citizen is the fact that when an individual becomes a Prime Minister of this country, he could be from my party or from any other party. I have full faith in that Prime Minister. No Indian Prime Minister, who represents the 100 crore Indians, can ever take a decision which will be harming India's interests in the present or in the future. I am proud to say that. Whether it is Shri Vajpayee ji or Shri Devegowda ji or Shri Gujral ji or Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, our Indian Prime Minister, whoever he or she may be, will always take a decision in the best interests of India.

[Translation]

Many Members including our leftist friends were speaking on foreign policy. "You have sold out to the Americans." How long this double speak would go on? Budhadev Babu is inviting FDI in his home State. There is no problem in it, no problem if FDI comes to Kerala. Inflow of American funds is not a bad thing there. They have not sold out anything. Today, America is negotiating with us because it wants our partnership. And we should be proud of it.

[English]

We have arrived on the global stage where we will decide what is in the best interest of India.

Now I come to the imperialist policy of the United States.

[Translation]

This phrase has been used repeatedly.

[English]

I beg to differ and I want to state clearly in this august House that the Indian foreign policy is mandated only after looking at what is in India's best interest. It has no influence from any country whether big or small.

[Translation]

India is a large country with a population of one hundred crore and not a small country which can be pressurised by – any other country.

[English]

That is why, I think it is ironical to teach a party or a Government. It is also ironical to give dictation on foreign policy to this Government.

In 1971 when Shrimati Indira Gandhi not only changed history but the geography, when India was a very vulnerable country, when we were not as economically strong as we are today, we created Bangladesh.

[Translation]

America's Seventh Fleet had come to the Bay of Bengal. But we did not bother for anyone and it was because the Congress Party was in power. I would like to add one more thing that when the Government conducted nuclear explosion in 1998 entire country stood by the Government. But BJP should not be under the wrong impression as if said nuclear device was developed in Kitchen of BJP's

office. The Congress Party had supported this initiative for four decades. They claim that they came to power and conducted test. It is country's initiative and the bomb does not belong to any political party. Dr. Homi Bhabha did not belong to any party. He was an asset to the nation.

*[English]*

We must treat it like that. It goes to the credit of the Indian scientists, researchers and nuclear physicists who have developed this programme for us. It is not a question of which party is in power.

*[Translation]*

So far as India is concerned.

*[English]*

We have outrightly opposed the invasion of Iraq. India has been in the forefront of taking leadership of not just the Third-World countries or the developing countries but also, even today, be it the fight against apartheid, be it taking our own stand *vis-a-vis* many countries where perhaps the American interests are not in consonance with our interests. I want to assure this House that whatever may happen in terms of foreign policy, this House must be assured that it will be done only after look at what suits India's interest best.

*[Translation]*

Bhabha Saheb has been quoted many a time. But I am neither quoting an magazine nor any leader. But Bhabha has said one thing definitely.

*[English]*

He said: "No power is more expensive than - no power." So, Sir, I think what we have achieved with the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement on Civil Cooperation will open up the doors for India to trade with every single country which has nuclear technology - of all the 45 nations including China and Russia. So far as NPT is concerned. "Some

countries have signed the NPT and are not abiding by the rules of international relations.

*[Translation]*

Let it be China. When China transferred technology to Pakistan no one got up and said that it is wrong.

*[English]*

When a country like Iran, which is a signatory to NPT does not abide by the rules and regulations of international agreement, that is when India took a principled stand and said: "No. The Iranian Government and the Iranian establishment has done a wrong thing." The Indian people have thousands of years of association with the Iranian people.

The Indian people will stand by the Iranian people in good times and bad, but if the Government does something wrong, we must have the courage of conviction to get up and say, 'this is wrong and it must be corrected'. We are a larger country. Let us not reduce ourselves to feel that we can be overpowered by one country or another country. If we can have strategic partnership with the European Union, with the Russians, with the Chinese, with the Japanese, why can we not have a strategic partnership with the Americans and only when it suits our commercial and strategic interests?

So, I am very glad and I am very thankful to the hon. Prime Minister that he has taken this step and he has got out of these negotiations which no previous Government was able to get out. It is not a question of debating as to whether how many megawatts of electricity we would have made by hydro or by other means. Our fossil fuels are limited. India has a very concentrated programme of developing hydro energy, thermal energy, solar energy and wind energy, but nuclear energy is also an area where we have to invest. There are some technologies which are dual use technologies which are under the restrictive list of the NSG and unless the NSG in all its entirety, all 45 members, agree to trade with India,

[Shri Sachin Pilot]

we will never have access to those dual use technologies and those technologies are important not just for generation of nuclear power, but also for other uses like for making a super computer, for developing space technologies which we do not have and which we are deprived of. So, this nuclear apartheid has to end. I think our neighbours are very worried about India getting this deal from America. I think time will tell, our future generations will look back and history will decide whether this deal with the United States of America is something that is beneficial for our generation and the coming generations.

Sir, Shri Mohan Rawale has left the House. He also gave a very passionate speech as to why he is opposed to this deal. His party supported the Congress candidate Shrimati Pratibha Singh Patil for the post of the President in the Presidential Election in the interest of Maharashtra. Similarly, may be in the interest of India, he can speak to Baia Saheb and his party could also support what we are saying today. I do not know if it will happen.

Sir, in 1954, when the country was very weak, feeble and vulnerable, Nehruji led the entire world. He was a known statesman for the entire Asia and the Third World. He was respected for what he said because foreign policy was the forte of the Congress Party and I am very proud to report that it continues to be so. It was Shri Rajiv Gandhi, while speaking about nuclear disarmament, who told the world at the United Nations in 1987 that India will readily sign the CTBT and FMCT if all the five nuclear powers disarm and destroy all their nuclear weapons. So, this has been the ideology and the thought of the Congress Party. I think this Government has done a great service by engaging the Americans and getting what is needed for developing our nuclear energy and for our strategic purposes.

I would like to say a few words about the very important aspect of testing. As far as testing is concerned,

no matter which country at any time will conduct a nuclear test, there will be repercussions for it. In 1974, when the Buddha smiled for the first time, Shrimati Indira Gandhi knew what is going to happen. She had the courage because our farmers were working hard, our scientists were working hard and our young people were working hard to manage those circumstances. In 1998, when we tested again, we had sanctions and our country was strong enough, we endured the pains and we came out on top.

Today, India is the fifth largest producer of electricity in the world, we are the world's largest producer of milk and milk products, we are the second largest in the production of fresh fruits and vegetables and we are the third largest producer of food grains in the world. We are a country on the move. Today, I think, no amount of animosity by any other country will derail our progress and our GDP growth.

Sir, there were some comments made about our GDP growth being 6 per cent or 8 per cent or 10 per cent. These are not mere numbers, they are important because this growth will percolate down to those 6,40,000 villages where India lives. How will they get re-employment? How will they move from agriculture to tertiary services? This growth rate will improve their lot and not let these people to lag behind.

Sir, in conclusion, I hope better sense will prevail on our Opposition parties and I think they will look at India's national interest much more magnanimously and leave their narrow political self-interest, stop doing flip-flop on the nuclear testing issue and the nuclear negotiations with the Americans and finally come out of their hoodwinked foreign policy and support the Government when it does best because, I think, this Government has done a landmark deal and I think the hon. Prime Minister must be congratulated for this.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : Sir, the Left Parties made their position very clear that we are opposed

to this Treaty, the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement, because it is an unequal treaty. Secondly, it has been told that it opens up a renaissance and it will meet our energy needs.

A lot of things have been told here, but what is the fact about it. I think, the hon. Prime Minister, in his previous statement, has said that at present India's nuclear share in India's energy generation is three per cent. In 2020, with Indo-US Nuclear Agreement, it would become seven per cent. I do not think, it is going to make a very substantial difference by jumping from three per cent to seven per cent. At that time, our requirement will be much more.

Sir, then comes the price at which we are getting it. It has not been officially calculated. It has not been told what is the calculation about it. But it has been calculated by various experts and in any case, it will be more than ten trillion rupees that we will have to spend for producing these nuclear plants and nuclear energy.

It is also said that when we produce energy, it would be so costly that it would not help the common people or even our industries to utilize it in an economic manner. When we say renaissance, we use all kinds of words, but the fact of the matter is that for too little advantage that we are getting, we are paying too much in terms of money, in terms of political concessions. These are some of the disagreements that we have.

Another thing is that the hon. Prime Minister said that it will be our own decision that we will do the nuclear test or not. It is good. But after making that statement in the Parliament last time, the US Ambassador to India came public and said that if you do the nuclear test, that is the end of it. They take a different perception about it. We have said that we can take our own decision at the time which is suitable to us.

Now, to spend these huge resources for producing a small percentage of increase in nuclear energy, whether we are going to abandon our programmes of economic development? When you talk in Parliament about the

Government's flagship programmes being implemented, whether it is a question of Employment Guarantee Scheme or for bringing a legislation for unorganized workers, it is always said that there are serious economic constraints. When there are economic constraints to bring about the programmes which will affect the large masses of Indian people, who are common people, here we are spending enormous money to produce a little bit of energy.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak for one more minute. Every Party cannot have 15-20 minutes. It is not possible. Then you would have agreed for two days' discussion. Nobody suggested that there should be two days' discussion.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should treat our Party in the same manner as you are treating the other Parties.

MR. SPEAKER : If somebody is not listening to the Chair, if everybody defies the Chair, that cannot be an ideal situation. Now you may kindly speak. I have given you one minute. Another one minute will be the final one. That is what I expect from you as a disciplined Party.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : I do not know what I would say in one minute. As a disciplined soldier of the Party, I may have to forgo.

MR. SPEAKER : Good.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : I will not take much of the time.

MR. SPEAKER : I know that you will not take much time. You are very articulate; I know that. Please understand that the Chair is very unhappy to ring the bell; but I – whoever sits here – have a duty to perform.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, I have also a duty to perform.

MR. SPEAKER : I know that. I wish I had your ability to perform the duty!

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : I will not take much of the time; I will obey the Chair. I will speak one or two things and then conclude.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : I have a feeling that in the course of doing this, we will do away with our self-reliant policy. We have various other sources of energy. I would not like to go into the details. It has been pointed out that there is tremendous capacity; there is hydro-electric power generation possibility. We have hydel power; we have wind energy and all kinds of things. We have also huge deposits, perhaps world's biggest deposits, of thorium. We were trying to utilize all these. In the name of this Indo-US nuclear energy deal, I have my own doubts whether we are going to abandon all these or whether we are giving less priority to all these.

Sir, due to time constraint, I may not be able to say anything more.

MR. SPEAKER : If you have some more points, you can lay it.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : I have no points to lay.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much; I am very sorry.

Shri Uday Singh, I would like to make one thing clear. Your Party has another 12 minutes left. I will give five minutes to each Member; three Members' names are there.

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea) : I would try to finish it within the allotted time.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. I deeply appreciate your kind cooperation.

SHRI UDAY SINGH : Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me time to speak on this important matter.

It is really unfortunate that an Agreement so important that will have an impact on the country for a long number

of decades has got caught up in unfortunate controversies. We have heard and read more about this Agreement than we have about any other Agreement in the recent memory.

Before I speak of the deal itself, I would like to draw the attention of this House to something as important as, or perhaps more important than, the deal itself. During the last Session, a lot of heat was generated on whether this debate should be held under Rule 184 which entails voting or Rule 193 which does not require voting. I think that you were absolutely correct in ruling that under the present laws, international treaties do not require Parliamentary sanction. The Government of the day has the sole prerogative to enter into such agreements. Therefore, voting was neither required nor was it necessary. It brings me to the point that I want to emphasise on. Look at the absurdity of the situation. The change in retirement age of a Director in a medical institute requires Parliamentary sanction; disinvestment of Tyre Corporation requires Parliamentary approval; but an international treaty whereby territory can be ceded to another country does not require Parliamentary involvement. I think that we are making Parliament more and more irrelevant.

Therefore, I earnestly urge all the Members and especially to the Government that the laws must be changed. When our Constitution was written, a political milieu like this was probably unforeseen. India has changed. Indian politics has changed. Indeed, the world has changed. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the Government to give a serious consideration to the aspect that the laws must be amended. In fact, this whole controversy of a deal for an agreement which even we in the BJP agree is required, maybe not an agreement which is a *fait accompli*, which we believe is an unequal deal where India is at a disadvantage but we do recognise the fact that an agreement with the United States is required, it has got caught up in all kinds of controversies for the simple reason that the Government did not require Parliamentary sanction, did not require Parliament's

approval, did not require Parliamentary involvement, and went ahead and did things where we have serious objections to various things that were done. So, my request to you, Sir, is that you must use your influence to see that these laws which need to be changed are changed.

Sir, coming back to the debate, as I said, the BJP indeed feels that there is a need for an agreement but the agreement is structured differently. Giving due respect and considerations to the sensitivities of the various political Parties present here, we do not deny that there is a need. Therefore, Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, since you are here, what you needed today and perhaps what you missed today is a political consensus. That is what is lacking.

I will refrain from going into the specifics of the deal firstly because the time is short and secondly because the other eminent Members have already done so and I am sure the other Members to follow would also go into the merits of the deal. But what I would like to say is, what you miss today is the political consensus, and the responsibility for getting that political consensus was yours. It was not the BJP's. Granted that you have the legal sanction to go into this deal on your own but it is also of the moral and political sanction. You did not. Your Government should have tried to build that political consensus.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if a bi-partisan support in the Indian context was ever required, it was required for a deal such as this because I cannot overemphasize that this agreement is an important agreement. We are in complete agreement of the need for an agreement and, therefore, there must have been a greater effort on the part of the Government to have built that political consensus, which the Government failed to do unfortunately. Mr. Prime Minister, your Ministers and sometimes you yourself.  
*... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI UDAY SINGH : Sir, I will take just two or three minutes more.

Your condescending attitude towards the BJP does not help in building the political consensus. The language used by your Party spokespersons, whom I am convinced – have red chillies for breakfast – does not open the way for any meaningful political dialogue to take place.

There is a demand in my constituency and I am sure there is a similar demand in other places that the two national parties must come together on national issues. But clearly it is for you to realize that the BJP Members are here because they were elected and sent here by the same people who elected your Members. We did not break open the doors of the Lok Sabha and came and occupied the benches here. I do not know whether I should be saying this here. In the last Session, I almost staked my personal reputation to see that the logjam gets broken and I was in touch with the senior members of your Cabinet to try and work out a system whereby the two parties would come into a dialogue. I was given to understand that it was acceptable to you and then I was suddenly told that it was not. When things like this happen, it makes life very difficult.

Now, let me make the BJP's stand on the nuclear agreement clear. We have been told that we do 'double-speak', 'treble-speak' or whatever. We do not suffer from the Left's encumbrances of not doing business with the United States. For us, agreement with the US is as welcome as agreements with other countries just as long as those agreements are good for India. My young friend, Mr. Sachin Pilot was referring to the NSSP and we have no hesitation in saying that the genesis. . .

MR. SPEAKER : If you are taking the time of the other speaker in your party, I cannot help it. You can go on for another five minutes, which your party has.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, if you feel that nobody needs to listen to our views, it is all right, we need not speak!

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you saying all those things? Do not impute anything to the Chair. Mr. Swain, I will call you to speak depending on the availability of the time.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Yesterday, right up to 6.30 p.m., the Government wanted the debate to continue. . . .*(Interruptions)* You may ask the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Uday Singh, you please continue.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever names are given, I would continue to do it. I am not going to be guided by you.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : If you do not want this debate to take place, we are agreed for that. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are always lecturing to the Chair.

Mr. Uday Singh, please continue.

SHRI UDAY SINGH : Sir, I would try and get out of this. I am trying to finish my speech in just another minute.

After Pokhran-II, which itself was an act of great political courage, there were sanctions. The NDA Government showed tremendous diplomatic and political finesse. It not only got out of the sanctions, it actually improved our relations globally, and we took our understanding with the United States and many other countries to a higher level, which culminated probably in the NSSP, which was being referred to just now. The NSSP would have formed a tremendous foundation for an honourable Deal, had this Deal not been done in such great hurry and bolstered in the manner that it has.

So, where do we go from here now, Mr. Prime Minister? We are unable to appreciate the argument that this is a 'now or never Deal'. This is a Deal between India and the United States. We appreciate your efforts that have gone into it. But we cannot appreciate the fact that this is a Deal between Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. George Bush only. It is not a Deal between two individuals. If it is, then I am sorry to say that one of you is trying to hoodwink the other; and India does not hoodwink other countries into signing agreements. Now, if it is a deal between the two countries – India and the United States – whether we sign the Deal in a hurry now or we sign the Deal after due deliberations with all political parties, build a consensus and then sign it, it does not make a difference.

Therefore, Mr. Prime Minister, my request to you would be to take Parliamentary sanction, to be candid with the US Administration; they should go to the US Congress, say that this is the request that has come from one democracy to another, make necessary changes, if required, and then go ahead with the Deal. We will applaud for you, we will applaud for India. We have no hesitation whatsoever in supporting you just as long as India's strategic interests, India's Foreign Policy interests are safeguarded.

Thank you very much *Adhyakshji*.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh. Your party's time is three minutes. However, I would allow you five minutes. If you have anything, in writing, you may lay it also.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusaria) : No, Sir, I have nothing to lay, in writing.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our nuclear deal with America has put the whole country in an agitational mood since last session, i.e. monsoon session of Lok Sabha. It has become a talk of the town. People are apprehensive as

if the deal is going to affect our non-aligned foreign policy adopted since Nehru's era? Will it not lead us to a class of blind followers of America, as has been America's history. Afghanistan and Iraq have been reminded. And it has happened just because of America. Now, is India also going to fall prey to it? This is the doubt in everybody's mind.

Sir, it came up during the debate in last session that the consent of the Parliamentary Committee is not needed for an agreement with a foreign country. But signing of such a big deal has put the whole country in agitational mood. It has raised a question mark before the country. The Government was afraid of putting this issue on debate in the House on the pretext of legal hurdles and even scared of obtaining consent of the House. In fact, it should not have been done. Democracy needs due regards for aspiration and wishes of the people and law or the policy matters should not come in its way. People's opinion required consent of Parliament for this agreement and majority of Members of Parliament was against the said deal." It means majority of our country was against it. Therefore, consent of the House was required for it. I do not want to go into more details as the agreement involves many conditions. Several Ministers; including the Prime Minister, are saying that the agreement is not going to affect our sovereignty nor the foreign policy. On the contrary, the officers in America's foreign department including American Ambassador to India are of different view. Therefore, it is quite clear, as several hon. Members have said during the debate that this agreement takes away our right of conducting tests in the future. Whatever clarification the Government may give, neither the people of the country nor this House has any doubt about it. The Government say that consequent upon signing of this agreement, we would be able to generate 20 thousand MW power by 2020. I want to know-why the Government is adopting American technology in place of indigenous one? They will spend Rs. 2 lakh crore for setting up of nuclear power plants and production of electricity under the Agreement.

If we will spend this amount on hydro-power projects on the rivers originating from Nepal and North-East, then about one lakh megawatts of electricity can be produced. Why are we not focusing on this? Why are we kowtowing the US? I want to tell the cost of production of electricity after the said Nuclear Power Agreement is finalized with the US. It will cost Rs. 9-10 per unit. The electricity generated by our thermal power plants costs Rs. 2.50 per unit while that from thermal power plants costs Rs. 1.50-1.75 per unit, then why do we want to follow this technology which costs Rs. 10 per unit? Why do we want to put this question before the country? Most surprisingly, the very nuclear power technology we are borrowing from the US and for which we are handing over our country to the US and becoming its follower, the same technology is used by the US to produce just 19.4 per cent of electricity back home. It is a proof that the US itself is not producing nuclear power through its own plants but it is forcing this technology on our country.

You speak of Atal ji and previous Governments. Just now, a Congress member was saying that there is a huge difference between the Congress of 1974 and the present Congress. The then Prime Minister of this country, late Smt. Indira Gandhi had accepted the US sanctions and the challenge. Similarly, during NDA rule, Atal ji had accepted the US sanctions and challenges. Therefore, today there is a need that we take the whole House in confidence before going ahead with the nuclear Agreement. A joint parliamentary committee should be set up which should review the Hyde Act and every condition on which you have reached the Agreement. Thus, all the facts after such review should be brought before the House and only then the Government should go ahead with this Agreement.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much. Prof. M. Ramadass. Your party has got three minutes, but you may speak for five minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry) : Sir, I am the only speaker from my party.

MR. SPEAKER : Therefore, you will get five minutes instead of three minutes.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, I am very happy that the Indian Parliament today is discussing a very significant deal which will have far-reaching implications on the Indian economy and the Indian country. We are grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for enabling a discussion in this House. Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Members of the House that this is not the first time that the Prime Minister has come to this House to explain the intricacies of this Agreement; this is the third time. We have never seen a Prime Minister who is so transparent in his approach towards Parliament. An hon. Member said that Parliament has become irrelevant as far as this Agreement is concerned. We are discussing this Agreement for the third time. He is not shying away from the Parliament in explaining the rationale of this Agreement. Therefore, at the outset, I should compliment and congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for effecting this deal.

On behalf of our party, PMK, we deem it a pleasure to extend full and wholehearted support to this Agreement which contemplates a cordial cooperation between India and US on the use of nuclear energy for civil purposes or peaceful purposes. We consider this Agreement as one more innovative initiative of the UPA Government towards faster, quicker and stable economic growth of this country.

We know that in the last three and a half years, the UPA Government under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh and Madam Sonia Gandhi has implemented a large number of programmes designed to promote growth and social justice in this country. A mention may be made to NREGP and Bharat Nirman while several other monumental schemes have also been implemented. In our view, this Indo-US nuclear deal is also a part of the larger

programme of the Government of India to develop India's progress.

I thought that the Members who are discussing this deal must have read this deal line by line and article by article, but unfortunately most of the people who have levelled allegations seem to have not read the Agreement in full and that is why, they have said that India has become an unequal partner, India has surrendered its sovereignty, India has different perceptions with regard to use of nuclear energy and the Hyde Act will override 123 Agreement. All these statements at best are hypothetical statements or statements which are in the form of guess work as well as hunches, which cannot be substantiated from the text of the Agreement. At least I have gone through this Agreement. There is a preamble to the text and it is spread in 22 pages and 17 articles.

A careful perusal of this document would make any objective reader realise that this Agreement or deal is in tune with our contemporary needs of energy requirement, which is *sine qua non* for India's development. Therefore, today even the Leader of the Opposition said that energy is important and without energy, progress of Indian economy either at 8 per cent or 9 per cent growth rate is not possible. All macro economic models worked out at the Indian universities have revealed that the energy is the most significant factor among all the factors which are contributing to the growth of the economy. Therefore, this deal will add to the growth of this economy by contributing to the supply of energy. A speaker said that this deal would help us to get only four per cent of energy requirement of India, but I would feel that something is better than nothing.

Not only that, after this deal, we will be able to import nuclear fuel supply from 45 countries and all the sanctions will be removed. Therefore, we can expect a quantum jump in the supply of nuclear fuel. USA has pledged support and help to India in the matter of revising the rules of Nuclear Suppliers Group to favour India. Once the NSG amends its guidelines, India becomes open for nuclear

commerce for rest of the world. At that time, what happens in Washington should not really matter as we will be free to source our fuel from other countries. If the American Congress shoots down the 123 Agreement, the biggest losers would be American companies. In the above context, trade with Russia will be especially important. Russia has already expressed interest in this regard. Importantly, unlike the US, they do not have laws which make it mandatory for them to stop supplying nuclear fuel to the country in case of a nuclear test. On the contrary, they view India as having a history of responsible behaviour in terms of non-proliferation.

Australia – with its rich Uranium reserves – too has already expressed willingness to cooperate with Indian needs in the NSG, so that its guidelines can be amended for the supply of knowhow and equipment to India in the civil atomic energy sector.

The deal does not cap India's nuclear weapons programme in any way, and if it comes through, then India can use its scarce indigenous Uranium exclusively for weapons while importing Uranium for power reactors.  
*... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If the Congress Party wants, then I can give him time from the Congress Party's time. There is some time left of the Congress Party.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. M. RAMADASS : This provides for exchange of information on research in controlled thermonuclear explosives, and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor Project, in which India recently became a participant.

India is working on new ways to use Thorium as a nuclear fuel. Therefore, India's dependence on imported Uranium is for a comparatively short-term, and the Agreement could ensure this supply.

MR. SPEAKER: You can also lay it on the Table of the House.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : No, Sir. On the positive side, the Agreement has tremendous advantages for India's development. It is not only from the energy's point of view, but in terms of other inputs that we require. Therefore, we support this deal wholeheartedly.

On behalf of our Party, we once again congratulate and compliment the hon. Prime Minister who is bent upon taking India on the higher growth trajectory path.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri L. Ganesan, I am allowing you to speak on this issue for four minutes. You had two minutes with you, and I am giving you double the time to speak on this issue.

SHRI L. GANESAN (Tiruchirappalli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to participate in this discussion on the Indo-US Agreement.

At the very outset, I want to congratulate our beloved Prime Minister wholeheartedly, and also commend him profusely for having clinched this Agreement and for having concluded this Agreement. There were several hurdles, several obstacles, and several barriers in it, but our hon. Prime Minister deftly, skilfully and in his own style has surmounted all the obstacles and concluded this Agreement. It is a splendid achievement by which our beloved Prime Minister has added a golden chapter to the history of our glorious nation. *... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ganesan, why do not you lay it on the Table of the House, and every sentence will be recorded.

SHRI L. GANESAN : Sir, I am not going through it.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, then you can have the entire statement recorded.

SHRI L. GANESAN : I strongly support this Agreement because this is an historical achievement; I strongly support this Agreement because India gets due recognition as a nuclear club member; I strongly support this Agreement because this Agreement takes our nation one

[Shri L. Ganesan]

step forward in our endeavour to become a world power; I strongly support this Agreement because we do not surrender our sovereign right to conduct nuclear test; and I strongly support this Agreement because we have not surrendered our sovereignty in our foreign policy.

I do not claim that I know all the intricacies and certainties of the Agreement. Therefore, it would be better if I quote the opinion of eminent persons and scientists instead of waxing eloquent on the merits of this Agreement. I am saying this because that will be more appropriate on this occasion. Shri R. Chidambaram, the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission from 1993 to 2000 has said that: "For nuclear renaissance the world needs India." He has also said that : "From the outset . . . there are three boundary conditions. There will be no effect on the strategic programme."

Many other experts have given their views, but since time is very short I wish to take up the objection raised by the Opposition Parties. First of all I wish to dismiss the shrill cry of somebody who does not even have a single Member in the Lok Sabha describing this Agreement as a Master-Slave charter. I simply ignored this because I thought that it might have reminded that somebody's earlier stages in an earlier life. Therefore, I do not want to reply to it.

18.00 hrs.

As far as BJP is concerned, I have great respect for Vajpayee ji, the former Prime Minister. They have already stated that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be appointed, which should give its own report and on which Parliamentary approval should be given. The Constitution is the bedrock of our political set up, and all that is required is the Cabinet's approval. What were they doing while they were in power?

Lastly, I wish to inform the hon. Prime Minister that

the nation as a whole is with you; the UPA is with you; the Chairperson of the UPA is with you; above all, the Democratic Progressive Alliance is with you; and Dr. Kalaignar, rank one strategist, rank one diplomat and a statesman is with you. Everybody is with you. Therefore, please go ahead undaunted and bring greater glory to this glorious nation.

With these words and because of the intervention of the Speaker, Sir, I lay rest of my speech.

\*Sir, I don't want to dismiss the criticism of the Left parties so lightly. I share with them their concerns and apprehensions. We cannot take US at its face value. We cannot and we should not ignore the foul play of the US in international politics. We cannot easily forget its foul play in Vietnam, in Cuba, in Iran and in Iraq. No doubt, we should be vigilant and watchful as far as the US is concerned.

Mr. R. Chidambaram the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission from 1993 to 2000 has said, "there will be no deceleration in our three-stage Nuclear Power Programme which has been the foundation on which we have built our entire Programme (Agreement) and there will be no effect on our Advanced R and D Programme. These boundary conditions have always been with us as we have gone through this. So, there will be no effect on our Strategic Programme".

"But as far as 123 Agreement goes, there is nothing in the Agreement which prevents us from testing if the Government decides to test for whatever reason". This is quoted from his exclusive interview he had given to The Hindu dated 10th August 2007.

Let me quote 'Indian Express' dated 25-7-07. Former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K.Kasturirangan says, "If for some naive and sentimental reasons, Indian decision makers say 'no' to

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\*. . .\*This part of the speech was laid on the Table

the Agreement, then they must also decide how they will produce 20,000 MW of nuclear power by the year 2020 as envisaged by the current plans of the Department of Atomic Energy. With the 123 Agreement, however, it is possible that the share of nuclear power in the energy mix can comfortably reach 20,000 MW by 2020. With wise planning and enabling legislation this target can also be easily exceeded. There is no doubt that saying 'yes' to the deal is important for the future of the Indian Nuclear Power Industry".

No doubt this Agreement is not without inadequacies, shortcomings and pitfalls. But they could be set right and corrected when we work at it and implement it.

"It is a sound and honourable Agreement and the assurances provided to Parliament by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2006 have been fulfilled in their entirety".\*

MR. SPEAKER : It is always the fate of the Speaker.

[Translation]

I get opportunity only to say please sit down. I do not get opportunity to speak anything.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The time of the House may be extended till 7 p.m. Notices given today on matters of urgent public importance shall be valid for tomorrow, except matters which would come as Calling Attention will be taken up on Monday.

18.01 hrs.

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### 43rd Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, I beg to present the forty-third report of the Business Advisory Committee.

18.03 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Indo-US Nuclear Agreement. . .contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Swain, your Party has got two minutes, but I will give you five minutes to speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, give those five minutes time to any other speaker, thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER : Very well, I will give you six minutes time. Please start your speech now. You are a senior Member. Please start your speech, and the very important points will be noted by them. What can I do? Your hon. Leader spoke for 46 minutes.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All right, please try to make your point within five minutes.

[English]

Do not deny the Parliament of your wisdom.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : I am not that wise enough, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Please go ahead.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I repeat what has already been told by the hon. Leader of the Opposition that like the Left, we are not paranoid and we do not suffer from any American phobia. Our only objection to this nuclear Treaty is that this Treaty is going to prevent

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

us from conducting any future nuclear tests and it is preventing us from developing our nuclear deterrent against our hostile neighbours. That is the only point on which we have just got the objection.

Sir, a very pertinent point was raised when the hon. Prime Minister made an intervention. The hon. Leader of the Opposition made a point, and the point was that if we defy the 123 Treaty and go for a nuclear test, we will invite sanctions. Okay, we will invite sanctions from the West – from America and its allies. Now, the hon. Prime Minister said that there is nothing in this Treaty which prevents us from conducting any test. I also agree with him. But I will like to know, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition said, that getting a sanction from them on their own and inviting it through a pact, whether there is no distinction between these two. Two of the hon. Members from the Congress Party came prepared, but they did not listen to what the hon. Leader of Opposition said and they did not give any answer. I will ask the hon. External Affairs Minister or the hon. Prime Minister that if they at all answer, then they will have to answer the question: "Is there any distinction between America imposing sanctions on us on its own and we inviting it ourselves?" Is there any distinction between these two or not?

The second point is, when the hon. Leader of Opposition said that we would be allowing the American inspectors to roam around in our nuclear facilities, it was said by the Ruling Party, the Congress Party, that there was no provision like that in the Agreement. I am just coming to that provision in the 123 Agreement. Yet the Government has accepted US end use monitoring in the 123 Agreement. This is reflected in Article 12(3) which reads, "When execution of an agreement or a contract pursuant to this agreement between India and the United States and organisations require exchange of experts, the parties shall facilitate entry of the experts to their territories and their stay therein consistent with national laws,

regulation and practices." What is this? If it is not allowing the American inspectors into our nuclear facilities, then what is this? Let the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. External Affairs Minister, during their reply, say that this is wrong and what we said is wrong.

The momentum that India has gathered with regard to getting approval from the NSG has slowed down considerably. The European Union now is a divided house on supporting exemptions for India. Australia was a good friend of ours. After the change of its Prime Minister, now Australia is probably going for a course correction. Countries like Ireland, Sweden and New Zealand criticised it earlier. Other countries like Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Finland and Austria are very strong proponents of the non-proliferation regime. China is making supporting noises. Only the small countries are going to oppose it.

The moot point is all of them have now the gravest doubt as to whether New Delhi will be able to take the next step towards the deal. They do not believe us now. Sir, through you I ask the hon. Prime Minister who is present here, Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, why did you not build a consensus among your own supporting parties when you tried to enter into this type of an agreement? Do you feel that your allies and your supporting parties are supporting you? Did you see when your members were speaking only your Congress party people were thumping the desks and all others were sitting quietly? You just see now also as to what is their attitude towards this treaty. So, it is only the Congress party which is supporting this deal and almost all other parties are opposing it.  
... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : All parties in the UPA coalition are supporting it. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

Please conclude now.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, does the country need electricity or not? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, if you ultimately fail to operationalise the deal, will you not bring ridicule to this country? Is India not going to lose its credibility in the comity of nations? Why did you do this? If you did not have the capacity, why did you try to enter into this type of activity? Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, by acting in this fashion you have painted the character of the country as a country confused, irresponsible and doubtful.

Let me tell you lastly, Mr. Prime Minister, if we come to power in future. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : No chance. You can only dream of it. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why not? He has a right to express his hope.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : When we come to power in future, in the firmest possible way we will try to bring back the lost credibility of this country by renegotiating the deal and getting it operationalised after removing the clauses which go against the interest of the nation.

\*SHRI D.K. AUDIKESAVULU (Chittoor) : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the utmost

\*The speech was laid on the Table.

issue of signing the Indo-US nuclear deal on July 18, 2005, Hon'ble Prime Minister has repeatedly slipped on promises to the nation. Every time he has unable to keep an assurance, he has sought to devise a revised gauge to maintain the semblance of an unbroken word. The 123 Agreement has no provision for an arbitral tribunal, despite India's bitter experience over an earlier 123 accord with the US signed in 1963. The 1963 agreement was not only more protective of Indian interests, but also free of any Hyde Act-style overarching legal framework. Yet 15 years later, the US effectively gutted the accord by retroactively rewriting its terms through a new domestic law.

In the latest 123 Agreement, India has gained the right to be merely consulted but has granted United States the right to take all final decisions. Contrast this with the Japan-US 123 Agreement in which Tokyo's interests are protected through Article 14.

After more than two years, the deal has completed two of the five obligatory stages. But now, through the 123 Agreement, a sixth stage has been added – a separate section 131 agreement on reprocessing. Furthermore, the sequencing of the next steps has now been changed to India's disadvantage. As the July 27, 2007, separate Indian and US fact-sheets revealed, India has agreed to first conclude an IAEA safeguards agreement before the Nuclear Suppliers Group even attempts to carve out an India exemption form its 1992 export guidelines.

Our Party also decided to press for a debate and division in Parliament under Rule 184 on the bilateral 123 Agreement that seeks to operationalise the India-US nuclear deal. The idea is that the country should know who is on which side. 123 Agreement was the single-most dangerous issue as it impinges on national sovereignty. The UNPA, popularly known as the third front, has made its opposition to the Indo-US nuclear deal known and alleged that the Government has mortgaged the country's sovereignty.

[Shri D.K. Audikesavulu]

TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu said, "It marks the total surrender to the US. There is no vestige of foreign policy left in the country as, henceforth, the Government would be dictated to by a foreign power on whom to support and whom to oppose."

\*DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi) : I am speaking on behalf of Marumalarchi dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by Thiru. VAIKO Leader of the Tamilian's. We wish to state that the Indo - US Nuclear agreement in the present form is not for the betterment and progress of our Country.

Article 5.2 spells out restrictions as regards transfer of technology and equipment relating to reprocessing, enrichment and heavy water production, normally referred to in U.S. regulations as sensitive nuclear technologies (SNTs). Interestingly, however, in the present 123 Agreement, heavy water technology and equipment have been separated and SNT refers only to reprocessing and enrichment technologies. This, according to informed sources, was to facilitate the possibility of accessing equipment and critical components for heavy water production in which India's pre-eminence is well demonstrated, if not for reprocessing. But, in any case, and envisaged transfer SNTs heavy water technology and equipment cannot be automatic, and according to Article 5.2, "may be transferred only pursuant to an amendment to this agreement". This implies a Congressional approval and, therefore, a hurdle.

How much is the capital cost of imported reactor-based nuclear plants?

When we build a plant, we put in some money, called equity and borrow the rest. This is called the debt equity ratio according to Central Electricity Regulatory Commission's (CERC) norms, the debt equity ratio for thermal plants

is 70:30 we need to put in 30 percent of the total capital cost as equity and are allowed to borrow the rest. As per CERC guidelines, the return on equity allowed which comes out of the tariff the consumer pays is 14 percent. The loans carry interests, and the interest charges also come out of the tariff. Lastly, there is plant depreciation, which is computed at 3.6 percent of plant cost. All these have to be included in calculating the tariff, if we take only these components into account and the cost of the plant as Rs. 9 crore per MW (around \$20000 per KW) and the accumulated interests during construction, in which period obviously there is no sale of electricity, the total capital cost including this interest is Rs 11.2 crore per MW. The cost of electricity using just the capital cost of the plant alone for imported reactors would be Rs 365 per unit as against the cost per unit from coal including the fuel and all other operating costs of Rs 2.20-2.60 depending on their distance from the coal mines.

In the case of kaiga, the operating cost including fuel, heavy water and other operating cost was computed by Nuclear Power Corporation to be 1.48. If we add that to the cost of capital, the cost of electricity becomes Rs 5.131. This is more than twice that from coal fired plants.

To find coal reserves or mine more efficiently, requires far less money than buying expensive reactors from Westinghouse.

Article 5.6 (b) (ii-v) on fuel supply assurances, to keep the U.S. - supplied reactors operating but because the fuel is used in U.S. equipment, it is obligated to the U.S. and there is no longer any consent to reprocess spent fuel thus obligated. That is, spent fuel from a non - U.S. source used in U.S. reactors can't no longer be reprocessed in the event of the termination of the agreement. This is another issue that needs sorting out with the U.S.

If we take indigenous reactors, the capital cost of nuclear plants would be about two thirds of imported

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

reactor based plants. Nuclear power from Indian reactors would therefore cost quite less than that from imported reactors. Even then, it will be somewhat more expensive than that of coal-fired plant.

Hence on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhgam headed by Thiru. Vaiko the Leader of Tamilian's I wish to state that the Indo-U.S. Nuclear agreement in the present form is not for the betterment and progress of our Country.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swain, just see how good points you have made in the short time given to you. Thank you.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : But, this debate was to continue for 2 days.

MR. SPEAKER : You did not agree. You had agreed for one day.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : When will replies be given?

MR. SPEAKER : After half-an-hour.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : But, we were told that it will be at 8.30 p.m.

18.11 hrs.

*[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Nikhil Kumar - only five minutes. What I have said is according to the time allotted.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar) : I begin with two statement. . . *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha had a prior commitment of meeting a distinguished delegation from Bahrain from 7 to 8.15 p.m. Therefore, we requested the hon. Speaker to come back to the House by 8.30 p.m. and the reply would be given at that time. Meanwhile, speakers who are listed they can take as much as was allotted. Within the time, we can discuss. We do not mind. The Government would hear and respond. . .

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : You should have told this earlier.

SHRI. KHARBELA SWAIN : You should have told it earlier. We have always been cooperating. When I stood up for speaking, I was asked to conclude within 2 minutes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Time of big parties is about to finish. There are many independent Members who are get to speak. . . *(Interruptions)* You do not listen completely, this is the only problem. Hear me first. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARBELA SWAIN : I was told to finish soon. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : No we are not continuing tomorrow. . . *(Interruptions)* We have agreed in the BAC. . . *(Interruptions)* There is no compulsion that it should be finished at 8.30 p.m. . . *(Interruptions)* You

\*Not recorded

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

are mistaken. I again repeat. Please understand that it is not the Government which insisted. We got the message from the hon. Speaker that he has a prior commitment with the Bahrain Delegation at 7 p.m. At that time, the hon. Deputy-Speaker or somebody else can sit in the chair. Secondly, time is allocated for each party. If the allotted time to the parties are exhausted, if any Independent Members or other hon. Members express the desire to speak, they would be given two or three minutes. Our Prime Minister is ready to reply the moment the hon. Deputy-Speaker direct him to do so. We have no problem. It is not that the hon. Speaker would give the ruling by 8.30 p.m. and he has to reply. .  
(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : It is a serious discussion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Serious discussion should be discussed seriously, not lightly. . .  
(Interruptions)

We have decided in the BAC that no business would be taken up today except the Nuke Deal. So, we cannot take it up tomorrow.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Our Members spoke for less time. They were not given even five minutes.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Nikhil Kumar, only for five minutes please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your Members have already spoken.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Then what we will do till 8.30 p.m.?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not necessary that this topic will continue till 8.30 p.m.

Shri Nikhil Kumar, please make your point in five minutes only.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Five minutes is very less.

[English]

I was about to say that I will make two statements only. One is that the address by the Leader of the Opposition was disappointing. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are wasting the time.

[Translation]

You have to conclude within five minutes and you are wasting your time.

[English]

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : I have begun, Sir. What I am saying is that I will make two statements. First is that this address by our hon. Leader of the Opposition was extremely disappointing. The second statement is that we owe to our hon. Prime Minister a great big vote of thanks and appreciation for this wonderful illustration of the UPA Government's determination and courage of conviction to reach this agreement with the United States on Nuclear Civil Cooperation.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned that Dr. Bhabha had wanted that India should test the bomb and that if it had been done, India would have become a NWS. If it was not done, it was because of this. If you will recall, I wish to recall for the sake of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, that it was the time

when the Government of India was very keen on pursuing its policy towards disarmament, that was the time when India, headed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, persuaded the non-aligned nations, to do whatever they could, to bring about disarmament, and that was not the time, when India wanted to go in for a nuclear test.

It came about only when it became clear that disarmament had no future at that time and the security environment in this country and near-about dictated to us, the need for testing our nuclear weapon. And that is why, in 1974, we had the Pokhran-I. This is something that needs to be brought to the notice of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

The second thing that he mentioned was that there has been a misleading declaration by the UPA Government about the deal – that it is only for civilian nuclear energy. What I am trying to say is that there was no misleading declaration. This deal is as much for our strategic use of nuclear power as for civilian purposes. This is borne out by the fact that there has been a separation plan; and this separation plan was brought about after much discussion with the US people and it is clear that a certain number of reactors will be allocated for strategic purposes and above all – what is important to note is this – none of these reactors will be subject to an inspection by the IAEA. To that extent, it is a tremendous achievement on our part, on the part of the negotiators and on the part of the Government officials who represented India in these negotiations; and I wish to compliment them. This was possible only because of the leadership provided to them by our Prime Minister and our External Affairs Minister. This must go on record that there has been no misleading declaration as was alleged by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. The separation plan is very clear on the matter and there is absolutely no chance of any doubt about it. Therefore, this is a wonderful achievement; and the UPA Government needs to be complimented for this.

The other very important thing is that this opens, to us, access to higher technology. Nuclear deal is not only about nuclear weapons. Nuclear deal also has some impact on our space programme, for instance. I will cite to you the instance of the cryogenic engines. It took us 13 years to perfect it and bring it out into the open. Had we had access to higher technology, it would have been possible for us to get the cryogenic engine much earlier.

We hope that our negotiations with the NSG will be successful; we will be able to persuade them and they will be able to amend their guidelines. Once they amend their guidelines, it would be possible for us to access higher technology.

The other day, I read in the papers – there was a news item – that our friend from the Left has put a question to our hon. Prime Minister, as to why no such agreement has been signed with Russia about reactors. It is not possible until such time the NSG amends its guidelines because Russia is as much part of the NSG as any of the other 44-45 nations. So, it is still another reason why there should be a successful negotiation with the NSG. All this is possibly only if the Indo-US Nuclear Deal goes through. That is in some way a key to our future development, future prosperity.

The most important thing is about which a reference has been made and I am simply rushing through because of shortage of time. This country needs power. This country needs 'bijli'. People seated here are perhaps not aware, certainly not some of the friends across the Table here. They have mentioned that we are only following the United States and nothing more. They must realise that this country needs electricity. This electricity which we are supposed to get because of nuclear power will lead to so much development. It will be possible for agriculture to benefit from it. Today, the farmer is hard placed for irrigation because he does not have either Government-sponsored irrigation plans or canals. He has to depend

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

on his tubewells but he cannot operate tubewells because he has no power. Not all the farmers are in a position to afford diesel power to work their tubewells. If agriculturists have power, they will be benefited.

Same is the case with the industry be it medium, large or small. No industry can be set up without power. I am citing two instances of my own State. If it is backward, especially after the creation of Jharkhand and it has become largely agri-centric it is because there is no industry there. Industry cannot come about unless there is availability of power. As it is, Bihar is terribly deficient in respect of power. If it is possible to provide power to Bihar through nuclear power generation it will be a totally different picture. At the same time, kindly imagine what will happen to our people in the villages who will find their homes lit up with electricity. Above all, they will be able to cook not on cow dung cakes, not on even LPG cylinders, which many cannot afford even.

It is a question of power being given to the last village in this country, the house of every person dalit or otherwise. It is this *bijli* which people are hankering for and it is this *bijli* which the UPA Government is committed to make available to every house in the country whether it is in the urban, semi-urban or far flung villages.

So, Sir, this Bill is not only for strategic purposes, it is about providing development to this country and unless we are able to strike this deal with the United States, it will be a serious road block to our progress. I would personally recommend to this House that it should adopt this. Instead of quibbling over little details there is no question of any kind of bar on us to conduct tests. There is no question of ours being secondary power to the United States.

Before I sit down, Sir, once again I pay my most sincere compliments to the UPA Government for fashioning

this Nuclear Deal and I commend it to the House to support it.

[Translation]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajanagar) : Thank you Sir, the Indo-US agreement for civilian nuclear co-operation has generated huge controversy in the India and also abroad.

Sir, we have been spending crores and crores of rupees every year to generate nuclear power by using domestic uranium. If Indo-US nuclear deal materializes, India would be getting uranium at a very cheap rate. To this extent we can agree to this nuclear deal provided our sovereignty is not at stake.

Sir, during the last 60 years of Indian independence there is no evidence of India having compromised on its foreign policy. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the civil nuclear co-operation agreement should protect the nation's self respect. We may get uranium at cheaper rate, but we should not yield to the dictates of any foreign country. Our great nation can not surrender to anyone just for the sake of uranium. It is important to remind ourselves that Nation's interest and Nation's pride can not be compromised. We are the largest democracy on the globe. Therefore I urge upon the Government of India to up hold our independent foreign policy and protect the unity and integrity of the country taking all parties in to confidence. While negotiating with US on nuclear deal all these factors should be considered. With these words let me I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Raigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this unclear nuclear deal and also oppose it at the same time. Unclear because we had not

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kanada.

expected that our hon'ble Prime Minister will the mislead House, and issue a statement during his visit to America that we must sign this Nuclear Agreement.

I respect hon'ble Prime Minister very much but this statement has created an atmosphere of uncertainty in the country and the world, then a number of news items were published in the media calling it sometimes a nuclear agreement, sometimes a nuclear deal or a nuclear commerce. As I have been in the Congress party. I know that the word deal has a different meaning. I hope that hon'ble Prime minister would clarify this in his statement so that the uncertainty over this issue could be cleared. Today there is 3 percent nuclear power generation and in the year 2020 it is going to be 7 percent which means that all this hue and cry has been made for 4 percent rise in nuclear power generation in 13 years. Why has this been done - it should be explained. Dr. A.N. Prasad, who is Ex-Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Center has mentioned in his statement that-

*[English]*

"India will be slowly forced to become dependent on imports with practically the entire gamut of activities coming under safeguards and inspections with a miniscule of activities left under the strategic category."

This is what he said. Now, what does Mr. Brahmachalani, who is another expert on the subject, says? He says:

"Legislation had little to do with energy and everything to do with NPT. The Government should also be more transparent to the people of India regarding prevention of radio active accidents, disposal of nuclear waste and the vulnerability of the nuclear plants to terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, it is not so. I would like to urge the Government to look into these issues and have a full-fledged discussion on this very important issue."

*[Translation]*

I have carefully heard whatever has been said by the Speakers of the Congress party but not many Members have spoken about Nuclear Waste Disposal. On the other side Shri Jyotiraditya ji also spoke well but we must not forget that there have been a number of such accidents in the world for example, radio active material leaked in Chernobyl of Russia in the year 1986 which resulted in various cancer diseases alongwith affecting nearly 2.5 lakh pregnant women's health. In 1989 there was a Radio Active Material leakage at Three Mile Island in USA, it was God's grace that no major incident took place. In the year 1957, Nuclear Waste was disposed off by Russia in a pit on a mountain which resulted into a huge blast. There must have been some carelessness on the part of the Authorities due to which such a huge blast took place. Thousands of people died in it. I agree and am proud of our Scientists as well as Nuclear Power Corporation of India that they have developed a technique for Nuclear waste disposal.

We have also developed garbage waste disposal technique but is the garbage disposal taking place in view of the existing red tapism? We also have electronic waste disposal technique with us but whether it is taking place the way it should? Red-tapism has again raised its head into this. I apprehend that if red-tapism is brought into the nuclear waste disposal also then it may lead to some accident.

Therefore, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request hon'ble Prime Minister that the existing Nuclear Organisations and those which are to be set up in future and the people who are running them must be given autonomy, they must be given autonomy and it must be left upon them-then only we. . . .  
*.(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your five minutes are over.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : My time still remains.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are many people to speak.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : No nuclear power plant has been set up in United States since 1974. It is worth thinking that a country which has not set up a nuclear power plant since 1974. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are also going to speak, it is going to be your turn very soon. If you disturb him then he will also disturb you.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Why is USA encouraging us to set up a nuclear power plant? What is the reason behind that. A country which is not setting up a nuclear power plant is asking us to set up one. In last 15 years they have closed down many nuclear power plants and reactors. Why did they do so? It was because there was media and public pressure on them. America is not setting up nuclear power plants in its own country under pressure from its public and media but it is asking us to do so even though there is both media as well as public pressure on us. This dual policy is beyond our understanding. There is one more reason behind it and that is that since the year 1990 the nuclear power generation has increased by 64 percent in the Asian countries. This is a matter of concern for them that the Asian Countries might become super powers. Because only America or Russia can become Super Powers. They have fifty thousand nuclear weapons. At present we have 18-20 nuclear weapons and whenever we talk about increasing them, they try to impose restriction on it-this is dual policy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are many things about the 123 Agreement. Article 14.2 of this 123 Agreement says that:

[English]

"The Agreement however offers immediate bilateral consultations in the event of an Indian test and

commits the two sides to take into account whether the circumstances that may lead to termination or cessation resulting from the Party's serious concern about changed security environment or as a response to a similar action by other States which could impact national security."

[Translation]

We agree with this but does that mean that we should not develop our nuclear weapons because US does not want us to do so. But if an attack is made upon us then the issue of national security would arise. I respect our National Security Advisor a lot but I was really disappointed to see the ways he failed to clarify and explain things concerning security of the nation before the journalists, which raised a number of questions.

Sir, if we look into it deeply we will see that politics has been played upon the issue of nuclear testing and it is still continuing. Who did the first nuclear testing? Who developed nuclear arms at first? It was United States of America which developed nuclear arms at first. USA did nuclear testing on Hiroshima at Japan and later Russia also did it. Although Russia was the Chairperson of the Warsa Pact with Eastern European Countries. Therefore, how can we be blamed if we develop nuclear arms and work towards becoming a Super Power?

With regard to energy he is saying that the Government is going to enter into a nuclear agreement. It is good but can we not explore other energy sources that are available to us? There is a huge potential in the solar energy. We also have the technology available with us. We can further develop the technology? We can share our technology with other countries? Why should not we make efforts to make India a Super Power-what is the harm in that?

Now-a-days the temperature in U.S.A; Europe and U.K is running high due to global warming. We should develop our solar power technology and sell it to those countries as they are potentially a big market for that, in fact the

whole world would offer a big market to us in this respect. If we propose to sell it there, it will prove to be a brilliant idea.

Thirteen States in our country have the capacity to produce 45,000 MW wind power as on date. . . .  
(*Interruptions*) How much have we produced? Our production is far below the capacity. We can produce bio-mass also. Our country is an agricultural country. The production of bio-mass also is not upto the mark here.

In the end, I would like to tell the hon. Prime Minister, through you, that he should make this deal as much transparent as he could. The security of our nuclear institutes should be beefed up and the people, who are running these institutes, need to be given autonomy and it must be ensured in future that our nuclear production increases, we emerge as a super-power but at the same time nuclear installations in our country may not cause the type of accidents that have been witnessed in certain other countries.

[*English*]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I would like to supplement what Shri Rupchand Pal has said and endorsing what has been spoken by Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, I would like to place a few points in this august House.

[*Translation*]

Here a lot of things have been said the sum and substance of which is that through the political discussions that took place outside this House before the debate here, there was a attempt from both sides to mislead the people. China was talked about. Today when the opportunity of presenting the facts relating to China came, truth has come out.

[*English*]

China is a member of the nuclear club and India is

not. Somebody was speaking from that side that we will be given the club membership. Let them give the club membership. Then, we will come here to discuss the terms and conditions of the agreement. So why should we be hypothetical that it would be given and all those things?

[*Translation*]

All these things are misleading. Another thing that was said was that it would have to be done at the earliest, otherwise Mr. Bush's tenure would come to end. What would be after Mr. Bush?

[*English*]

This is not an agreement between Mr. Bush and our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. This is an agreement between the two countries.

What was the hurry? There was no urgency. Even then it was hurried on and when an officer of ILA came to visit India, it was said that there was no hurry. He was told to come later and the secret leaked out. The American officer also disclosed that time was not a factor.

[*English*]

So, these are the things.

[*Translation*]

Yet another way to mislead was invented that they would follow their law and we would follow our law. It is right too. Why would we recognize American law and why would America recognize our law? America would abide by its own law.

[*English*]

The American President will abide by the American law. He will have to submit an Annual Report on the accounts of our nuclear material.

In short, I do not want to lose time in giving an account of whatever nuclear materials that have been incorporated in the agreement.

[Shri Trait Baran Topdar]

[Translation]

One will have to give an account of it. He may say whatever he would like to and will be at liberty to issue a bad certificate. Agreement lies on the other end, not here. What would happen if a bad certificate is given. It will lead to divorce. Even the agreement of Talaq (divorce) can be a one-way affair. One of the Members of Parliament has said that we, too, can pronounce divorce. This is an agreement akin to that between an elephant and a rat.

[English]

We have been treated as a junior partner. We are not the members of the Nuclear club. Please mind it.

[Translation]

Hyde Act will not be applied. Hyde Act will not apply to us but it will apply to them and when it is applied, they will pronounce divorce. What does a divorce mean? All the things including dowry will have to be returned and the status quo will be maintained-what does all this mean?

[English]

After the bombardment of the nuclear material by Alpha, Beta and Gamma rays and subsequent fissions, the fissile material that will be produced as an end product will also have to be given which is the raw-material for making atom bombs. You will do the thing and they will get the raw material for the atom bombs. In course of time

[Translation]

they will say that we have hidden something. They will ask as to why we have hidden something. They will send their inspectors to inspect, how will you stop them?

[English]

This is the most dangerous part of the agreement. In any way, that cannot be agreed to.

[Translation]

Have these things been stated to mislead the people? If the things are brought here, then these things would be ours. Our nuclear Act of 1964 will have to be changed.

[English]

We have to agree. Everybody here has to agree to it. Otherwise, that cannot be operationalised.

[Translation]

Energy security is being talked about. Nuclear energy releases fission. We need atomic energy - what does it mean?

[English]

You have the energy basket comprising energy coming out of different sources.

[Translation]

Why all this hurry? Our party had taken a policy decision in 1954 that we did not need nuclear energy. We are not opposed to it but nuclear energy has no separate legs. Whatever holds good for the thermal energy way the same holds good for the nuclear energy way.

[English]

You will get only 7 to 9 per cent for that 7 to 9 per cent, what are you going to stake?

Now, I come to technology.

[Translation]

Today nobody in the world is foolish enough to say that he will give his technology. We will neither give our technology nor take technology from others. It can happen in the western countries.

[English]

Can this be called security when it is dependent on foreign supply.

[Translation]

You talk of security while depending on foreign countries. Remove this phrase.

[English]

Security and dependence on foreign countries are two contradictory terms. They cannot go together.

[Translation]

What about thorium technology?

[English]

The department of Atomic Energy should be pulled up. What are they doing with the Budget that they are given? What is the stage that we have attained in Thorium Technology? As far as I know, Thorium Technology has developed to a great extent

[Translation]

They have gone far beyond the three point programme.

[English]

This agreement will deter the advancement of Thorium Technology and I would like to explain that. First of all, we have to understand what are the ramifications of this agreement on our foreign policy and also on our defence. There is talk of strategic partnership. Strategic partnership has got its own meaning. What is strategy? It means different angles of vision.

[Translation]

It has got different meanings from different angles of vision. In your views strategy has one meaning but American angle of vision has another meaning. Chinese angle has third meaning and the Russian angle has the fourth meaning.

[English]

Therefore, we have understood that the Hyde Act is an India specific Act which enables the American President

to enter into agreement with a country which is not a member of the nuclear club. This is the sole purpose of the Hyde Act. It is an enabling Act.

[Translation]

It enables the American President to do what he could not have done otherwise. American President cannot enter into Agreement with India without it. Leave India, he cannot enter into agreement with any other country. It is been mentioned at least hundred times there, that India will be NPT compliant.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : I am just finishing. What is meant by NPT compliance?

[Translation]

You have not done right while inking NPT but you say that NPT compliant environment will be better.

[English]

Sir, India has been cherishing the independent foreign policy.

[Translation]

If none has got an atom bomb, then we also do not want to possess one. If someone has got an atom bomb, we, too have right to have one. Do we want or we do not want but we have the right to make an atom bomb. It is our right to decide the time of making it and we cannot give up our right. There will be total disarmament.

[English]

We are in favour of complete and total disarmament, not partial disarmament and that is why

[Translation]

If hon. Prime Minister has made a promise to create an

[Shri Trait Baran Topdar]

NPT compliant environments, he has done a very wrong thing. With this, I conclude my statement.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Before I request the next hon. Member to speak, I would like to inform that those hon. Members who would like to lay their written statements can lay them on the Table of the House. That will form part of the proceedings of the House.

Now, Shri Subrato Bose will speak. Mr. Bose, you may please speak only for five minutes.

\*SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshehra) : Sir, I rise to support the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

I wish this debate had started soon after the PM's statement on 13th August, 2007 so that the Government could have explained its stand after listening to all the Parties and clarified all the doubts. Unfortunately, the whole issue was stuck in the quagmire of political controversies. I am happy that today this August House has got the opportunity to discuss the issue which should help in clearing the air on several aspects of the Agreement.

I have heard the speeches from the opposition benches with rapt attention. I have tried to understand the grounds on which the Indo-US agreement is being opposed. The main grounds seem to be that the agreement will compromise our national security; it will barter away our nuclear autonomy and it will subordinate our foreign policy to the dictates of the U.S.A.

Sir, permit me to say that all these grounds are based on ill founded fears and presumptions germinating in minds conditioned by the past. They are farfetched contentions, which ignore the fact that the world is fast

changing and a new balance of power is emerging not only in Asia but on global scale, with India occupying a very vital position. I feel that some parties are opposing the Agreement due to political opportunism and their propensity to oppose everything. Some others are opposing because they have been suspicious of US intentions. I am happy that China has stated that it has no objection to the Agreement as reported by the media. I am also happy that the Left parties who have been opposing the Agreement have now agreed to go ahead with discussion with IAEA.

It is puerile to think that in the present scenario where everything is open to public gaze, any Government could compromise the national security. As regards our foreign policy, right from the days of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who was instrumental in formulating this policy, India has always remained neutral despite several pulls and pressures. There is no question of deviating even a bit from this path. This has been made clear by our Government from time to time. In fact all the Governments in the past have stuck to this policy despite our differences on other issues. This policy has stood the test of time. It is therefore a figment of imagination for anyone to say that we are subordinating our foreign policy to the USA or any other country. Let me say firmly that our resolve to stay non-aligned has become stronger and stronger with every passing year and it will ever remain so. The country has full faith in our Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs.

Sir, the Agreement which the House is discussing has not emerged overnight. For a long time it has remained under public and media scanning. At the outset, I would like to submit that this Agreement is for civil nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes. It started taking shape as a part of the joint statement issued by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and US President George Bush on 18th July, 2005. Perhaps for the first time India was officially recognized as a responsible advanced nuclear technology country with which USA wanted to have civil nuclear energy co-operation. It is something all

\*The speech was laid on the Table.

Indians should be proud of and compliment the great work done by our scientists.

The next important step was taken in March 2006 when President Bush visited India. An agreement was reached on India's separation plan. It identified nuclear facilities to be placed voluntarily by India under safeguards in a phased manner. It was clarified by no less a person than our Prime Minister that the choice of nuclear reactors and the phases in which they would be placed under safeguards shall be decided by India. Moreover, India would be free to build future nuclear facilities, whether civilian or military, in accordance with our national needs. USA supported the Indian plea of a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel and ensured perpetual supply to India's reactors. In case of any problem in the proposed fuel reserve, USA will make arrangements with other friendly countries like France, Russia, U.K. etc. These steps put together should help India to fulfill its energy requirements in the years to come and put an end to its nuclear isolation.

While this long process of negotiations continued, our Prime Minister kept the Parliament informed. He has made suo moto statements on 29th July, 2005, 27th February 2006, 7th March 2006, 17th August 2006 in Rajya Sabha and latest on 13 August, 2007. In addition, the Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs have been briefing the leaders of various political parties from time to time. I am mentioning all this to emphasize that our leaders and Government have shared everything with other leaders and Parliament and, through them, with the people of this country. This is a glowing example of transparency which ultimately will be appreciated by one and all.

Here I would like to add that our Government have at all stages taken into account the views and reservations expressed by our scientists, technologists, experts and the media. Based on these views from all quarters, our negotiators have been having very prolonged and perhaps the most difficult negotiations with their U.S. counterparts.

Sir, I would like to mention with a sense of pride that with this well thought out Agreement, India has finally come out of a long period of nuclear arm-twisting and apartheid. I was a young student at that time when I used to read that a few countries called super powers used to stockpile nuclear arsenals but would not allow others to do the same in order to perpetuate their nuclear hegemony. For years, they put pressure on us to sign the non proliferation treaty of 1967 – NPT as it is called. We withstood our ground. We continued our efforts to acquire nuclear energy, thanks to our brilliant scientists like Dr. Homi Bhabha, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Dr. Chidambaram and our former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. USA and other countries applied several sanctions to twist our arms so as to surrender whatever nuclear arsenal we had and give up further efforts in this direction. We did not succumb. On the other hand we intensified our efforts. Several tests were carried in 1974 when Smt. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. In 1998, we reached another milestone when our scientists undertook the first nuclear explosion in Pokharan.

Sir, I take this opportunity to salute our leaders and scientists for laying the foundations of a strong nuclear India in the face of resistance from other nuclear powers.

Seen against this backdrop, the present Agreement is a landmark in the history of our nuclear progress. Let us take it as tribute to the vision of our leaders like Smt. Indira Gandhi and to the persuasiveness of our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, to the untiring efforts of our nuclear scientists and, last but not the least, to the tenacity of our negotiators. As a sum up of all this, this Agreement enables India to have a viable civilian nuclear programme and maintain its defence arsenal. It also ensures that bilateral nuclear cooperation will not interfere in each other's military nuclear activities.

Sir, some time ago there were reports quoting US State Department that the Agreement may be terminated if India would test a nuclear device. I am happy that Hon. Minister of External Affairs and Leader of the House Shri

[Shri Naveen Jindal]

Pranab Mukherjee has made it abundantly clear that to test a nuclear device in our national interest is purely our decision. The Government has categorically stated that "We have the right to test. They have the right to react." That should remove any doubts on this score. Moreover, our past is a guarantee that we have never succumbed to any pressure in such matters.

The agreement has emerged after the toughest ever negotiations. All our apprehensions have been taken care of during the negotiations. It is very clear that the Agreement will in no way impact our strategic nuclear programme or weapons. The strategic nuclear programme remains completely insulated from our civilian programmes.

The agreement also lays down that if at any stage USA is compelled to break the agreement for any reason, including India's decision to carry out a nuclear test, other countries can continue to supply atomic fuel and technology to India. The right to reprocess spent fuel has also been conceded. This was a major bone of contention between the two countries but the adroitness and flexibility of negotiators on both sides have got it out of the way.

Sir, I would like to point out that this Agreement will help India in the power sector in a major way. During the Chief Ministers' conference on Power Sector in May, 2007 held in New Delhi and addressed by the Hon. Prime Minister, it was emphasized that top priority has to be given to augment our power potential. In this context, America's readiness to give us the necessary wherewithal of nuclear energy is very welcome. It will enable us to gear up our power production for civilian use thereby reducing our dependence on conventional fossil fuels and bring down the pollution levels.

I would like to remind the House that the growth of power sector in India was retarded due to the nuclear discrimination against India exercised by several nuclear powers. They came in the way of the expansion of our nuclear energy sector.

Now things have changed dramatically. The same powers have recognized our nuclear worth. In the international arena strength respects strength. Countries like France, Russia, Australia, UK and other members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) are keen to have nuclear trade with India. The agreement with USA will open the doors to such trade and boost our civil nuclear power programme enormously.

India will now have full access to the latest nuclear power technology, which is needed to meet our constantly growing energy demand and to achieve and sustain 8 to 10 % economic growth. So far, India has largely depended on hydal and thermal power. The power so generated is not yet enough to meet our domestic, agricultural, industrial and other requirements. We have yet to make any mark in wind and solar energy. The burning of coal and oil for power generation has added to pollution and global warming.

In this context, we have to go in for nuclear energy in a big way to meet the ever-growing demand for power. A visionary like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had anticipated in the beginning itself that India will have to depend on and develop nuclear technology for economic progress.

At present, only 3% of India's power requirement is met through nuclear sources. Our target is that by 2020 we shall generate 20,000 MW nuclear energy. Today we are in a position to generate only 3700 MW. We have a very long way to go. The Indo-US Agreement will help us to achieve our target. The more we move towards nuclear energy, the more it will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, the more it will reduce the carbon emission, the more it will reduce the level of pollution and, finally, the more it will reduce global warming.

In this context I would like to quote the following from The Tribune dated 4 August, 2007 for the information of the House, particularly those Members who are opposing the Agreement.

Sir, I quote :

"The deal means that Indian nuclear trade will skyrocket and the bigwigs of the world's nuclear industry will make a beeline to India for the \$ 100 billion market it is likely to throw open for five years after its operationalisation. This will significantly boost the share of nuclear power in Indian energy mix in the coming years. In this context, work on the four nuclear reactors that Russia recently pledged to construct in India will start soon; coupled with this is the recent declaration of intent by Australia, which holds the world's largest uranium reserves, to sell uranium to India."

In the final analysis, this 123 Agreement should be judged by our scientists who understand its implications and intricacies better than others. Dr. Abdul Kalam in a recent interview has said that what Dr. Manmohan Singh has done to come to this agreement is "Unique". When asked whether the Agreement was about energy or about strategic interests, he said, "I feel it is about energy. After all, our nuclear scientists have a vision. Every year, they want to add about 1000 MW. So by 2020, they want to have 20,000 MW. They want to graduate to India having 20,000 MW by adding 1000 MW every year."

In a joint statement, former scientists of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre have stated, "With the country's ever increasing energy needs and with a view to ending the 33 year long nuclear isolation, the importance of the deal has to be understood by the people of India and should not be hijacked by the Opposition and the parties supporting the Government."

Sir, I would like to conclude by joining my voice with the voice of Hon'ble Prime Minister by fully endorsing what he said in para 24 of his suo moto statement in the House :

I quote :

"Our negotiators deserve credit for delivering to the nation an Agreement which can potentially transform the economic prospects of our country. It is an

Agreement that will enable us to meet the twin challenge of energy security and environmental sustainability and remove the technology denial regimes that have, for decades, been a major constraint on our development. At the same time, it will bring India the recognition it deserves thanks to the outstanding achievements of our scientists in nuclear and space sciences as well as other high technology areas."

This sums up the soul and substance of the entire Agreement. I am sure that in the times to come, the House and the country will be proud of the achievement of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and his team as a result of which India is today poised to take its rightful place among the nuclear powers of the world.

With these words, I support the Indo-US Nuclear deal.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Indo-US Nuclear Deal. When you were telling me that the time available is only five minutes, my momentary reaction was "that I should opt out from speaking because on an important subject like this, if one cannot express his views to a little detail, it is, perhaps, inappropriate, but I thought once again that this, perhaps, may be interpreted as showing disrespect to the Chair and so I shall abide by your decision and speak."

While initiating the debate, Shri Rupchand Pal spoke at some length on why we have very strong reservations on the Indo-US Nuclear Deal. He was not speaking only on behalf of his Party, the CPI(M), but I think, he was speaking on behalf of all the Left Parties and my Party, All India Forward Block, being a constituent of the Left, certainly endorse all that is said and also endorse and support the contention made by Shri Chandrapan and Shri Tarit Baran Topdar, who spoke although very briefly on this issue.

I will only point out two points so that I can finish within the time limit set by you, Sir. Shri Scindia, while speaking

[Shri Subrata Bose]

on behalf of the Congress Party was mentioning about the Hyde Act saying that this is not an Indian Act. It is a law of America. Yes, normally, the laws and Acts of other countries do not affect us, but as Shri Topdar has already mentioned the reason why this Hyde Act was brought or was made in USA is because of the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement, where two countries are involved and surely the US will be influenced by the Hyde Act. If that is so, this Agreement will be in jeopardy and as Shri Rupchand Pal has said that that will in effect means that there is no guarantee in uninterrupted supply of fuel and also it does not end with that that we shall be committed to return the nuclear reactors which the US is going to send to us and also the unused fuel at that time would have to be returned.

While the Government's spokesman says that our sovereignty is not affected. I am sorry, I cannot accept that statement. I think, our freedom of action is certainly affected and that is one of the causes for our strong reservation on this Deal.

Shri Nikhil Kumar, while speaking subsequently was saying how this Deal will help the energy production. I think, he has not even read the views of the experts on this who have said that in 2020 even if the nuclear energy that we shall be able to produce will be plus-minus seven per cent only of our requirement. He was saying that this Nuclear Deal will take electrification to our villages and every village will be lit up. He does not remember the cost. Even presently, with the thermal electricity or the hydro electricity if a village is electrified, all the inhabitants are unable to bring electricity to their homes due to financial constraints. The cost of nuclear energy is bound to be even more than the thermal energy or the hydro electric energy.

I will conclude with one point. I have heard the bell, that it is correct that there is no constitutional position for getting an international agreement sanctioned by the Parliament. But we are a parliamentary democracy and I

think, the Parliament must be given the honour and the sanctity that this Constitution provides.

I think, the Executive actions are accountable to the Parliament. Although we cannot vote on this matter, the decision of the hon. Speaker is absolutely correct. As per the present position, we cannot. I only hope that the Government will have this attitude and approach to take note of the sense of the majority of the House and refrain from executing the Agreement till the Parliament, more or less, I think, approves with amendment this international Agreement.

\*SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME (Nominated) : Sir, The Indo-US Civilian Nuclear Agreement is one of the most important development in modern times. It is a unique and singular development that will be the vehicle that will enable the country to leap frog its aspiration to address poverty through partnership and-resources to meet this challenge.

Sir, the World today is not about blocks but of mutuality and interdependence be it the nuclear program, climate change, pollution or receding non-renewable resources that the global community as a whole is involved with. What affects one directly affects all indirectly. Hence, the world community is today watching us as we take on the issues related to this debate. Are we able to address our desired goals rising above political affiliations and considerations? Do we stand by together in national interest and development considerations or cling to pull at each other like crabs to score points that reduce the efficiency of the development processes of the national as a whole?

The world knows and the common people too, that the Indo-US civilian nuclear agreement will enhance the much needed energy requirement to meet our development targets as well as generate more jobs by opening up avenues that have remained restrained due to lack of

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

energy required.

Sir, whatsoever may be said to negate this agreement we as a country need to examine its validity in terms of the benefit it will bring to the common people and the avenues it opens up to enable the nation to fast-track its developmental goals.

Sir, this agreement may be examined on the following aspects:

**Hyde Act and 123 Agreement:**

We have the solemn undertaking given by our Hon. Prime Minister that the 123 Agreement transactions have an effective domain that will not be influenced by the Hyde Act and an implementation domain that requires the American President to keep the House of Representatives informed of developments and seek appropriate approvals in their national interest. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has assured the nation that this is a routine requirement and will not affect national interest in any manner. We need to reassure the Prime Minister of our solidarity with him on this matter and the operational difficulties will not hinder the progress in implementation.

It is legitimate for supporting parties of diverse political interest to address their concerns and it is the responsibility of the leader of the coalition to provide adequate and reasoned answers and if necessary exhibit transparency in connection with the concerns expressed.

The second concern is related to the 'energy' platform. This is coupled with the Thoreum vs Uranium debate because of Thoreum reserves and the nation's technology adequacy in Thoreum utilization as an when that is possible due to time taken to convert Thoreum to Plutonium and fissionable Uranium.

There is no doubt or debate that one of the modes to meet energy requirements is the nuclear mode. Whether this should be through the U.S. Agreement mechanism or self-reliance? While there is no doubt that the autonomy route is more desirable, it needs to be

appreciated that the pace at which we need to bridge the energy deficiency gap requires pragmatism coupled with realism to use the best mode that is presently on offer. The US and the Nuclear Suppliers Group within the structure of the 123 Agreement with the U.S. has a platform to partially meet a solution to bridge the energy deficit. The members who oppose this agreement have not suggested or indicated any other solution platform. Therefore, their opposition lacks operation reasonable-ness.

As the nation needs to move ahead the Prime Minister has explored the only option presently there and we need to augment his efforts.

The third sphere deals with perceived shift in foreign policy consequent to the agreement with U.S. and the NSG. Sir, the P.M. has made it abundantly clear that presently we do not have any cooperation with nations having nuclear capability to acquire nuclear fuel or technology to integrate the country with the world community and consequent benefits.

In national interest this integration is not only desirable but necessary due to the precarious energy deficiency that the country is likely to face, in and after 2020. Far from meeting the nation's aspiration to emerge as a developed nation over the next decade, the nation will face unprecedented energy shortage.

Raising the bogey of shift in group alignment is most unreasonable. The nation has always operated in self-interest and will always continue to do so. India is a nation whose mind has never been captured or cultivated down the ages. Perception of alignment may be a delusion never a practicing reality. India has followed an independent foreign policy and will continue to do so

Some members are of the view that this agreement will shift the nation's alignment from the socialist block towards a political alignment addressing U.S. concerns. This to me is unfounded as 'agreements' are not foreign

[Shri Francis Fanthome]

policy statements but independently articulated intent and practices. Our concerns will continue to address global issues related to the oppressed and subjugated, those deprived of basic human freedoms and those fighting tyranny or economic exploitation; in national interest.

Some members of the House have given extremely cogent and articulated reasoning to oppose this agreement. The question that they need to address is : Who benefits most if we do not sign this agreement? Our economic and military competitors benefit the most-as they desire to readily take on what we are hesitant to align with. All our neighbours know that India with the US Civilian nuclear agreement will emerge as a major economic power in the next two decades giving the country unprecedented vigour and vitality.

The fourth issue is the bogey that the strategic nuclear programme will be hindered due to this agreement.

It is abundantly clear that the national research and development of its strategic requirements is no way connected to the civil agreement. If we are to trust our scientists the nuclear deterrent capacity is in no way being hampered due to this agreement. If at all, it will be augmented in a diversity of ways which I do not wish to speculate about at this stage as this debate is on the 'Civil' component alone.

Sir, the fifth issue is the political alignment consideration as opposed to national need to meet its development goals.

Sir, this is not a China vs. India political interest conversation. China has been a friendly nation not only sharing borders but also cultural affinity. Political ideologies do influence spheres of thrusts that different platforms enable. The urge to bring in greater ideological influence motivates a section of those opposing this agreement. I am sure that they will appreciate that 'Rastra Dharma' is the supreme cause which this august

assembly addresses and no consideration of political nature should override our national concern.

Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on this vital debate, unique, as it will alter the course of the nation's 'destiny' which the first Prime Minister Pt. Nehru pledged to the country on 15 August, 1947.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is very necessary to take a wider look at the implications of this Agreement. This is only one part of the wide-ranging alliance forged with the United States. It covers political, economic, military and nuclear cooperation. It is to facilitate large-scale investment by the US and a strategic military collaboration. Apart from the sale of nuclear reactors, the US will mount pressure on India for military contracts to purchase their fighter planes and other artillery.

The major reason being put forth is that it would help India meet its energy needs; ignoring the fact that the nuclear power would have a very limited contribution, if we compare our overall energy generation. So, making India's foreign policy and strategic autonomy hostage to the potential benefits of nuclear energy is not wise.

Outside the sphere of nuclear cooperation, the Hyde Act contains directions on India's foreign policy and other security related matters. Going ahead with the Agreement, with the existing provisions therein, will bind India to the US. It would seriously impair an independent foreign policy and our strategic autonomy.

It is the responsibility of the Government to clarify all the doubts and the implications of the Hyde Act. However, the Government is taking steps to negotiate with IAEA safeguards, which is ongoing now. But it is conditional. There should not be any accord between IAEA and the Indian Government. The draft Agreement should be brought for the consideration and approval of the Parliament on the Nuclear Deal set up.

With these words, I conclude.

\*SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili) : Sir, 123-Agreement is a pact between India and United States on cooperation in the field of peaceful applications of Nuclear energy and Technology.

Though the scope of cooperation covers ten aspects emphasis is on nuclear trade.

Under this agreement U.S exports nuclear reactors, fuel and other related equipment ending nuclear isolation of our country imposed on us since 1974 after the pokhran nuclear test.

Article 5 -r- (6) states that interalia "As part of the implementation of the July 18, 2005, joint statement the U.S. is committed to seeking agreement from the U.S. Congress to amend its domestic laws and to work with friends and allies to adjust the practices of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to create the necessary conditions for India to obtain full access to the international fuel market, including reliable, uninterrupted and continual access to fuel supplies from firms in several nations".

Thus this agreement paves the way for resuming nuclear commerce not only with U.S but also with other NSG countries. NSG countries like Russia, Australia, have already responded enthusiastically in favor of this agreement.

To sustain our around 9% GDP growth rate, we have to make use of all options available in the energy sector.

It reduces our dependence on coal and hydrocarbon fuels and forms a part of our Prime Minister's plan of 'de-carbonizing' economy.

This deal helps us to double our target of nuclear power production of 20,000 MW by 2020 to 40,000 MW. (At present it is only 4120 MW)

It doesn't in any way hamper our indigenous 3-stage nuclear power programme but only augments it.

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

There is a nuclear renaissance in the world in general and as our Prime Minister pointed out we should not be left out of this.

No way will it compromise our strategic interests. We can continue our weapons research programme.

We can classify our reactor facilities as civil and military and later are kept out of IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) safeguards.

Article 2-(4) states that: The parties affirm that the purpose of this agreement is to provide for peaceful nuclear cooperation and not to affect the unsafe guarded nuclear activities of either Party. Agreement shall be implemented in a manner so as not to hinder or otherwise interfere with any other activities involving the use of nuclear material, non-nuclear material, equipment, components, information or technology and military nuclear facilities produced, acquired or developed by them independent of this agreement for their own purposes.

We are given the right to reprocess the fuel, which is very important for our 3-stage nuclear power programme. An agreement for transfer of technology on this aspect will be worked out with in 18 months.

The conditions regarding termination and cessation of the agreement are also very reasonable.

One-year notice should be given followed by consultations to see whether violations have occurred if so whether the security situation warranted that.

If the violation is regarding IAEA safeguards it is IAEA board of governors and not the U.S. that decides whether the violation occurred or not.

Multi-Layered protection is provided to ensure uninterrupted fuel supply for the entire lifetime of the imported reactors even in the worst case of termination of the agreement.

[Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha]

Article 5-6(b-iv) States that: U.S. promises to maintain a reserve of fuel for this purpose and also work along with India to persuade the friendly countries like Russia, UK and France to restore fuel supply to India.

Though the U.S Hyde Act provides for return of nuclear reactors imported from America, in case of a violation, it is very difficult to exercise this provision, as the U.S has to pay compensation to India at the market prices.

The very fact that many politicians and analysts criticized U.S. Government for entering into an agreement, which is very favorable to India, shows that our negotiators did the best job under the given circumstances.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I thank the hon. Prime Minister for bringing this issue to be debated in this House to get the mandate of this House.

I would like to just emphasize on one issue. Our country has been recognized as a strong nation, when we had nuclear test during the NDA regime. The world has also started recognizing India as a future economic power because of the economic reforms which were initiated by Dr. Manmohan Singh ji when he was the Finance Minister. Sir, for any development, we have to take risk.

19.00 hrs.

But, Sir, the risk should not be at the cost of our sovereignty because still there is a long way to go for establishing ourselves as self-reliant in some of the important sectors like energy, food and defence products.

Sir, the nuclear deal with the United States of America is not the only solution for India's energy security for future because it is very expensive and we are deficient in technology and also in fuel. It will not cover even 10 per cent of our energy requirement. There is always a risk factor when we depend on other countries for fuel.

Sir, another issue is that there is a suspicion in the mind of the common people about the role of the United States in respect of India because the United States is a country which will not take any agreement when it is not a comparative advantage for them. Sir, we would like to know what comparative advantage of the United States in this agreement is. Otherwise, if we have comparative advantage, then our country should know that. We would like to have a specific answer or clarification from the Government on this issue.

Sir, I am from a smaller State and a smaller Party, Asom Gana Parishad. I would like to know from the Government whether the benefit of this deal will go to every nook and corner of India or the benefit of this deal will go only to the privileged class or privileged areas.

When we have shown extreme urgency on signing the agreement on nuclear issue, whether we had shown enough priority to tap the solar energy, which will be the only available source of energy in India in the event of the predictions made by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations. About 2,500 scientists made a research and it was headed by Dr. Rajendra Pachauri who had been recently awarded the nobel prize. The important prediction of this IPCC is that there will be no hydro power in India by 2030 since all the major rivers like Brahmaputra and Ganga will dry up due to total melting of the Himalayan Glaciers and half of the world population will die due to scarcity of water and rise of sea level. Sir, in such a situation, the nuclear power will not save us. Will the hon. Prime Minister convince us as to how our country is preparing to face that situation after 23 years?

What is our agenda for alternate power and fuel except solar energy? I hope, these questions will be answered before going ahead any sorts of an agreement like the nuclear deal with the United States.

Sir, I associate with the other Members that we should change our policy that for signing an agreement with other countries on sensitive issues which concerns our

sovereignty, the Government should get the mandate of the House.

I would also like to make a request that we should start shifting some of the strategic establishments which are close to the coastal areas to some other place because those places are vulnerable by 2030 as has been predicted.

Lastly, I would like to make a request, through you, Sir, that we have to invite Dr. Rajendra Pachauri to deliver a speech on the issue of global warming in a Joint Session of Parliament. It will be very good for our country, and our country should know as to what the impact of global warming will be.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam) : Sir, we are having this interesting debate here, which is to gauge the sense of the House on a matter of great public importance. But I regret to note that that sense, however clearly and visibly expressed, will be of no effect as the Government is not bound by the sense expressed by Parliament. During the course of the debate, many hon. Members have expressed the that we need a Constitutional Amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Paul, wait for just a second.

[Translation]

If hon. Members of the House are willing, the time may be extended till the debate is conducted.

[English]

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. The time of the House is extended.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : How much time has been extended?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will take little more time.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : How much time it will take approximately?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : About half an hour.

[English]

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL : Sir, during the course of the debate, many hon. Members have expressed the view that we need a Constitutional amendment. Yes, we need a Constitutional amendment to make all international treaties and agreements entered into by the Government subject to Parliamentary approval.

In the United States, they have the Presidential form of Government. But even there, the US Congress is supreme, the Presidential actions are subject to ratification by the US Congress. Here, we have the Parliamentary system and our Parliament is supreme. So, this Constitutional change has become absolutely necessary for making all the Governmental actions regarding international treaties and agreements subject to Parliamentary approval and control.

Sir, many hon. Members on the other side very categorically described the necessity and vital importance of entering into an agreement with the United States known as the Nuclear Deal. If it is so important, it can be done but the agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with the United States can be based only on the assurances given by the hon. Prime Minister in his August 17 statement made in Parliament and not by accepting those provisions of the Hyde Act, which are contrary to India's interests.

Sir, 123 Agreement in the present circumstances has to be perceived as a Trojan Horse for the clandestine import of dangerous provisions contained in the Hyde Act. This debate has proved to be very effective and shed light on many important points. The grave consequences to our sovereignty and autonomy posed by the Hyde Act, and 123 Agreement have been elaborated by other hon. Members.

[Dr. Sebastian Paul]

I expect the hon. Prime Minister will clear the doubts expressed by the hon. Members in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

[Translation]

Conclude within three minutes.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI : Sir, when you are in Chair, please give me at least five minutes.

[English]

Sir, I vividly remember my childhood images of seeing the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi being warmly greeted in the Non-Aligned Summit, which was held in New Delhi. I very vividly remember the speech of the late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, which he delivered at the Jawaharlal Centenary Memorial on 13th November, 1989 wherein he quoted Pandit Nehru by saying that 'the way shown by Jawaharlal Nehru continues to be our way for democracy, secularism, socialism and Non-Alignment, which constitutes the pillars of our nationhood.'

The Non-Aligned Movement according Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State, has no relevance as of now. I would like to know whether this Government has any relevance for non-alignment or not in the light of what Pandit Nehru had said, and which was quoted by the late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi on 13th of November, 1989.

The third point, which I would like to bring it to the notice of this august House is about the Muslims' stance. Unfortunately, a canard has been spread that because of the Indo-US Nuclear Deal, the Muslims will be against it.

I would like to say it in a clear way that if anything is done for the nation, it is good for the Muslims also. Now, unfortunately, this canard was spread by none other

than those Parties which have adopted a very hardened stance on this issue. Now, if the Government is taking a decision, for that matter if any Government is taking a decision, if it is good for the nation, then it is good for the Muslims also. We are part and parcel of this nation. My request to the Government is that they should issue a White Paper on the energy requirements of this country whether there will be nuclear energy, solar energy, thermal energy, hydel energy or non-conventional energy. What are the energy requirements in the light of huge reserves of Thorium being found in Ladakh.

With this particular agreement for 16,000 MW of energy, 150 billion is going to be spent. I am not an economist. But the Government has renowned economists sitting over there. Let them understand whether this is good economics or bad economics.

Then, there is Foreign Policy apprehension about the USA in the light of what happened in Afghanistan. Who propped up Taliban? Who supported Bin Laden? Who propped up Khmer Rouge? Who created this bogey of weapons of mass destruction which led to the killing of half a million children in Iraq? Who is responsible for the death of three million people in the US occupation of Iraq? Who is responsible for this? Why does this Government not remember the strong statement given by the then Prime Minister when the US invaded Vietnam? Have you forgotten the statement of the Prime Minister?

This is another point which I would like to bring to your notice. Is it right for the Government to be visibly pro-America? I am basing this because you have supported twice America against Iran in IAEA. Iran is a member of NPT. It has all the right to go for civilian nuclear energy. If tomorrow, if India does the same thing, the apprehension which we have is that US might say, no, you cannot do it because that is the same policy adopted towards Iran. The reason I am saying is this. Why are we participating in the West Asia Peace Conference when Hamas has not been invited? Why did this Government not invite Ismail Haniya who was the elected President

of Palestinians? So, there are so many questions that can be put over here to quantify, to corroborate what I am saying over here.

Another last point is that US has a trade deficit with all the countries of nearly 800 billion dollars. We are against this strategic partnership. We are against this paradigm shift. We are for friendly and cordial relations with the US. We want nuclear energy but not at the cost of all these things for which India stands proudly.

I am concluding, Sir. Yes, India has to take its place. We will get our place in all the countries. Without even the USA also, India is going to go there. *Inshallah*, nobody can stop it. I would like to conclude by saying that if we believe in this strategic relationship.

[Translation]

One 'Shayar' has rightly described the friendship with America – Tum jis ke dost huve, dushman aasman kyon ho'.

[English]

I would like to conclude by saying that this Government should adopt this attitude that what a poet has said:

[Translation]

'Hayat lekar chalo, kaymat lekar chalo  
chalo to saare jamane ko saath laker chalo'

[English]

Lastly, I have one piece of advice to those Parties who have adopted such a hardened stance. You have love for the Muslims of Iraq. You have love for the Muslims of Palestine. But for God's sake, kindly have or create love for the Muslims of West Bengal in the light of Sachar Committee.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Mr. P.C. Thomas, you only speak for four to five minutes.

[Translation]

\*SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Sir, hon. Prime Minister has signed the Agreement without taking the country into confidence. He should have taken the Parliament and his alliance partners into confidence before signing the Agreement. Why did he not mention the Nuclear Deal with the US when he addressed the country from the Red Fort on 15 August, 2007? Did he feel that the UPA Government will not get support from the country on this issue? After all, why such a hurry was shown in this regard? I cannot understand if there was some important reason behind this that the hon. Prime Minister himself went to the US and signed the 123 points Agreement letter without giving it due thought.

The importance of the need for nuclear power can be understood but as on date it constitutes a mere 3 percent of the country's power sector. Production of nuclear power will increase 7 per cent further after this Agreement. The power crisis is deepening in the country. We have tremendous potential for hydel power, solar energy and wind energy. We can become self-reliant in the field of electricity.

America's history shows that it can do everything to become a super power. It dishonoured its own Agreement in order to get hold of the oil resources in the gulf countries. Today, it is producing all the consumer items and it cannot find a market better than India and that is why it wants to trap India in its net by dangling a lollipop before the UPA Government, Nuclear energy is just an excuse.

India has its own distinct identity in the world. We are constantly facing threat from neighbouring countries. In such a situation, sovereignty of the country must be considered before signing any agreement with a country like US on any matter. There is need to always remain alert about our military strength and the secrecy of our nuclear sites bases. Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

Vajpayeeji had shown a strong example by carrying out nuclear tests. We did not lose anything by it rather it made the world realize our power. But, this Agreement has created many doubts today. Therefore, the Government should review it. The US is eyeing our thorium reserve also so that it can become the sole wielder of the nuclear power.

The UPA Government should work keeping in mind the future of the country even if the common man of the country has nothing to do with this Agreement.

My demand is that the Government should clarify each and every point under the 123 Agreement to end the situation of confusion.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I will be very, very short in my speech.

Sir, assurances have been given by the hon. Prime Minister on 29th of July, 2005, 27th February, 2006, 7th March, 2006 and also thereafter in the debate which ensued. Those assurances were to the effect that this deal would give full access to the civilian nuclear technology, lift all sanctions for not signing the NPT and not limit India's strategic nuclear programme. But when the legislations which were drafted, which have been passed and which have come through the Committees as well as the legislative bodies in the US, we find that there have been some differences. India has to separate its civilian nuclear facilities from the military once, meaning that the separation would be purely on India's own decision. But the terms of the legislations there would tend to have serious doubts on these assurances.

For example, it contains some provisions which clearly deviate from this understanding and also tend to lock India's foreign policy to US requirements and subject our scientific R and D capacities and capabilities to intrusive inspections by IAEA and other American inspec-

tors. Any displeasure to US in this regard is also a serious concern.

If the US suspends its supplies to India, what will happen? Can we take our own action? But the terms would tend to show that for any reason, it must then push for NSG and it is not that India can turn to any other vendor of her choice. It is a serious lock on our interest. It is also a matter of concern as to whether the sanctions on India on fuel processing, on enrichment of uranium, on production of heavy water would continue for equipment and technologies. The only relaxation is on non-proliferation barriers limited to nuclear fuel reactors. The real concern is that there is one clause which prohibits exports of equipments, materials or technology related to the enrichment of uranium, the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel and production of heavy water. These are some of the serious concerns.

I would also, at this juncture, put very simple point whether the Government will be able to say at what cost can electricity or power be given for domestic use and other uses for Indians as a whole. This is also a matter to be considered while considering the expenditure which has to be incurred, which has been highlighted.

I would humbly submit that these points may also be clarified. I hope that the Government, which will very seriously look into these aspects, will see that the prime aspects of India's security as well as India's foreign policy are taken care of.

\*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani) : I am thanking the chair for giving me this opportunity to support the Indo-US Nuclear Deal.

Agreement of Co-operation between the Government of India and Government of the United States of America concerning peaceful uses of Nuclear energy and it is called as 123 Agreement. It is for the period of 40 years. This agreement relates to the peaceful uses of Nuclear

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

Energy by the two countries without having any linkage with non-peaceful act. Though the deal is for civil nuclear Co-operation our Government has taken all possible security situations into consideration. This agreement is a satisfactory agreement which will enable an international civilian nuclear Co-operation. Our concerns have been adequately addressed in the agreement. This agreement favours for India in 2 reasons. One it allows India to participate in Global nuclear commerce and another is that there is no bar on India's strategic Programmes.

We have to appreciate and congratulate our Honourable Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji for negotiating 123 Agreement that is indisputably to the advantage of India's Nuclear Programme and energy sector. For the past 2 years our Government underwent number of meetings with American counterpart and finalised this agreement. Now BJP and his allies are opposing this agreement as if America is an untouchable country. During the year 2001 then Prime Minister Honourable Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Bush in a joint statement had expressed the intention to Co-operate in areas of energy and space. Our Honourable Prime Minister and president Bush issued Joint statement on 18-06-2005 and the deal was progressed after number of elaborate discussions.

The Two line statement by Vajpayee and Bush in 2001 had to be converted into a full-fledged technically, politically, and legally binding 123 Agreement. In the final agreement India's right to test nuclear weapons, guarantee of lifetime fuel supply and India's right to reprocess the spent fuel have all been protected.

India has been one of the pioneering Countries in applications of nuclear Technology for power production. Amongst the 30 countries in the world that are using nuclear power India is in the lowest 27th rank. India's economic growth is at the rate of 9% in GDP but were lacking in power production. Through this Historic agreement India's power problem and shortage of uranium are solved. We are in shortage 10,000/- M. Watt

Power. Through this agreement and through nuclear energy we can produce 20,000/- M. Watt by the year 2020.

Throughout country our scientists are welcoming this agreement Japan, China and many other countries have entered into similar 123 Agreement with US. On any way our military nuclear facilities will not be interfered on hindered since a non-hindrance clause is inserted in the agreement. This agreement is a practical solution to meet all our requirements. This agreement is an achievement of the UPA Government led by Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji.

I am supporting and welcoming this agreement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Deputy – Speaker, Sir, we are discussing very seriously the Indo-US Nuclear deal here today. . . .(Interruptions) I want to express my deep gratitude to the left parties because we have been very tense continuously for 3-4 months as to when would the Parliament be dissolved and the elections held since Dr. Manmohan Singh made a submission here about Indb-US Nuclear Agreement on 13th August. But, the left parties have provided an opportunity to discuss it today. NDA wanted conflict between UPA and left parties and that this discussion should have been held under Rule 184 so that there could be voting on it. They wanted that our Government should go out of power. But, Malhotra ji, we are not so weak politicians. Mr. Speaker has taken up this discussion under Rule 193, therefore, every party has full right to make its point here. This 123 point Agreement has been signed for the development of our country. The country cannot progress unless there is adequate energy. They were in power for 6 years so they also know what happens when there is not enough energy. Therefore, there is genuine need for power and energy for the welfare of country and hence the need for the Agreement.

They know that on becoming the Prime Minister on 9th November, 2001 Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji also went on US visit. Earlier, their relations with the US have also been

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

very good. Now, when we want to improve our ties with the US they are asking us to sever the ties. But, we can not sever ties with the US. We want to improve our ties with Russia, China and Japan. We want to improve our ties with everyone but we cannot have good relation with the NDA.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, please conclude your speech.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : That is why this Agreement is very important. The opposition's demand for JPC was not right because they were going to create problems in that. The Joint Committee of the UPA and the Left is working well. This Agreement is very important but the ruling party must listen to the views of the communist party also because without their support neither the Government will survive nor will we be able to retain our present status.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The next speaker is Shri Tathagata Satpathy. I would be able to give you only two minutes to speak on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Advaniji has also arrived in the House. I want to say that: Dr. Manmohan Singh ji Ne Kiya Indo-US Nuclear Deal, Sansad Ko Kiya Ja Raha Tha Kill, Leftists Ko Ho Gaya Tha Bahut Jyada Feel, NDA Wale Ho Gaye The Zeal.

I, therefore, would say that this deal is extremely good.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing more should be recorded. Shri Athawale, please sit down.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Athawale, please sit down as nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to simply accept a fact that India does not need a lot of energy, and there is no doubt about it. But, unfortunately, this country never believes in perfection, and this Government is an epitome of it.

This is a situation where the so-called national media and all major Parties – this side and that side - are in cahoots to do what America wants to do. Therefore, we are unable to even give the countrymen an exact clear picture of what our energy needs will be 50 years hence. The Government is not able to tell the countrymen what our energy requirement will be 50 years hence. In such a situation, I do not wish to quote any expert as it is not necessary. Many hon. Members have already spoken and quoted many national and international experts. But I wish to remind the people about a thing called Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). The US could invade and destroy a country like Iraq with a vast history, and destroy a culture without remorse under the pretext of these three letters, namely, WMD. Many countries that backed the US then have backed out of that invasion today because they have realized that it is an insane and a mad country. We have crossed all Party barriers, etc. in our quest to be loved by America, and we are falling head over heels to tell everybody that we support them, but we do not know what we support. We do not know how much power we require, and how much energy we require in the future.

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\*Not recorded.

With our little sense, we should ask this to ourselves. Why is a country like Germany that had 19 power plants shut down two of them, and come down to 17 power plants today? Why is France, which used nearly 87 per cent of its power from nuclear energy, planning to scale down their nuclear power plants?

We are not able to question as to why has the US Secretary in the Department of Energy categorically stated, which is there on their website, that by 2020, all radioactive solid and liquid waste shall be cleared from the US mainland. Where will that waste go? Those wastes which will be re-processable will come to countries like India because we believe that we have to be American.

We are not investing in a simple thing. Today, the average national waste or national loss through energy transmission in India is 35 per cent. In my State of Orissa, it is 52 per cent. In developed States like Maharashtra, the average waste is 34 per cent to 35 per cent. If you ask any engineer in any State Electricity Board, he will tell you that the waste or loss at international level is three to four per cent, if we take the loss to be around ten per cent, if we can bring it down by 25 per cent, we will be able to electrify all connected villages in India by providing for 24 hours non-stop electricity. Are we willing to think of that? Are we willing to invest in that? We are not willing to invest in that. Today, in the North-East, a single State like Arunachal Pradesh has the potential to produce 65,000 megawatt of hydel energy. Are we willing to invest there? No, we are not willing to invest there.

This is a situation where we do not know where we will land ourselves, when the whole world is worried about how to dispose of radioactive waste. Earlier, they used to dump into the ocean and they used to dig deep into the earth, but they found that radioactive waste lasts for more than 700 years. When they want to clear off their mess, we are getting all their dirt.

We are all today turning into ex-World Bank employees. The media, the Parliament and the whole

Government today has one mindset. Nobody is willing to oppose this move on a ground of logic, on a ground of ethics. We are all dying to be Americans. It is a shame, and the future generations of India will curse us for what we are doing to the country today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The last speaker is Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav. You should complete your speech within two or three minutes.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing an important issue in the House today. Our Government has decided to sign a nuclear deal with America keeping the best interests of the country in mind. Many apprehensions have been expressed in this regard and this has become a matter of dispute in the country. The main objective of this agreement is to augment the power generation capacity in the country. Development of the country will not be possible till adequate supply of power is ensured. This is the aim of this agreement. The government has also checked out that this will not paralyse our foreign policy in any manner. Hence, we are neither mortgaging our country nor constraining its sovereignty in any manner. Such apprehensions have needlessly been created and the matter has become a topic of discussion in the county.

The intention of the Government is to meet the shortage of power in the country. There is scarcity of power in thousands of villages and many factories are also being forced to closed down due to this reason. Development of the country cannot be possible without electricity. Electricity is needed in all efforts to remove poverty, provide employment and in agriculture. 60 years have passed since independence but adequate power supply is still not available in the country. This is the thought behind this agreement. This is why this agreement has been signed.

Our leftist friends have also expressed apprehensions in regard to this agreement. The opposition has also expressed many misgivings. The Prime Minister

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

has on earlier occasions made it clear within and outside the House that no agreement which could cause harm to the interests of the country would be signed. Never in the history has any agreement likely to go against the interests of the country been signed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sure that the confidence with which the Prime Minister is moving forward with regard to this agreement shows that he will take care to protect the interests of the country. As the Prime Minister has said in the agreement that he will take no step which could prove to be detrimental for the country. . . .  
(Interruptions) Sir, I am concluding. It seems to me that I have been given the least time to speak. It is being said in respect of hitech 123 Agreement that it is an American law which our country would be forced to follow. But in fact, there is no truth in this. It is certain that India cannot be forced to comply with American laws. It is a baseless fear. I would like to request the Prime Minister to allay these suspicious during course of his speech.

Our party is completely against American imperialism. We have and always will remain opposed to America's bullying and imperialistic terrorism. We have also held demonstration against its actions and we fully believe that American imperialism would not be tolerated in this country. Two faced policy should not be followed. . . .  
(Interruptions)

SHRI UDAI SINGH (Purnea) : Talk about yourself.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Let me speak. Why are you worrying. This double ended politics won't do. When you were in power, you used to pay obeisance to America. Now that you are no longer in power you are speaking out against it. Speak unambiguously. If you are against America, say so clearly. . . .(Interruptions) Advaniji says something in the House and gives a contradictory statement outside it. At times he speaks in favour of the nuclear agreement and at other times he speaks against it. Your policies should be clear-cut. The nuclear

agreement has been made to protect the interests of the country. The doubts of our leftists friends shall be removed. The interests of the country will be protected by the Prime Minister and the UPA Government. . . .  
(Interruptions) Sir, I am going to conclude. This agreement has been signed to ensure livelihood for the poor BJP favours America and will always remain so.

SHRI UDAI SINGH : We support America and you are making the agreement.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, I want to make it clear that the intentions of UPA are quite evident and their policies have also been clear that it has never done anything against the interests of the country since independence till date. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I would request the hon. Minister to reply to the debate.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record. Please sit down, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this discussion was deferred immediately after initiation and it was said that it would be taken up when the Prime Minister returns from his foreign tour and he would reply to the debate. I respect Pranabji and would be very happy to hear him speak but this is an international agreement signed by the Prime Minister. He has issued

\*Not recorded.

a joint statement in this regard. If the Prime Minister does not speak it would be contempt of the House. I would like the Prime Minister to give a statement on this subject.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : We would not like to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I want to make the position of the Government clear. At no point of time, there was any commitment from the Government that the Prime Minister would reply. . . .(Interruptions) Since they have no points for arguments. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : In fairness to the House, in all fairness to the country, it is an important debate – after all, you have been dealing with the matter since 2005. I have great respect for hon. Pranab. He has been entrusted with the responsibility only now. You have listened to the whole debate. I do not see why you should reply to the debate. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Our Prime Minister has spoken four times. These talks have never been reported to Parliament. Not even once. Therefore, I would say that we made no commitment in the BAC. The Government has only said that both the Ministers would be abroad. Let them come and choose the time. . . .(Interruptions) Today, we have selected the time only because the Leader of the Opposition was not available yesterday. . . .(Interruptions) We would also like to make this. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD) : Sir, they should have the courage of hear the reply. . . .(Interruptions) They want to run away. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The Prime Minister should reply to this debate. . . .(Interruptions) We cannot tolerate contempt of the House. Hence, we will walk out in protest. . . .(Interruptions)

19.32 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri L.K. Advani and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion from 2 o' clock in the afternoon till now. Twenty-nine hon. Members have made their contribution. I expected that the principal Opposition party, the Leader of the Opposition would remain to listen to the reply to the points, which he raised but after all we are living in a world where all the parliamentary norms, etiquettes and courtesies are thrown to the wind. Therefore, I am not surprised to know the behaviour of the BJP and other NDA partners are not unexpected to do this. I am a small fry. But for the first time in the history of this country, the hon. Prime Minister of the country was not allowed to speak on August 13, 2007 when at the earliest opportunity, in deference to the Parliamentary customs, etiquettes and systems, he took the opportunity to explain to the House the agreed text of the 123 Agreement. I would say, in the course of my observation, I would try to cover the various points which the hon. Members have made but even the beginning has a beginning. This 123 Agreement, this discussion is practically the continuation of the discussion which should have taken place in the Monsoon Session. Shri Rupchand Pal has correctly pointed out while raising the discussion that because of the obstruction of the principal Opposition party, it could not take place. Nonetheless, I am happy that we have the opportunity to clarify a large number of issues which have been raised by the hon. Members.

Sir, the Prime Minister has articulated his views on this important arrangement which is proposed to be

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entered with the USA. First of all I would like to clarify one point which the Prime Minister also mentioned on a number of occasions. This 123 Agreement with the USA is with the completion of this process, which has three stages – one stage, an agreed text between USA and India has been worked out, which has been frozen; the second stage, to enter into an India-specific safeguard arrangements with IAEA, which is the supreme international body to supervise all matters related to international atomic energy. India is one of the founders of this body in the early 1950s and has contributed in its own way in strengthening this most important and vital regulatory body of the international atomic energy. We are neither a stranger nor a new comer to IAEA; like many other international bodies, India is one of the founders of IAEA.

The short point which I wanted to flag at the initial stage is that this agreement will provide us the passport to enter into agreement on nuclear trade with a host of other countries. The fact is that after the first explosion of 1974 and also after the second Pokhran Test in 1998, there had been sanctions.

The Leader of the Opposition, while making his observations, boasted that his Government had been able to persuade USA to remove all sanctions. Most respectfully, I would like to submit that it was not. A number of Indian entities are still not allowed to participate in many international events related to the nuclear matters. I would not use the word 'apartheid'. But the hard, cold fact is that despite having the talent, our experts, our engineers and our scientists had been denied access to many areas.

One of the Government owned organizations is included in the entity list which is a very important defence organization and some of their activities come under the scanner of USA, as per their own domestic laws. We may like it or we may not like it, but this is the reality. Therefore, an attempt was made to cross the hurdle; once we cross this hurdle, it would be possible. But for crossing this

hurdle, the support of 45 countries including USA, Russia, France, China in the NSG and about 30 plus countries in the IAEA group, is needed and this is to remove the restrictions of having access to the nuclear trade, having access to the nuclear technology, to come at par and remove the constraints which are prevailing today.

A major part of the speech of the Leader of the Opposition was devoted to boasting, that they have done a great job, by having the second Pokhran test. He told the Prime Minister – that was the burden of his song – that India has sacrificed the right to test, of which he is very proud of. In his observations he himself stated that his Party came to power on 19th of March, 1998 and they conducted the test on 11th of May, 1998 in less than 30 days. Not even a child will believe that a nuclear test can be conducted in less than 30 days. Everything was ready.

Here I would most respectfully like to remind the hon. Members that we had a policy from day one and the policy was enunciated by no less a person than the Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi supported by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We are a strong believer in total nuclear disarmament. We did not sign NPT, not because we wanted nuclear weaponisation but because we considered it as a fraud treaty. It is discriminatory. It is creating nuclear haves and nuclear have nots. We did not want to participate in this discriminatory fraud Treaty where two classes of nuclear haves and nuclear have nots are created.

He lamented that he could have entered into the nuclear club if Mr. Nehru did not commit that mistake. Pandit ji did not commit any mistake. He saved the world from impending Third World War but for his policy of non-alignment, taking strong position on various international issues starting from the peace initiative in Korea to condemning the nationalisation of Suez Canal in 1956, attack on Egypt on the issue of nationalisation of Suez Canal in 1956 and preventing the total assault on Egypt through persuasive. World was saved from a catastrophe.

When in 1974 Shrimati Indira Gandhi went for the nuclear explosions, it was not for indulging in weaponisation. Those speeches were made on the floor of this and the other House. They are on record of this and the other House. She categorically mentioned: 'I wanted to have the technology. I wanted to test the competence of the Indian scientists, Indian technicians and Indian engineers'. The purpose was the peaceful use of the civilian nuclear programmes. It was not war-mongering.

It was taken further in the 3rd Nuclear Disarmament Conference by young Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He told the whole world: 'I am ready. My engineers, my scientists and my technologists are ready. We are just screw drive away from the weaponisation programme. We can do it. We can do it right now. But I want to assure the international community that I will not cross the threshold level.'

We used to have a pledge from 1974 till 1998, almost quarter of a century that we shall keep our options open. We did not fore-close the option. That was the message which Shri Rajiv Gandhi conveyed to the world community: 'I want universal, non-discriminatory, verifiable disarmament where both horizontal and vertical proliferations would be stopped and if the international community agree I will not graduate myself from the threshold level to the nuclear weapon States.'

That is the philosophy. Perhaps, it is beyond the comprehension of the Leader of the Opposition and his Party, that is why, he found fault with it. I cannot contradict what he said because it is unfair. Unnecessarily he has brought the name of a distinguished son of this country, the former President of India. But the fact of the matter is that Mr. Venkataraman was the Defence Minister during the Prime Ministership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and not during the Janata Party and not even after that. Therefore, it is totally unacceptable. This is the factual position. The Leader of the Opposition could have made his home work that Mr. R. Venkataraman was the Defence Minister from 15th January, 1982 till the day he was elected as the Vice

President of India in July 1984. At that point of time, the Prime Minister was Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Who will believe in this House and in the whole country that Mrs. Indira Gandhi abandoned the nuclear testing programme under pressure from the United States of America. He started by saying – which I have to contradict and the Prime Minister also had to contradict – that the USA is not interested in the energy programme. The very second sentence of the 123 Agreement starts with the energy programme.

He asked why did we not go to the Joint Parliamentary Committee. I explained it on the floor of this House itself. I explained that the Constitution was made by the mighty minds of the then India who devoted their lives to the service of this great nation. In the debates of the Constituent Assembly I found that this issue was debated and the constitutional position was made quite clear. Subsequently, the Supreme Court has also made it quite clear. I would just like to quote one judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Union of India and another versus Azadi Bachao Andolan and another. In paragraph 18 of the judgement of case No.2004/10 SCC, the Supreme Court said:

"The power of entering into a Treaty is an inherent part of the sovereign power of the State by article 73. Subject to the provision of the Constitution, the executive power of the Union extends to the matters with respect to which Parliament has power to make laws. Our Constitution makes no provision making legislation a condition for the entry into an international treaty in times either of war or of peace."

That is the constitutional position. That is the latest interpretation of the Supreme Court of India. But any international treaty is not ipso facto operationalised if it requires any legislative backing. Then the appropriate legislature and in this case, the Central Parliament, will make the legislation under Entries 10 and 14 of the List I of the Seventh Schedule. It is this House itself. That is not so remote memory. In 1994, when we signed the WTO

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Agreement, an international treaty, and accepted the Intellectual Property Rights to execute that and to put into effect that obligation, we had to amend the Patents Act of 1973.

That was to provide the product patent which was not available in respect of three items, namely, pharmaceutical, agricultural and food items. That was done by making an enactment in the Parliament. Never has the hon. Prime Minister said that he will not come to Parliament. The statement which Shri Advani quoted, it clearly says so and that is why when the joint statement was issued after 18th July, 2005 we debated it in Parliament. After the Separation Plan, March 2006 we debated it in Parliament. We debated it in Parliament on 6th August, 2006 and again we debated it in Parliament in 2006 when the Hyde Act was passed and at the earliest opportunity the agreement was signed in August. I think, it was sometimes on 1st August, 2004 and the hon. Prime Minister came to Parliament on the 13th of August. My colleague, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs assured the BAC that look on the basis of the Prime Minister's statement we will take it up on the next day. Where have we said that we do not want to carry the people with us?

Somebody from that side suggested that there should be a political consensus. The hon. Prime Minister should take the initiative. He took the initiative and to my mind, excuse me for saying this, he took extra initiative, which was perhaps not necessary, several times as soon as it was signed and the Leaders of the principal Opposition parties, and the NDA leaders were invited. What was their initial reaction? Their initial reaction was that they congratulated the negotiators and they came out and told the waiting media persons outside. After that suddenly they discovered that this agreement cannot be accepted.

Shri Advani also pointed out that there will be no tests. Do you not want Programme III? Whether one wants Programme III or not is a different matter. But I myself on

the floor of this House in August last stated that yes we will not hesitate to conduct the test if it is necessary for the country to have this nuclear test keeping in view our security requirement. A question was asked, what is the guarantee that we can go for test? What is the guarantee that we will have it? If one would have read the text – it is not a very big text, there are only 17 clauses and it does not run into hundreds of pages – then one would have found out article 5(vi) (b) assures continuous fuel supply and article 14.8 suggests that it will not affect the military programme. I am reading the first portion of the article.

20.00 hrs.

"The parties affirm that the purpose of this agreement is to provide for peaceful nuclear cooperation and not to affect the un-safeguarded nuclear activities of either party."

Our strategic programme is un-safeguarded. We have not given it to them. He claimed because somebody gave some interview that what he could not get from Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, we got from the Government of Dr. Manmohan Singh. He gave an example that we gave only two reactors of existing reactors to be under safeguarded. But all future reactors were to be brought under safeguard arrangement and that was the conclusion which the NDA Government did with the USA. What did we do you will find in the text. We said that these six reactors we are giving for safeguard. In future, what the reactors will provide for safeguard, it will be decided by us and not by you. In the text of the agreement, we have one word that our military programme will not be affected. I do not know, if they do not believe the Prime Minister of India, Minister of External Affairs of India, the commitment which we have made in this language of the 123 Agreement, when the Prime Minister gave assurances to our Left friends in respect of nine points which were raised. Our job was to ensure that in this 123 Agreement, all these nine points are protected.

Sir, just for the recapitulation of the hon. Members, I

would like to explain what are these nine points – Full Civilian Nuclear Cooperation; Principle of Reciprocity; Permanent waiver – not temporary, not annual certification; recognition of India as a State possessing advanced nuclear technology; acceptance only of IAEA safeguards not any bilateral safeguards; Safeguarding the integrity and reliability of our strategic programme; rejection of any moratorium on production of fissile material. So, like a responsible sovereign entity, we have said that we will enter into negotiations. There, our position is very clear. It must be non-discriminatory, it must be verifiable and it must be equal. Nothing short of that is acceptable to us and we will not enter into this arrangement and safeguarding our legal right to carry out a nuclear test if that is deemed to be necessary in the national interest. That means, if you want at some point of time that a test is necessary, we will do it. But I reject the concept of Shri L.K. Advani and his Party that India should not carry on universal, nondiscriminatory disarmament which is our ultimate goal and even in this session of the United Nations General Assembly, we have tabled a resolution backed by almost 27 countries and we will continue to do so.

The question was raised that why we entered into an arrangement among the UPA and Left Parties. This is not a Parliamentary Committee. This Committee is not appointed by the Prime Minister. This Committee is appointed by the Chairperson of the UPA. It does not consist only of the Members of Parliament. There are three non-parliamentarian members of that Group. This is an informal group to work out the differences between our supporters and ourselves. So, what has the Parliament to do with it? In Parliament, when we are debating it on the floor of the House, when we are discussing it, I do not have any objection if they say: "We will like to support our party." We will, of course, have to take the approval of the Congress President. I cannot decide it. But they have never expressed their intention that they will like to support the UPA. Let them change their policy. Therefore, this is absolutely an unacceptable position.

So far as safeguard is concerned, we have assured you what is the outcome of it. The outcome of it is that we are going for the India-specific safeguard arrangements. Negotiation will take time. It is a technical negotiation. In that technical negotiation, we will continue and we will like to say three important points which our Left Front repeatedly argued in our Group. When we are insisting that we will like to ensure in the India-specific safeguard arrangements with the IAEA assurance of fuel supply, right of India to have clear strategic reserves to meet the situation in the case of uninterrupted fuel supply, if it is interrupted, if there is a breakdown to meet that situation, there should be a strategic reserve for the fuel and the recognition of our strategic programme by accepting the separation plan which this Parliament is aware of, which has been placed on the Table of this Parliament and which the United States Administration has accepted.

Now, I understand there is an issue about the Hyde Act. If you want to interpret everything with the Hyde Act, I cannot help it. Nobody can help it. The Hyde Act, as Shri Tarit Baran Topdar has correctly pointed out, is a legislation enabling the US Administration, the US President to have a waiver to enter into a civilian nuclear programme with India, which is a non-NPT country, which is a nuclear-weapon country not recognised but a nuclear weapon-country which is having strategic programmes. As per the 1954 Act, the USA cannot cooperate with that country. Therefore, in that Act, they require a waiver. That waiver has been provided by the Hyde Act. While providing the Hyde Act, one thing has been pointed out. Who is to interpret the Hyde Act? I have myself stated that there are many prescriptive and extraneous issues in the Hyde Act which are not binding on us. How can it be binding on us? As a law passed by the Indian Parliament is not binding the US Congressmen, similarly a law passed by the US Congressmen may be binding on the US Administration but not on India. The only binding agreement on India is the 123 Agreement. I will most respectfully submit to the hon. Members to show me one

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clause. Yes, I know that somebody will get up and say that the question of the national law is there. Yes, that is the standard practice of all international agreements. It is equally true that in Clause 14, there are references to the Vienna Convention and references to the international laws in case of disputes. That was the mandate which we gave to the negotiators to enter into negotiation with their American interlocutors. We told them quite clearly, I myself at one point of time when I had to intervene, told: "Look, this is unacceptable."

I told them that the nine points which the Prime Minister specifically referred on the floor of Parliament and gave his commitment are to be preserved in the text and there will be no reference to the Hyde Act. Most respectfully, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I can claim that we have done it. What did President Bush say? He is the Chief Executive of America? How is he interpreting the Hyde Act? Mr. Advani is depending on the interpretation of some Under Secretary – I would not mention his name – but I am quoting from the statement of the President of the United States of America, not the statement of any Under Secretary. I do not make any reflection on the Under Secretary or their officers. But the Chief Executive of the United States of America said:

"Today I have signed into law HR 5682, an Act containing Henry J. Hyde US-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act of 2006. The Act will strengthen the strategic relationship between the United States and India and deliver valuable benefits to both nations. Section 103 of the Act purports to establish US policy with respect to various international affairs matters. My approval of the Act does not constitute my adoption of the statement of policy as US foreign policy. Given the Constitution's commitment to the Presidency of the authority to conduct the nation's foreign affairs, the executive branch shall construe such policy statements as advices."

This is the comment of the President of the United States

of America and my young friend Mr. Jyodiraditya Scindia very aptly explained it while participating in the debate.

So, my most respectful submission would be that we are accepting the obligations under Section 123 of the US Atomic Energy Act of 1954, not under the Hyde Act. The Hyde Act is an enabling provision. That is for the US Administration to deal with it and they have assured us that it would not stand in their way of implementing the commitment which they made in the Joint Statement of July, 2005 and in the Separation Plan of March, 2006. Therefore, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to, most respectfully, submit that let us look into the 123 Agreement.

I am not going into the larger aspects of foreign policy debate, but I would like to emphasize a couple of points. Much has been said about the voting in the International Atomic Energy Commission Board. I think we have explained about it several times here. There had been two occasions where we did it and we explained why we did it. It was because at that point of time we were given to understand that if we accept the amendment of the European countries, then the matter will be within the Board of IAEA and it will not be referred to the UN Security Council because if it is referred to the UN Security Council, then they will issue sanction as they have issued two sanctions on Iran. But in the last one in February, 2006, the position and the voting pattern which we had was that a large number of countries including the Non-Aligned countries like Russia and China and we were together. In my intervention in the conference of 45 countries of Europe and Russia, while stating India's position on Iran when I was asked to state our position, I made it quite clear that Iran is an old civilized country and a very proud nation.

I do not feel that issuing sanction after sanction is going to resolve the problem. Iran will have to be engaged in the dialogue process and the most appropriate forum is IAEA. The latest voting which has taken place there – no voting, where it has been again decided – along with China, Russia, Malaysia and large number of other

countries, non-aligned countries, we have decided that yes, diplomacy is to be given a chance. This is a complicated issue. It will take time.

Why should we be scared of any country? Yes, we have strategic relationship. What is wrong with it? Most respectfully I would like to submit that it is not alone USA, I have strategic relationship with Russia, with China, with Indonesia, with Japan, with Singapore, with France, with Germany, with European Union. I have strategic relationship with ten countries.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East) : All encompassing!

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : No, not all encompassing. It is depending on the nature of relationship which we want to have. There has been substantial improvement in the relationship with China.

During the visit of Chairperson of UP A, the type of warmth she felt at the top most premiership of People's Republic of China is envy of anybody, any world's statesman and that is the meeting of her after the election. She was the first person from outside to visit People's Republic of China. In a short span of last nine months, I had four interactions with the Chinese Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister's visit is to come very shortly.

I have no doubt that in between they are saying the discussions which we had with President Hu Jintao at Heiligendamm at the margin of G-8 and G-5 countries and with Premier Wen Jiabao in Singapore speaks of the best relationship between our two countries. It is not possible for me to disclose everything what transpired between Premier of China and our Prime Minister. But I am quite confident that so many people are saying so many things about their cooperation even in the area of civilian nuclear programme. I am quite confident that if we cross the hurdles which we are having we will be able to have that.

Questions have been raised why Prime Minister did not sign the agreement with Russia. We have explained it. He explained it when the occasion arose and the reason

was very simple. We are waiting, because after all these arrangements are to be made and to be operationalised; and for operationalisation, we shall have to go with IAEA India-specific Agreement. We will have to arrange the NSG guidelines and when we are in this process, Memorandum of Understanding with Russia about four reactors and Kudankulam and as soon as the process is ready, we will be able to enter into that agreement. That is the reason I was saying that this is some sort of a passport. Once I have the international passport visiting all countries, I have the option to choose which country I will visit. It is not necessary that I may take passport in the name of visiting one country, but it is not necessary that I shall confine myself only to that.

It will be open. Surely, we want interaction. Lot of violations etc. has been called. The initiator of the discussion, Rup Chand *babu*, said that it is only 15 per cent of the world energy requirement. It is correct. Today I have 1,28,000 megawatt power generation capacity; nuclear energy is only 3,900 megawatt. We are not talking of today; we have to talk of future.

Today our import of oil is 100 million tonnes. If we are importing these 100 million tonnes at the cost of \$ 100 per barrel, and if the entire thing was passed on to the consumer, one can easily understand what could have been the cost of energy. But simply because it is absorbed by somebody in the form of subsidy does not mean that the cost of the energy is getting less here. Coking coal also we are importing. It is not that we are just depending on them. The Prime Minister has emphasized that we want energy; we want access to the technology on thorium, the three-tier. Even in the text of the Agreement itself, you will find that our three-staged civil and nuclear programme, which was the dream child of Homi Bhabha, the architect of Indian nuclear programme, has not been diluted at all. If we have just thorium; I am told by some reports that I have received where I find on plutonium the experts are telling that the nuclear power generation capacity can be raised from 10,000 megawatt to around 500 thousand megawatt exclusively using the contents from spent fuel

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discharged from PHWRs following the Plutonium 239, Uranium 238, fuel cycle in FBIs. Surely, it is not of today. It is of tomorrow. But we shall have to think of tomorrow.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi thought in the mid-eighties of the revolution in Information Technology. Many of us did not believe in it. Today, India is on the top of Information Technology (IT). Many of us opposed computerization. Today, we are going for that.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We had also done that.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Now you are helping us. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

Therefore, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would not like to take more of your time. I have covered some areas. Yes, there will be discussions; we are having discussions. As I mentioned, we have a mechanism with the Left, UPA. Lalu ji, Sharad ji, and Baalu ji are the Members there; I am also there. We are discussing among ourselves and we are trying to resolve it. The Leader of the Opposition has assured us, and it has been echoed by some of his followers, that if they have the mandate they will renegotiate it.

I will just conclude my observations by narrating one incident. It happened not in this House but it happened in the other House. I was a Member of that House at that point of time. It is being told today that sovereignty has been mortgaged. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, fortunately or unfortunately, whatever it may be, I am in the Government of several Congress Prime Ministers from the seventies. At least, I have been accused not less than three times of mortgaging India's sovereignty. Once I mortgaged India's 'sovereignty' when I entered into an extended funding facility with IMF by borrowing five billion SDRs! When we returned the last installment of 1.2 billion SDRs,

I told in one of my speech: "Many of you told me, like self-styled Cassandra prophecy that I will come out of the IMF building on a stretcher. I have come out of the IMF building with my head on my shoulder and on my foot, and not on the stretcher."

Similarly, again when we signed the WTO Agreement, they said that 'sovereignty' had been mortgaged and it went to such an extent. I can understand that. The Left opposed then and the Left opposed now.

Now, as I mentioned, the Indian Patent Act, 1973 was to be amended as per the International Agreement of IPR. Twice that Bill was rejected in the Rajya Sabha under the command of a great Member of the BJP who later on became the Minister in the NDA regime. . . .(Interruptions) I will not take the name of the Member of the other House. But the funny part is this. After some time when the table was turned, when they were in the Government, twice India lost in the international dispute settlement mechanism of WTO. Then, the same Party came to us - I was sitting in the Opposition and Dr. Sahib was the Leader of the Opposition - and said: "If you support, we will like to amend the Indian Patent Act." It was sometime in 2000. I talked to the Congress President. She said: "If you consider that the Bill is good and in the national interest, simply by accident of changing the seat need not necessarily change the policy." So, with our support, the Bill was passed, and the only change was made. The Member-in-charge of the 1994 Bill was Pranab Mukherjee as the Commerce Minister and in 2000 the Member-in-charge was Shri Murasoli Maran, and except the year no further change was brought, which was rejected by them, and they had to plead to the Congress Party to support the Bill. Therefore, let us not be. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : That is why they left the House without listening your speech. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Therefore, let us not be carried by the emotions. Yes, let us calculate, let us

debate, let us discuss and let us try to find out how the issues could be resolved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Prime Minister has assured the hon. Members umpteen number of times, I would like to submit most respectfully that the process is not yet complete. Whenever any major step in the process had been taken, we came to Parliament. After the Joint Statement, we came to Parliament. After the Separation Plan we came to Parliament. Again we came to Parliament. After the Hyde Act we came to Parliament. After agreeing the Agreed Text on freezing it, we have come to Parliament. Again we will come to Parliament.

With these words, I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I had made several important points but the hon. External Affairs Minister has not covered them in his elaborate reply. One is about the relationship between 123 Agreement and the Hyde Act. There are public comments by important USA administrative people about the relationship. I am not going into that. I want to know whether the 123 Agreement will override the Hyde Act or the Hyde Act will override the 123 Agreement while making a reference to the international practice and all these things.

I had asked whether the fast breeder reactors are also being put under safeguards, . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : The answer is 'no'. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Okay, Now, our Indian negotiator is in the process of negotiating about India's requirement, that is, India's specific safeguard. I would like to know whether the Government has anything in mind as to what may be the requirement because this is a grey area. In re-processing, there is a national idea given and nothing concrete. I would like to know how India is going to be benefited.

We find that they are telling that these are the benefits,

namely, jobs would be created, their ailing nuclear industry would be rejuvenated, they would have something of a new architecture in Asia and all these things. But what is the benefit that we are going to derive has not been clearly stated in the long reply of the hon. Minister.

Then, things in regard to selective transfer of technology, in regard to nuclear reactor, and in regard to dual use have not been cleared by the hon. Minister of External Affairs. Similarly, about the energy mix, whether the nuclear energy at any point of time is going to help us is a big way ignoring our coal sector, ignoring our hydel sector, ignoring our renewable energy sector!

Sir, I am really disappointed that the hon. Minister did not cover all these important points.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Most respectfully, I would like to submit that if the hon. Member was a little careful, I mentioned about what I require from the IAEA. I mentioned three specific areas. It is not for the first time that India is going to have a safeguard arrangement with the IAEA. Whenever we buy a reactor from outside, we have to make it with the IAEA. There is a standard format. But what is India specific? About the India specific, I referred to these three areas in details. They are assurance of the fuel supply, right to create the strategic fuel reserves, and recognition of the separation plan, in other words, recognition of the strategic programmes. We should expect to have them. For that, the negotiations are going on. These are highly technical details, which are being worked out by the experts. I am not an expert. I am a layman like you. Therefore, here, we are normally guided by them. We are quite confident that they will protect our interests.

So far as the energy mix is concerned, I started my observations by saying that we are not looking at only today, we are also looking at tomorrow. Now, everybody is talking about the climate change. We cannot keep it under the carpet. About the cost of the technology, which the Prime Minister is meeting, and which will be again strongly advocated in the Bali Conference that as

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the developing countries cannot sacrifice their development, therefore, they will have to be compensated by giving adequate access to the clean energy technology at an affordable cost. The whole world, especially the advanced countries are looking at the markets of China and India. I think, they have made some calculations that 50 per cent of a few trillions dollar worth trade will be only between our two countries.

Therefore, these are the areas, where we are concentrating on, and the Planning Commission is working on it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, taking into account the views expressed by the majority of this House, I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Prime Minister that the Government will not proceed further. This should be treated as a sense of the House. I want this assurance from the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Most respectfully, I would like to submit that I started my observations by saying that the debate, which could not take place in the Monsoon Session is now taking place. It is just a small step towards the process. Unless the process is complete, where is the question of taking the sense of the House? Let the process be completed. I also assured that at the end of every stage, I will come to the Parliament and I will discuss with you.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you. The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, that is, 29th November, 2007 at 11 a.m.

20.34 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of  
the Clock on November 29, 2007/  
Agrahayana 8, 1929 (Saka).*

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## ANNEXURE-I

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