

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Second Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

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The following order was issued by the President of India on 29.5.2004:

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**A.P.J. Abdul Kalam,  
PRESIDENT OF INDIA\***

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 07, 2004/Asadha 16, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

11.00 hrs.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last two months in Maharashtra. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you after the Question Hour. I request you to please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter is very serious. Sir please listen to me as the matter is very serious. Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last two months one thousand Children belonging to Scheduled Caste have. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Not now please. This is Question Hour. You are all very senior Members. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Thousands of Children have died in Maharashtra. This is a very serious matter. Nine thousand children belonging to Scheduled Caste have died of malnutrition last year. When news of their death was published in the 'Times of India', Mumbai High Court took the *suo-moto* cognizance of the matter. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important issue. You may rise it after the Question Hour. Now, Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am also making a mention of P.M.O. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please listen the entire matter first. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I request you to please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please listen the matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise it after the Question Hour. This is not the time to raise it please.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you first listen the matter. I am raising this matter here as the P.M.O. has sought the information in this matter from the Department of Tribal Affairs of the Government of Maharashtra.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time to raise it. I will listen to all of you, as I said, after the Question Hour. Please sit down now. Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad.

...(Interruptions)

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11.02 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Backward Districts

\*41. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 100 districts have been selected all over the country as the most backward districts;

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

(c) whether the Government has been conducting any survey for selecting more districts falling under this category; and

(d) if so, the time by which districts so identified are likely to be benefitted?

[English]

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

### Statement

(a) One hundred backward districts have been identified for coverage under the Backward Districts Initiative component of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. In addition, 32 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism are also covered under this programme.

(b) State-wise details of districts covered under the programme are given in the Annexure enclosed.

(c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to conduct a survey for selecting additional districts under the programme.

(d) Does not arise.

### Annexure

#### *Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana : Backward Districts Initiative List of Districts*

S.No.	Name of the State	Name of the District
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Adilabad 2. Warangal 3. Chittoor 4. Mahbubnagar 5. Vizianagaram

1	2	3
2.	Chhattisgarh	1. Bastar 2. Dantewada 3. Kankar 4. Bilaspur
3.	Gujarat	1. Dangs 2. Dohad 3. Panchmahals
4.	Haryana	1. Sirsa
5.	Jharkhand	1. Lohardagga 2. Gumla 3. Simdega 4. Saraikela 5. Singhbhum West 6. Goddha
6.	Karnataka	1. Gulbarga 2. Bidar 3. Chitradurga 4. Davangere
7.	Kerala	1. Palakkad 2. Wynad
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Mandla 2. Barwani 3. West Nimar 4. Seoni 5. Shahdol 6. Umaria 7. Balaghat 8. Satna 9. Siddhi

1	2	3	1	2	3
9. Maharashtra	1. Gadchiroli				14. Jaunpur
	2. Bhandara				15. Hamirpur
	3. Gondia				16. Jalaun
	4. Chandrapur				17. Mahoba
	5. Hingoli				18. Kaushambi
	6. Nanded				19. Azamgarh
	7. Dhule				20. Pratapgarh
	8. Nandurbar		14. West Bengal		1. Purulia
	9. Ahmednagar				2. 24 South Parganas
10. Punjab	1. Hoshiarpur				3. Jalpaiguri
11. Rajasthan	1. Banswara				4. Midnapur West
	2. Dungarpur				5. South Dinajpur
	3. Jhalawar				6. Bankura
12. Tamil Nadu	1. Tiruvannamalai				7. North Dinajpur
	2. Dindigul				8. Birbhum
	3. Cuddalore		15. Assam		1. Kokrajhar
	4. Naggapattinam				2. North Lakhimpur
	5. Sivgangai				3. Karbi Anglong
13. Uttar Pradesh	1. Sonbhadra				4. Dhemaji
	2. Raebareli				5. North Cachar Hills
	3. Unnao		16. Arunachal Pradesh		1. Upper Subansiri
	4. Sitapur		17. Himachal Pradesh		1. Chamba
	5. Hardoi				2. Simaur
	6. Banda		18. Jammu & Kashmir		1. Doda
	7. Chitrakoot				2. Kupwara
	8. Fatehpur				3. Poonch
	9. Barabanki		19. Manipur		1. Tamenlong
	10. Mirzapur		20. Meghalaya		1. West Garo Hills
	11. Gorakhpur		21. Mizoram		1. Lawngtlai
	12. Kushinagar		22. Nagaland		1. Mon
	13. Lalitpur		23. Sikkim		1. Sikkim
			24. Tripura		1. Dhalai

1	2	3
25. Uttaranchal	1. Champavat	
	2. Tehri Garhwal	
	3. Chamoli	
Total	100	

*Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana : Backward Districts Initiative—List of 32 Extremist Affected Districts*

State	Districts
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. Karimnagar
	2. Khammam
	3. Medak
	4. Nalgonda
	5. Nizamabad
2. Bihar	1. Aurangabad
	2. Gaya
	3. Jehanabad
	4. Rohtas
	5. Nalanda
	6. Patna
	7. Bhojpur
	8. Kaimur
3. Jharkhand	1. Hazaribagh
	2. Palamu
	3. Chatra
	4. Garhwa
	5. Ranchi
	6. Latehar
	7. Giridih
	8. Koderma
	9. Bokaro
	10. Dhanbad

1	2	3
4. Madhya Pradesh	1. Dindori	
5. Chhattisgarh	1. Kawardha	
	2. Rajnandgaon	
	3. Sarguja	
	4. Jashpur	
6. Orissa	1. Ganjam	
	2. Gajapati	
	3. Mayurbhanj	
7. Uttar Pradesh	1. Chandauli	

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much amount of assistance has so far been provided to the hundred most backward districts in the country selected under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given notice for adjournment motion.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have rejected that.

You can put your supplementary Question, Shri Nishad.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Besides, I would also like to know as to under which head the expenditure of the above said funds would be given priority?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you. I will listen to you after 12 o'clock.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only the Supplementary Question will go on record. Nothing else will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: An exercise was undertaken to identify the backward districts. Out of 100 districts, 80 districts were allocated for Non-Special Category States. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: You give me the first opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: When I have committed, I will give you the opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have been repeatedly requesting you. I will listen to you all, after the Question Hour. Please hold patience. I will listen to you after the Question Hour. You are a senior Member, I am requesting you to please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice of Adjournment Motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly hold patience. Please raise the matters after Question Hour.

[Translation]

You know that the notice of Adjournment Motion are not taken at this stage.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: What is the use of giving notice for Adjournment Motion if I am not given the opportunity to speak. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you know that this is not the time to raise the matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was a false encounter.

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: The Backward Districts Initiative Component is one of the three components of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana; it covers 100 backward districts as well as 32 districts affected by the Left Wing Extremism. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please wait.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you have given a notice for Adjournment Motion. But this is not the time and you know that very well.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, on the 15th June, four terrorists were killed in Ahmedabad. Two of them were Pakistanis. One was Ms. Ishrat, from Mumbai. The most unfortunate thing is that instead of condemning terrorism, the members of the Ruling Party started accusing the Gujarat Government. ...(Interruptions) It seems that it is a terrorist-friendly Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It does not justify the suspension of Question Hour. Yes, Mr. Minister, please continue. I have rejected it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that was a false encounter. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, under the backward districts initiative. ...(Interruptions)

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\*Not recorded.

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, one hundred backward districts as well as 32 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism are covered. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed that notice. I have heard you and disallowed it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I have disallowed your notice. This is Question Hour. I am repeatedly appealing to all of you, if you have important issues to raise, please do it after the Question Hour. I will listen to you. You are all senior Members. We want the House to run properly. Therefore, please cooperate. Please see whether you are allowed to raise it or not.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing me to cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they don't want to co-operate. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Ramdas Ji, please sit down. Let us behave with some responsibility.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, under the backward districts initiative, which is one of the three components of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, one hundred backward districts as well as 32 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism are being covered. The development and reform facility renamed as the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana was proposed in the Budget for the year 2002-03 with an outlay of Rs. 2,500 crore with the main objective of putting in place the programmes and policies with the joint effort of the Centre as well as States which would remove barriers to growth and accelerate the development process so as to improve the quality of life of the people.

The development reform facility, that is RSVY aims at focussed development programmes in backward areas which would help to reduce the imbalance and would speed up development. Under this scheme there are three components; backward districts initiative special plan for the undivided Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts, which is called as KBK districts of Orissa and the special plan for Bihar. While the special plan for Bihar and the special plan for undivided Kalahandi district in Orissa were approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 21.6.03, the backward districts initiative was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If it is a long statement, you can lay it on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to regulate the House. I appeal to all of you.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked from the hon. Minister as to how much total amount of assistance has been provided to the most backward districts selected under the scheme so far and what are the various heads under which these funds are to be spent? Hon. Minister has not given reply to my this question. I would like to ask again as to whether any guidelines have been issued in regard to the implementation to Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. If so, what is the role proposed to be played by the MP's in their constituency having the most backward district? I would request the hon. Minister to give a clear reply in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please tell the hon. Member whether any guidelines have been issued or not.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: The hon. Member is right. Guidelines have been issued by the Planning Commission. There are three very important Parameters, that is, the value of output per agricultural worker, agricultural wage rate and percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population of the districts. These are the guidelines which would provide assistance to the districts which have been termed as the backward districts.

As far as the matter regarding allocation of funds is concerned, Rs. 15 crore per year per district are being released over a period of three years which means each district will get Rs. 45 crore.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the criteria fixed while selecting the backward districts has been followed strictly or some districts have been included in the list under political pressure. I am surprised to see the list that even three districts of Rajasthan—Banswara, Dungurpur and Jhalawar which are extremely backward in comparison to other districts have not been included in the list though some developed districts have been included therein. Through you, I just want to know from the Government whether the prescribed criteria has been followed strictly. I would also like to know the specific amount likely to be spent within the specific duration for the development of those districts, alongwith the ratio fixed for Rajasthan in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have noticed everybody.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the criterion has been fixed and it is the Planning Commission which would monitor the whole thing from time to time. The Planning Commission would also get reports from the States on the basis of which the funds would be released from time to time.

Sir, I do not wish to agree with the hon. Member's observation that it is being done under some political pressure. I do not subscribe to this view.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Sir, for these backward districts, does the Government calculate district level human development index at regular intervals to judge the progress and impact of Government programmes and policies?

SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, as I have already stated, the Planning Commission reviews it from time to time. Every time they try to get reports from the States. At the State level, they have set up a committee which sends reports. This is being reviewed from time to time, on the basis of which, the money is being released.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he would like to assure the House that the arrangements to link all the villages with the roads to provide better health services to open educational institutions and to provide clean drinking water, would be made in these most backward districts with the help of Central Government.

*[English]*

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, that is one of the main criteria. In fact, the Planning Commission has given a focussed attention to provide drinking water in rural areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very important subject. I will try to give chance to every party. Now Shri Prabhunath Singh would ask the question. Please be brief and to the point. You are a very experienced Member.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the list given, only 8 militancy affected districts of Bihar have been included in it though Bihar is always considered as the most backward State. I would like to know the reasons for not including the backward districts of Bihar as per the survey conducted in this regard in the list. Do the Government propose to conduct a fresh survey to include the most backward districts of Bihar like Chhapra, Siwan and Gopalganj etc. in the list?

*[English]*

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Member that Bihar has been given a special package. Now under this, they would get about Rs. 1,000 crore per annum. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Have you obliged us? ...*(Interruptions)* In what way you have obliged us. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. I will give you a chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity. This is not the way. Please take your seats. Shri Raghunath Jha, I will give you an opportunity to speak.

Since I am standing, you must sit down. Please take your seat. Let us listen to the hon. Minister fully.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The package has been given by curtailing the money given to us. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I would like to most humbly submit that neither I am misleading the House, nor the hon. Member. I would like to draw the attention of the House to a Calling Attention Motion given by Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh with regard to the need for a financial package to Bihar for development of the State. ...(Interruptions) Let me read out. ...(Interruptions) Let me give you the correct reply. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is not right. He is misleading the House. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except the reply of the hon. Minister, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Prime Minister wants to reply.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the previous Government when drawing up this programme excluded backward districts of Bihar because they thought Bihar has a special package. This matter was subsequently raised in the House and the then hon. Prime Minister assured the House that more backward districts of Bihar as well as Orissa would be included. In the light of that, the Planning Commission has identified 13 districts of Bihar and two

districts of Orissa. Proposals are underway to include those districts. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please hold your patience. This is a very important subject.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Let him say that Orissa is poorer than Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you. I will go to the next Question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a direct question. I would like to know the basis of selection of backward districts and the reason for not including Bihar in the list. ...(Interruptions) When we raised here the motion of Calling Attention, the then Prime Minister had replied that Jharkhand is not getting the package which was due to it after the partition of Bihar. Our motion of Calling Attention was on the same subject. I would like to know whether the Government propose to enlist the backward districts of Eastern and Western Champaran which were left by the Jharkhand Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. All of you please take your seats. Hon. Member, you must learn to respect the Chair. You are a new Member.

The point is that this is a very important issue. I am allowing Members from every Party from almost every State. You do not have the patience to wait for my calling you to put supplementary. I am appealing to you repeatedly. By disturbing the proceedings you cannot get what you want. The very vital issues that you wish to raise, you can do it much more pointedly and with greater effect if you go according to the turns that I give you. Please wait. If you create trouble, I will go to the next Question. How do you benefit out of that? Why do you not co-operate with the Chair? The hon. Prime Minister realised the importance of the matter and he intervened. He has given an answer. There are ways of doing it. If you give a notice to me for an Half-an-Hour discussion on this issue, I am prepared to consider that. But you are not following the rules. By creating only disturbances, you are not going to get anything out of this important answer.

Shri Raghunath Jha, you are a very senior Member. You cannot disturb the proceedings of the House.

I called you for putting a supplementary. Then put your supplementary and get a reply. If you do not put a question, then what will happen?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I would not allow this to happen.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Sir, I have not got reply to me question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not raise your voice either. Mr. Minister, if you have an answer, please go ahead.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: I can very well understand the agitated mind of the hon. Member. I shall really try to share the information that I have got.

Under this programme, projects worth about Rs. 2531.35 crore have been identified for implementation during the Tenth Plan and an amount of Rs. 521.12 crore has been released up to April, 2004 towards the projects' cost and also for the preparation of the detailed project reports. I would like to share the information as to what are the projects for which money has been made available.

MR. SPEAKER: You may send all the details to the hon. Member.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: I will send those details to him. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We are satisfied with the hon'ble Prime Minister's reply that the uncovered districts would be included, then why hon'ble Minister is diverting it by giving such a reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can divert the Prime Minister's statement.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Prime Minister has clearly stated that the districts which have been left would be included.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am a new member but I have ample experience. Therefore, I may please be allowed to put forth my view points.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, patience also pays. You should know how to be patient. Please sit down. I have not called you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can force me to do anything. Please be assured.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, while the hon. Minister was replying, he mentioned my district's name, Kalahandi.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be precise. We have wasted 15 minutes out of 25 minutes.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: The hon. Minister categorically said that the Orissa Government has submitted the revised Action Plan for KBK districts. Has that Plan been approved by the Central Government or is it on the verge of approval? I would also like to know the amount that has been released from the Central Government to the State Government for these districts.

The Human Rights Commission had initiated an inquiry into starvation deaths and people eating mango kernel in the KBK districts. A KBK Cell has been formed in the Human Rights Commission and they have given a report that the health sector has been totally neglected in the KBK districts. What steps is the Government taking to mitigate this problem?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: With regard to other points which have been raised by the hon. Member, a separate Question may be put so that the concerned Ministry would be able to reply. That does not concern. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): But my district's name was mentioned.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt the hon. Minister when he is replying.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Please allow me to reply so that I can make some points clear.

As far as the Special Plan for Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts of Orissa is concerned, when the Special Plan for Bihar was drawn up, the Special Plan for undivided KBK districts of Orissa was approved by the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs in the meeting which was held on 21st June, 2003. The Backward Districts Initiative was approved again the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs meeting held in September, 2003.

As far as Orissa is concerned, I would like to share another information. The hon. Member wanted to know how much money has been released to the State Government. As far as this point is concerned, I would like to say that this particular thing covers the South Western Region. An amount of Rs. 200 crore has been allotted in the Special Plan for 2002-03 and, in the Plan which is already there, and an amount of Rs. 250 crore has been released to the State Government for the year 2003-04. This is the position. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow an Half-an-Hour discussion on this subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may give notice for this.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana is an important scheme. What is the methodology which is being implemented for this Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and which is the implementing agency in each district to implement this Scheme?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: As you are aware, the implementing agency is the State Government. But the Planning Commission monitors this programme from time to time.

As I have already said, it consists of three important components. We take into consideration the agricultural wage structure, the output which they get, the poverty ratio, particularly of the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe population and the rest of other things.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow Half-an-Hour discussion on this. Please give a notice.

*(English)*

### Children Infected by Fluorosis

\*42. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that thousands of children are suffering from fluorosis due to drinking of fluoride contaminated drinking water in some of the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether thousands of children residing in Seoni, Jabalpur, Narsingpur etc. districts of Madhya Pradesh are also similarly affected;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

### Statement

(a) to (e) Based on the UNICEF Report of 1999 on flourine content of the drinking water in the country, fluorosis is a problem in 19 States which are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. It is estimated that 6 million children below the age of 14 years are at risk. 14 districts of Madhya Pradesh including Seoni district are endemic for fluorosis due to fluoride content in drinking water.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has denied the reports that thousands of children are suffering from fluorosis in various districts such as Seoni, Jabalpur and Narsingpur. Minor prevalence of fluorosis was observed before the year 2001, but no such situation has been reported in last two years. It has further been stated that the sources found to be containing fluoride have been replaced by safe drinking water source.

Fluorosis is combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a state subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodya Yojana (PMGY) for tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Department of Drinking Water Supply is involved in collecting data on fluorosis endemicity in the States. Along with the Department of Drinking Water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ion-meters to different states for estimation of fluoride in drinking water. National Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to Public Health Engineers and Medical professionals from various States/Union Territories including Madhya Pradesh to generate awareness about fluorosis and check the spread of fluorosis in the country.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may please be allowed to put a question on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to put a question, you will be allowed to do so.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply that the hon. Minister has given to my question. When did he receive the report that he had demanded from the Government of Madhya Pradesh? Has he called for any report at present? He should also clearly tell as after to how many days interval survey is conducted by the Central Government.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as far as the State of Madhya Pradesh is concerned, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has written to us that there are no cases of fluorosis in the past two years. In the district of Narsingpur, there are no cases of fluorosis. In Jabalpur, seven villages have been affected. In Seoni, 631 villages have been affected. About Rs. 2,362 lakh have been spent for these districts.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any further supplementary question? Is it all right? Are you satisfied?

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is problem of drinking water in my area. No scheme has been implemented in the places where fluoride is mixed in drinking water. It is on account of this that the children in my parliamentary constituency are becoming handicapped and their teeth are decaying and deformity has also developed in them. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what schemes are there with the Government to solve this problem and what is going to be done by the Government for its implementation at the earliest. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister is evasive, he should please clarify it. It has hampered the development of children in our area.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Hon. Speaker, Sir, about six million children below the age of 14 years have been affected all over India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on? These are important issues concerning the people. Hon. Minister is replying and nobody has the patience to hear.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Prevention of fluorosis is the only solution to this problem. If children are not exposed to fluorosis within the first decade of their life, this can be prevented.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got reply of my question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should also be given opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, she has asked question about her parliamentary Constituency Seoni. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our lady Member has been elected for the first time so please give her opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, please do not instigate her.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please also give me opportunity to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what arrangements are going to be made at present by the Government to solve this problem of my constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brijesh Pathak, I have not called you. Please sit down. There must be some resemblance of responsible behaviour.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: My Speaker, Sir, presently several types of diseases like jaundice and liver related diseases have spread in NOIDA, Ghaziabad and Delhi due to contaminated drinking water. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many persons have fell sick due to drinking of contaminated water in Ghaziabad, NOIDA and Delhi. Is there any such list with the Government? If there is any such list, the House should be informed in this regard. Besides this, I would also like to know as to what arrangements are being made in the hospitals to tackle this problem?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you got the information with you?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have put your question. Please sit down.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: This is an endemic problem created by fluorosis. This has got nothing to do with the contaminated water. This has got to increase the fluoride content in the water to more than three part per million. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got any information about Ghaziabad?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: No. I will let her know.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give the information to the hon. Member later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to regulate the House. I am trying to give every side opportunity.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI (Pilibhit): I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware that fluorides are also used in toothpaste. All over the world, there have been findings that they are actually harmful to the health especially for young children. In fact, it is written on the toothpaste abroad saying: "Fluoride toothpaste is not to be used by children under the age of seven." Is there any move to do that in India?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Fluoride is a micro-nutrient required for the building up of the bones of the body of children and the elderly also. This is regulated fluoride. In India, the fluoride content in the toothpaste does not exceed the pharmaceutical limit. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those Members who cooperate with the Chair will get better chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, the fluoride content in the ground water in Andhra Pradesh, particularly in Rayalaseema and Telengana area, is very high. There is no special plan for eradicating fluorosis, to give safe drinking water to the people of Rayalaseema and Telengana area. So, will the Government announce any particular plan to mitigate the sufferings of the people and eradicate this problem? Through you, Sir, I want to know the answer from the Government.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Fluorosis is highly prevalent in Andhra Pradesh. This being a State subject, the State Government has to initiate the plan. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): All the subjects are State subjects. The Government of India has to help the people of Andhra Pradesh. Agriculture is a State subject. Rural Development is a State subject. ...*(Interruptions)* That way, everything is a State subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: The Government of India, through the Rural Development Ministry, have a scheme called the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You get in touch with the State Government and try to help them.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Next, Shri Brajesh Pathak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not listening to me.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my constituency is district Unnao where till date we are unable to provide pure drinking water to people. Being situated on the banks of river Gages. The people living there are supplied water having fluoride contents. The contents of fluoride is so high in water that babies are born there with physical deformities. The women folks are considering it divine calamity.

MR. SPEAKER: You put forth your question.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Sir, I have same question which was just asked by my hon'ble colleague that by when the government are likely to provide pure drinking water to the people of my constituency?

[*English*]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the only solution for fluorosis is by providing clean drinking water. Through the Ministry of Rural Development as also through the Planning Commission the States are helped out by the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana Scheme.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Firstly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to set up a Special Task Force in order to monitoring this problem. Secondly, I would also like to know whether the Government has decided to start the awareness campaign programme in the rural India by holding symposium and seminar in order to prevent this disease.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Regarding part (a) of his question, I would like to say that we have no proposal to set up a Task Force. Regarding part (b), I would like to say that we can go ahead with creating awareness in the rural areas. ...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to submit that you should give opportunity to speak to the hon. Members particularly Lady Members who have been elected for the first time.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got any doubt about it?

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: No.

MR. SPEAKER: The first three Members I called today are lady Members. Why are you making allegation? I respect you. I have given you opportunity. You are an hon. Member of this House. Please put your supplementary.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: I would like to extend my thanks to you for this.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to mention thanks.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit the hon. Minister that Chhattisgarh is also affected by the problem of drinking water. I would like to know whether the Government have prepared any scheme for Chhattisgarh. I would also like to know as to how much funds is being provided to the State Government to tackle this problem and which of the districts in Chhattisgarh have been surveyed for the said work.

[*English*]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, we do not have any such plan from the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Rural Development has to take care of this problem.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. You put your question to the Rural Development Minister.

[*Translation*]

#### **Shortage of Specialist Doctors**

\*43. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of specialist doctors in various disciplines are being felt in various Central Government hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take some steps to meet this shortage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

*[English]*

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

**Statement**

(a) to (d) The requirement of specialists in Central Government hospitals in the country is met out of Teaching and Non-Teaching Specialists sub-cadres of the Central Health Service. These two sub-cadres have a sanctioned strength of 1484 specialists, out of which 1144 posts are filled up at present and 315 posts are vacant.

With a view to down-sizing the Government, the Department of Personnel & Training *vide* their O.M. No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated 16.5.2001, instructed all the Departments to limit the direct recruitment to 1/3rd of the vacancies arising in the year subject to a further ceiling that does not exceed 1% of the total sanctioned strength of the Department. For Group 'A' posts, the annual recruitment plan in this regard to be cleared by a Screening Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary.

As it would be difficult to apply the above guidelines for vacancies in the health sector, particularly those of specialists, the Department of Health has taken up the matter at the highest level seeking exemption of technical/scientific posts (which includes all CHS posts) from the purview of DOPT instructions dated 16.5.2001.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government are aware that every year 22,500 medical graduates aspire to get master degree in medicines but not even one fourth among them get the post graduate degree. Whether the Government propose to take action in this regard?

*[English]*

MR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, this question pertains to shortage of specialist doctors. The hon.

Member has asked about people going to higher studies. It is an ongoing process and a lot of colleges are involved in giving post graduate education in medical sciences.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government are aware that the number of the seats for the post graduate course in medicine is far short *vis-a-vis* the number of graduates in medicine (MBBS) who seek to get admission for post graduation in medicine? I would like to know whether the Government are contemplating to increase the number of seats in medical colleges from the next session?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not strictly arise out of this Question. Can you answer this question?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, I would like the hon. Member to give a separate notice.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. You give a separate notice.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the hon. Minister that there is shortage of the doctors especially those of specialists in CGHS hospitals/dispensaries, I would like to know whether the Government propose to appoint specialist doctors in CGHS hospitals after conducting a nationwide survey in this regard?

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, we have this problem of shortage of specialist doctors in the Ministry of Health. The Department of Personnel and Training has issued an order on 16.5.2001 for downsizing of staff in all the Ministries of the Government of India and for stopping of direct recruitment to the existing vacancies. They have asked us to downsize two per cent of staff every year for five years which comes to a total of 10 per cent or to downsize one per cent of the total number of people employed, whichever is lower. Due to this order we have this problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. He is giving his reply.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: We have vacancies existing in CHS also. Among the Teaching specialists, we have 169 vacancies and non-teaching specialists, we have 171 vacancies.

As far as public health specialists are concerned, we have 21. The number of general duty medical officers is 414 and there are a total of 782 vacancies of doctors in the Central Health Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Is that adequate? He is saying that it is not adequate. What do you wish to say?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: We are taking up this issue at the highest level and it is in the process.

MR. SPEAKER: Wish you all the best!

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: What is the highest level?

MR. SPEAKER: He has expressed his helplessness.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency Periyakulam, there are hospitals in Kodaikkanal and in other areas where doctors are not available. Even during election when a person was seriously beaten up by some other persons, there were no doctors to look after him. There are not adequate doctors in the Kodaikkanal area, which is a hill station. If they want to come down to the plain area for treatment, it takes about two-and-a-half hours to come to the road. Will the Government provide doctors in Kodaikkanal area?

MR. SPEAKER: He will look into it.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: It is a State subject.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the hon. Minister that total number of the sanctioned posts in the Central Government hospital is 1484 out of which 1144 posts are filled and 340 posts are lying vacant. Recently several medical colleges of Madhya Pradesh were derecognised on the ground that the posts of the professors and specialists in these Medical Colleges had not been filled for the last ten years. For derecognising the medical colleges. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is not related to the original question.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to that I was saying that the pilot projects of various medical colleges are under the consideration of the Union Government. The pilot project regarding the installation of coloured X-ray and CT Scan machines in the Jabalpur medical college have been pending consideration of the Ministry of Health. I would like to know as to whether the Union Government would sanction all the pilot projects of the Madhya Pradesh that are pending for consideration to ensure proper medical facilities in the state?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: These are specific questions. They do not relate to the main Question. However, if the hon. Minister is agreeable, he may answer this question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: The hon. Member's question does not relate to the main question. But once again I would like to inform you that we have a problem in the medical sector due to the downsizing of the staff by an order of the DOPT. We are taking up the issue at the highest level.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, with regard to specialist doctors, will the hon. Minister be able to state what is the actual requirement of the specialists doctors at the national level, what is the shortage that we are now facing and what are the measures that the Government is going to take in this regard?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: I have already answered this question. There are three types of specialists. One is teaching specialists. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Give the number.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, the sanctioned number is 699, existing number is 530 and vacant number is 169. As far as non-teaching specialists are concerned, the sanctioned number is 786, filled up number is 615 and vacant number is 171. With regard to public health specialists, the sanctioned number is 78, filled up number is 57 and vacant number is 21.

MR. SPEAKER: You are hoping for some money to fill up the vacant number!

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Not money.

*[Translation]*

**Sending Indian Troops to Iraq**

\*44. † SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindi daily "Hindustan" dated June 12, 2004 regarding sending of Indian Troops to Iraq;

(b) whether the Minister of External Affairs made a statement recently in Washington to the effect that a fresh look on the said matter may be taken;

(c) if so, the details of the perception of the Government on the changed scenario in Iraq at the moment;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the sharp criticism in the wake of the Minister's alleged statement; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government to the matter?

*[English]*

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

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Minister of External Affairs has clarified that the question of sending Indian troops to Iraq did not arise.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our able Minister of External Affairs hon. Natwar Singhji had visited America recently where he met with the US foreign Secretary Mr. Powell. During his meeting with him hon. Minister stated that India would reconsider is decision of sending its troops to Iraq as the situation in Iraq has changed. Later on he addressed a Press Conference in Washington and during that also he

reiterated that the decision would be reconsidered and lakhs of Indians heard him saying so on TV. Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the newspapers have published this news in headlines. Now the hon. Minister is denying that he did not make such a statement. Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is making a wrong statement. This is the contempt of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know as to why is hon. Minister making a false statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The entire world has heard it.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He is putting that question. Give an opportunity to the hon. Minister to answer.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now the hon. Minister is denying to have said so.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country have heard him saying that India would reconsider the decision of sending its troops to Iraq and during the reply he has denied to have made such a statement. This is the contempt of the House. He is making a wrong statement. The issue should be made clear.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have put a question now. Very well.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let it be replied by Natwar Singhji, how you are giving a reply in this regard?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel a Minister to answer. It is entirely for him to answer.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Let it be replied by hon. Natwar Singhji. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: How can you compel him?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: The entire country has heard his statement. He is misleading the House. ...(*Interruptions*) He is making a false statement. Why did he change his statement that he had given there. He is making a false statement. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, before you speak, may I be permitted to say one word? ...(*Interruptions*) Hon. Shri Shiv Raj Singh Chouhan, before you say something, let me have only one word about this incident. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Hon. Natwar Singhji should reply to it as to what dialogue did take place between him and Mr. Powell and what statement did he made in the press conference and also why did he change the statement on his arrival in the country?

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, yesterday in the House, Hon. Foreign Minister of External Affairs has very clearly explained this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel a particular Minister. You know that very well. It is for the Minister concerned. It is not a political affair.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday afternoon, for three and a half hour, the Iraq issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yesterday, we were not present in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Why should he refer to yesterday?

MR. SPEAKER: You also dictate as to how one should reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not create this situation.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: After this, I will come to you Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: I had got the resolution passed in the Parliament.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us follow some procedure. At least show a little respect to the Chair. You have put me here. I am trying to give everybody an opportunity. With all respect, the Minister has started to reply. How can anybody dictate? Can I dictate? I have asked them to sit down.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They are dictating. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody should interrupt the hon. Minister. I will call Shri Chandrakant Khaire. His name is next.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Let my question be replied first.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply.

[*English*]

How can he reply when I am on my legs?

[*Translation*]

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Is it wrong if I refer to yesterday's discussion. I do not think there is anything wrong in it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Please give today's reply.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Please listen, I am replying to you. I am telling Bhai Sahab, my hair have not just turned grey in sun. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: I have not questioned greying of your hair.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*[English]*

What is all this going on?

*[Translation]*

What is all this going on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Leave what happened yesterday and talk about today only.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question has been asked today and I am replying to it today only. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: How can he answer that question? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Shri Ananth Kumar, you being an ex-Cabinet Minister, why do you not listen?

MR. SPEAKER: Please answer the question.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will reply to the question.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, I am trying to reply. On the 8th of June, a Resolution was passed by the United Nations Security Council. I was there on the 10th and 11th. The Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Security Council. It was supported by America, China, Russia, France, Britain, Germany, Pakistan, Spain, Angola,

Chile, Algeria, Romania, Philippines, Brazil and Benin. So, they asked me, "What do you think about it?" I said: "In the context of the new Resolution, it is a very serious matter. We are a coalition Government. We will have to ask our Government and naturally when the Resolution is read by us—we have not read it—the question of our sending troops to Iraq does not arise. They will not be sent." ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, please put your second supplementary. Otherwise, I will go to the next Question.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, he is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, please sit down. You all know. You are all aware and I do not have to advise you. If the hon. Minister has misled the House, you know what are the remedies.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, he cannot mislead the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If he has misled the House, there are enough provisions in the rules to take action.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We know that.

MR. SPEAKER: You know that. I am not teaching you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, please put your second supplementary.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when it has been decided in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that hon. Minister is misleading the House. During a Press Conference he categorically stated the electronic-media, which was heard by lakhs of viewers, that India will reconsider sending of troops to Iraq. Now he is changing his statement, he is

misleading. It is contempt of entire House and the Parliament as well. Whole nation heard him making such statement over electronic media. Now he is changing his statement and misleading the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House had passed a resolution unanimously that we will not send our troops to Iraq. Then what prompted hon. Minister to say that we will reconsider that decision. Now, why is he changing his statement?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you reconsidering the situation? That is the question.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, the very next day when reports came from India that what I had said had been misrepresented, I called a Press Conference and clarified the whole thing completely and we are second to none. It was their Government which. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Chandrakant Khaire. His name is there in the list.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do this, I will go to the next Question.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing your own Member to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Chandrakant Khaire's question will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since it was unanimously decided in this House that India

will not send troops to Iraq, then why hon. Minister made such a statement when it was decided unanimously by the NDA Government, then what prompted hon. Minister to say that India will reconsider it? ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of External Affairs has said so. Whole nation saw it on T.V. including myself. Yesterday he levelled charges against NDA Government. Sonia ji had also expressed her views about it. But, I would like to make it clear that hon. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of NDA Government and Shiv Sena Supremo Shri Bala Saheb Thakre has said that our troops should not be sent to Iraq. My submission is that not only Sonia Gandhi but these leaders had also said that our troops should not be sent to Iraq. Despite all this, why hon. Minister made a contrary statement? What Chouhan ji has said is right. Foreign troops deployed in Iraq as well as our civilians are in trouble there. Hon. Minister had stated that our civilian would be brought back from Iraq. I would like to know—what is the position in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Who misrepresented? His statement on review has been misrepresented. He should, therefore, clarify as to who misrepresented. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I think you do not need anybody in the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to be done? You are all very senior Members. I have asked Shri Chandrakant Khaire to put a question. I have not called you.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Shri Chandrakant Khaire's statement and the Minister's reply.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you do not want to listen to this.

...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not yet been replied. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You take your seat. I am here to control the House. Why are you getting up?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, you are not interested in listening.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do this.

Now, the hon. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in matters relating to the country's foreign policy, it will be the effort of our Government to work on the basis of broadest possible national consensus. We do not wish to divide this House or the country on sensitive issues. As far as the policy on Iraq is concerned, there is a Resolution of Parliament to which all of us are parties, and if there is any time to look at other issues, we will undertake maximum possible consultations with various shades of opinion represented in Parliament. So, as of now, there is no change in that policy. There is no proposal to send Indian military to Iraq. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I will insist on your taking seats. Please take your seats. After the hon. Prime Minister's intervention, which has categorically stated the view of the Government, I do not think any further question arises. I have suggested if, according to you, the Minister has misled the House, there are methods too. As you know very well, we can take action.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.59 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Ananth Kumar and some other hon. Members left the House.)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not sit down please?

[English]

#### Setting up of All India Institutes of Medical Sciences

\*45. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:  
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up All India Institutes of Medical Sciences in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala for establishing an All India Medical Institute in the State of Kerala;

(d) if so, the details alongwith the decision taken by the Government on the proposal;

(e) whether the Government are changing the priority of construction of these Institutes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (f) Last year, a Scheme called Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana was formulated wherein it was decided in principle *interalia* to set up one AIIMS-type institution each in the states of Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh). These states were chosen as they were under served in terms of medical infrastructure, high incidence of mortality and morbidity, inadequate facilities for superspeciality services etc. It has been envisaged that each institution will consist of 500 bedded hospital besides providing medical treatment in 35 speciality/superspeciality disciplines. It would also provide under-graduate medical education with 100 intake capacity and postgraduate/doctoral courses in various specialities/superspecialities.

A memorandum was received from the Prime Minister's Office from the Chief Minister, Kerala, in which one of the issues was establishment of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Kerala. The Scheme as formulated last year, had provision for setting up AIIMS only at the above specified places which did not include Kerala. The Scheme provides setting up of six AIIMS like institutions simultaneously and there is no *inter se* priority among them.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please put your supplementary quickly.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over now.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Peace Talks with Pakistan

\*46. SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Secretary level talks were held between India and Pakistan recently;

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

(c) whether the talks have been held recently between the two countries on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Indian Government has agreed to set up a hot line with Pakistan for regular communications;

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

(g) whether External Affairs Ministers of both the countries met recently;

(h) if so, the details of the discussion held; and

(i) the extent to which these are likely to improve the bilateral relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan were held in New Delhi on June 27-28, 2004. They exchanged views on carrying the process forward in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence. In the Joint Statement issued at the end of the talks on June 28, the Foreign Secretaries, *inter alia*, approved the measures recommended by the Expert level meeting on Nuclear CBMs in New Delhi on 19-20 June, 2004. The two sides proposed a comprehensive framework for conventional CBMs aimed at initiating and enhancing communication, coordination and interaction. It was also agreed to immediately restore the strength of the respective High Commissions to the original level of 110; to immediately release all apprehended fishermen in each other's custody and put in place a mechanism for the return of unintentionally transgressing fishermen and their boats from high seas without apprehending them; and to initiate steps for early release of civilian prisoners. It was also agreed in principle to re-establish the Consulates General in Karachi and Mumbai.

(c) and (d) An Expert level meeting on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures was held in New Delhi on June 19-20, 2004. The Joint Statement issued after the meeting on June 20 was significant in identifying areas of convergence; working and CBMs on communication links to be implemented; working towards concluding an Agreement with technical parameters on pre-notification of flight testing of missiles, a draft of which was handed over by the Indian side; and a joint call for working level discussions along with other nuclear powers.

(e) and (f) During the Expert Level Meeting on Nuclear CBMs the two sides agreed that the existing hotline between the DGMOs would be upgraded, dedicated and secured, and that a dedicated and secure hotline would be established between the two Foreign Secretaries through their respective Foreign Offices to prevent misunderstandings and reduce risk relevant to Nuclear issues.

(g) and (h) External Affairs Minister Mr. K. Natwar Singh and Pakistan Foreign Minister Mr. Khurshid M. Kasuri met in Quingdao on June 21, 2004 on the margins of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue meeting. The two

Ministers reviewed the progress in all aspects of bilateral relations, and implementation of the framework for the dialogue process worked out in February, 2004 by the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries. They assessed positively the progress in the discussions held, including at the meetings between BSF and Pakistan Rangers, the Narcotics Control authorities of the two countries, and the Expert level dialogue on Nuclear CMBs. The two Ministers agreed to remain in regular touch and provide continued political guidance to the ongoing process.

(i) These interactions between India and Pakistan have been significant in exchanging views on carrying forward the ongoing process of confidence building, cooperation and dialogue in an atmosphere free from the menace of terrorism and violence.

*[Translation]*

#### **Permanent Membership of Security Council**

\*47. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Kingdom has proposed India's name for permanent membership in the Security Council;

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

(c) the necessary initiative being taken by the Government for getting permanent membership in the Security Council?

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

(b) Government has welcomed the support expressed by the United Kingdom.

(c) The issue of the reform and the restructuring of the UN Security Council has been under discussion at the United Nations for several years. At the UN, an Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) was set up in 1993, where discussions have taken place on all aspects of the reform and restructuring of the UN Security Council. India formally presented its candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the first time 1994 in the UN, and has pursued this at each session of the UN General Assembly, in the OEWG, as well as in high-level bilateral interactions. There is growing momentum in support of India's candidature for permanent membership.

*[English]*

#### **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

\*48. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has taken a decision to withdraw certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission undertakes a review of the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes from time to time and subjects them to Zero-based Budgeting (ZBB), retaining only those schemes that are demonstrably essential.

(b) The exercise helps in rationalizing the schemes by making them more focused and it also streamlines the delivery system to ensure that benefits reach the target group.

(c) The Common Minimum Programme that has been adopted by the Government refers to transfer of all Centrally sponsored Schemes except in national priority areas like family planning to States.

#### **Life saving Medicines in CGHS**

\*49. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether good quality medicines particularly the Life Saving Drugs are not available in the CGHS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to revamp the CGHS;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (f) Good quality medicines including life saving drugs are made available to CGHS beneficiaries as and when required. For this purpose, a number of medicines are procured from the manufacturers through Government agencies and are kept at the dispensary. In case, any drug prescribed by the Government doctor is not available in the dispensary, it is issued to the beneficiary after procuring the same from the Authorised Local Chemist on the basis of the individual prescription of the beneficiary. In the case of emergency, an authority slip is issued to the beneficiary for collecting the medicine directly from the Authorised Local Chemist.

In view of the above, the question of revamping the CGHS does not arise.

#### Dual Citizenship to NRIs

\*50. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:  
SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY:

Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed dual citizenship to the NRIs;

(b) if so, whether this privilege has been conferred only on NRIs of some select countries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to NRIs by this measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. However, the Government of India has allowed overseas citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin who are citizen of one of the sixteen specified countries. NRIs are already Indian citizens and therefore, are not covered under the scheme.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

#### Eradication of Cancer

\*51. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware the cases of cancer are rapidly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cancer cases detected during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government provided necessary assistance and medicines for cancer patients;

(d) whether the medicines for cancer in the country are costlier;

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to control/minimise the prices of medicines;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to develop and modernize the Cancer Research Centres in the country;

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

(h) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (h) As per information collected by the Population Based Cancer Registries functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research, it has been estimated that about 7-9 lakh new cancer cases are detected every year and at any at any given point of time there are 2—2.5 million cancer patients in the country. This data does not indicate any significant increase in the incidence rate of cancer of all sites combined together. Data regarding number of Cancer cases detected State-wise is not centrally maintained.

Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide treatment facilities to the Cancer Patients. However, the Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical Colleges/ Hospitals for providing treatment facilities and recurring grants to recognized Regional Cancer Centres in the States for procurement of equipments and for research. The Central Government is also contributing to the State National Illness Assistance Fund for providing treatment to needy and poor patients under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi. Though the prices of Anti-cancer drugs are not controlled by the Government under the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order, 1995, the Anti-Cancer Drugs which are mostly imported have been put in the

list of life saving drugs and are exempted from Customs Duty.

This Ministry has recognized 20 Regional Cancer Centres (RCC) in different States/UTs to render comprehensive treatment and undertake research activities in the field of cancer. A list of the RCCs is enclosed as Statement. These RCCs are at present given recurring financial assistance for procurement of equipment and for conducting research. It is proposed to recognize new RCCs in the States where they are not recognized at present and more RCCs in populous States and to provide

financial assistance to RCCs for infrastructure development during the 10th Plan.

As cancer can be cured if detected at early stage, emphasis is being laid on early detection and treatment through the District Cancer Control Programme (DCCP) of the National Cancer Control Programme. Further, since Cancer is related to life style like consumption of Tobacco products etc., awareness among the masses is being created on various aspects of cancer through electronic and print media.

### **Statement**

#### *List of RCCs*

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Kamla Nehru Memorial Hospital Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh	Regional Cancer Centre Thiruvananthapuram
Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, West Bengal	Gujarat Cancer Research Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore, Karnataka	MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
Regional Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	Pondicherry Regional Cancer Society, JIPMER, Pondicherry
Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer, Centre for Cancer Research & Treatment, Cuttack, Orissa	Dr. B.B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Assam
Regional Cancer Control Society Shimla, Himachal Pradesh	Tata Memorial Hospital Mumbai, Maharashtra
Cancer Hospital & Research Centre Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh	Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, Bihar
Indian Rotary Cancer Institute (A.I.I.M.S.), New Delhi	Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer Trust & Research Institute (RCC) Bikaner, Rajasthan
R.S.T. Hospital & Research Centre, Nagpur, Maharashtra	Regional Cancer Centre, Pt. B.D. Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak, Haryana
Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Civil Hospital, Aizawal, Mizoram

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[*Translation*]

**Indian Youths in Pakistani Jails**

\*52. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Indian youths are still languishing in Pakistani jails;

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

(c) whether the Government has recently received requests from various quarters to ensure their early release;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction; and

(e) the time by which these youths are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) According to available information, there are a large number of Indian civilian prisoners in Pakistan, including some youth who reportedly entered Pakistan illegally.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Government of India have been consistently taking up the matter of the early release and repatriation of Indian civilian prisoners with Pakistan through diplomatic channels. The issue was once again taken up during the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan on June 27-28, 2004 in New Delhi and included in the Joint Statement.

[*English*]

**Failure of Fixed Line Service**

\*53. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether fixed line service providers have failed to achieve the TRAI benchmark for quality of service;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such service providers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issues Quality of Service (QoS) Regulation for various services including Wireline (Fixed Line) services. Several parameters are laid down for QoS. It has been reported by TRAI that no operator is able to achieve all the benchmarks prescribed by TRAI for QoS parameters.

As per report for the quarter ending March 2004, the key parameters for which the benchmarks were not achieved by most of the Service Providers include the following:—

- (i) Fault Incidences per 100 subscribers
- (ii) Grade of Service
- (iii) Call Completion rate in local network
- (iv) Metering and Billing Credibility; and
- (v) Shifts.

As per report for the quarter ending December 2003, the benchmark for Overall Service Satisfaction (Subjective QoS Assessment) in Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh (East), Uttar Pradesh (West), Orissa, North East, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Assam Service areas was not met.

Reasons for failure to achieve the benchmark include poor quality of external plant wireline network of incumbent operators comprising of different types of underground cables laid over a period of time coupled with overhead alignments, subscriber station and non-availability of reliable power supply at telecommunication installations. Insurgency operations also affected maintenance of telecommunication networks in certain parts of the country resulting in cascading effect on QoS of various Service providers.

TRAI monitors quality of services provided by the operators at the end of each quarter. An agency is also nominated by TRAI to verify the values of Quality of Service parameters by visiting the networks of Service Providers. The results of the verifications for QoS parameters are widely published and put on TRAI's

website. TRAI attempts to ensure compliance through a process of interaction with service providers as well as by generating greater awareness among consumers. The competition forces service providers to improve quality of service in the Indian Telecom sector as a self-regulation. TRAI has not so far recommended any action against the operators for not complying with the QoS parameters.

**Common Nuclear Doctrine among India,  
China and Pakistan**

\*54. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a Common Nuclear Doctrine between India, China and Pakistan to bring peace and stability in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussion was held with these countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which this initiative is likely to strengthen the cooperation among these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) No discussions have been held or proposals made so far with the Governments of China and/or Pakistan specifically addressing the idea of a common nuclear doctrine. Pakistani official spokesman described the idea as contained in EAM's media statement of 1 June 2004 "innovative" and requiring "further and deeper examination". China, in response to a query, reiterated its position on "complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons".

*[Translation]*

**Space Research**

\*55. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:  
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed agreement with other countries in the field of space research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far by India in the field of space research?

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

(b) Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with several countries and space agencies namely Australia, Brazil, Bruni Darussalam, Canada, China, EUMETSAT, European Space Agency, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Mauritius, Mongolia, Norway, Peru, Russia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, U.K., Ukraine and U.S.A. for cooperation in different areas of space research.

(c) The major accomplishment of Space Research in India is the self-reliant development of world class satellites and satellite launch vehicles and utilising the space systems in several areas relevant to national development in a cost effective manner. India has established two indigenously built operational satellite systems namely the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRS) and the Indian National Satellite System (INSAT) contributing to national development in various fronts. India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is well proven through seven successive successful flights and it provides self-reliant launch capability to orbit remote sensing satellites of 1.5 ton class in polar sun synchronous orbits. The Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) has been successfully flight tested twice, making India the sixth nation in the world to demonstrate capabilities for geostationary satellite launch. The multipurpose INSAT Satellite System which is one of the largest domestic satellite systems in the world is the mainstay for the Television broadcasting services through connectivity to more than 1100 Television Transmitters, networking of radio stations, provision of cyclone warnings, gathering meteorological data, assisting weather forecasting and providing search and rescue support. These satellites are also extensively used for carrying out rural development programmes such as tele-medicine and tele-education. The IRS satellites are among the best

in the world for generating information useful for management of natural resources including location of zones of availability of ground water and monitoring of agricultural crops. The data from IRS satellites are used worldwide on a commercial basis. Front ranking scientific investigations are being carried out in the fields of astronomy, atmospheric sciences and long term climatic research using satellites, balloons, sounding rockets and ground instruments. India is embarking on an ambitious programme called Chandrayaan-I for placing a satellite around the moon in order to conduct a large scale survey of the lunar surface. In a nutshell, it has been recognised world-wide that Indian Space Programme's contributions to several areas of national development vis-a-vis its modest budget allocations are significant.

[English]

#### Study on Cardio-Vascular Diseases

\*56. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that a recently released study by the Earth Institute of Columbia University, conducted with international collaborators in India, South Africa, Brazil and Russia, warns of rising incidence of death and disability due to cardio-vascular diseases as reported in 'The Hindu' dated June 13, 2004;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up any study group to suggest measures to prevent and control these diseases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) Cardiovascular diseases are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the world today and will become the leading cause of death and disability worldwide by 2020. According to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, a recently released study by the Earth Institute of Columbia University, conducted with international collaborators in India, South Africa, Brazil and Russia warns that rising rates of death and disability due to

cardiovascular diseases will seriously affect productivity and impose economic burden on these countries. India will be the worst hit due to early deaths and disability with productive life-year losses due to deaths in the 35—64 year age group rising from 9.2 million in 2000 to 17.9 million in 2030. This increase is suggested to be linked to change in life-style such as decreased physical activity, change in food habits, increase in fat and sugar consumption, low intake of fiber and micro nutrients (folic acid, antioxidants) etc. The Government is spreading health messages through electronic media to increase public health awareness about heart diseases and healthy living practices.

Government constituted a Working Group under the chairmanship of Director-General of Health Services for devising strategies and measures for prevention and control of various non-communicable diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, stroke etc. to be implemented during the 10th Plan. However, the programme for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, stroke etc. could not be taken up within the Plan allocation of this Department.

#### Conference on HIV/AIDS

\*57. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) the number of AIDS affected patients in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether in a conference of National Convention of elected representative on HIV/AIDS, held in New Delhi in July, 2003 organised by Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS, access to treatment for HIV positive people was assured; and

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken action to provide free of cost Anti retrovirals (ARVs), or highly active retroviral treatment (HARVT) to the HIV infected people through country's healthcare system?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Details of the reported number of AIDS cases during the last three years, uptill June 2004, are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

A National Convention of the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS was held on 26th-27th July, 2003, in New Delhi with the objective to involve elected representatives in the HIV/AIDS programme. The National Convention was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and addressed by Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition. Dy. Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Representatives from other Political parties. Executive Director UNAIDS also addressed the delegates. The Convention was concluded with a declaration of Commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS, which was endorsed by all major political parties. A copy of the Declaration of the Commitment is enclosed as Statement-II. The announcement about introduction of Antiretroviral treatment was made by the Government on the eve of World AIDS Day, 1st December 2004. As per assurance given, Anti retroviral treatment was rolled out in April 2004 at eight designated Government Hospitals, one each in six high prevalence states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland, and two in Delhi, in the following three priority groups of HIV/AIDS patients with effect from 1st April, 2004:-

- (1) Pregnant women registered under Prevention of Parents to Child Transmission Programme;
- (2) Children below 15 years of age; and
- (3) AIDS cases seeking treatment from government hospitals.

**Statement**

*Reported Number of AIDS cases during the last three years and uptill June, 2004  
(As reported by State AIDS Control Societies)*

S.No.	State	Reported in 2001	Reported in 2002	Reported in 2003	Reported in 2004 upto June
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	5	6	5	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	732	1085	4123	1195
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	47	16	50	13
5.	Bihar	63	28	9	0
6.	Chandigarh	189	223	161	67

Government of India has launched free ARV roll out in the six high prevalence states and NCT of Delhi from 8 medical institutions viz.

1. Sir J.J. Hospital, Mumbai,
2. Institute of Thoracic Medicine, Tambaram,
3. CMC, Vellore
4. Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad,
5. Bangalore Medical College, Karnataka,
6. RIMS, Kohima, Imphal,
7. LNJP Hospital, Delhi,
8. Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi.

With effect from 1st April, 2004, approximately 900 people living with HIV/AIDS are already receiving Anti retro viral treatment from these centres. The National AIDS Control Organisation has in-principle adopted the guidelines prepared by WHO in December, 2003, for resource constrained countries and the same are being followed.

Government will expand ART through additional ART treatment centres in the high prevalence states in the current year. ART will be expanded in a phased manner in all the medical colleges of high prevalence states and subsequently in district level hospitals.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
8.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0
9.	Delhi	158	106	114	30
10.	Goa	48	68	174	37
11.	Gujarat	713	1030	756	686
12.	Haryana	76	53	54	46
13.	Himachal Pradesh	51	29	28	0
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
15.	Karnataka	541	294	201	76
16.	Kerala	259	385	626	73
17.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	156	156	124	80
19.	Maharashtra	2043	2801	2159	892
20.	Manipur	307	582	1187	132
21.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
22.	Mizoram	5	14	18	0
23.	Nagaland	131	87	84	14
24.	Orissa	47	15	1	0
25.	Pondicherry	21	140	0	0
26.	Punjab	40	59	21	37
27.	Rajasthan	98	292	266	78
28.	Sikkim	2	2	2	0
29.	Tamil Nadu	7354	9101	7130	0
30.	Tripura	0	5	0	0
31.	Uttar Pradesh	229	359	339	121
32.	West Bengal	207	969	611	0
33.	Allahabad M.C.	189	78	0	0
34.	Mumbai MC	0	1017	2913	919
Total		13711	19000	21156	4496

**Statement II***Declaration of Political Leadership in  
Combating HIV/AIDS*

Adopted in New Delhi on 26 July 2003 at the India's first National Convention of the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS, on July 26-27

We, the activists of the political parties

RECOGNIZE that as political workers we have a crucial role, both individually and collectively as the link between the people and the government, as advocates for the rights and needs of people, as legislators to make laws to protect these rights, and as policy-makers to mobilize resources, involve civil society and create the enabling environment necessary to fight HIV/AIDS.

ARE CONVINCED that together we can overcome the HIV/AIDS epidemic, prevent its further spread, work for an enabling environment and alleviate the impact of the epidemic.

Have gathered at this National Convention of Elected Representatives being held today at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, to reaffirm our collective commitment to mobilize communities against the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS. We solemnly declare to:

ENSURE leadership by everyone in his/her area of responsibility in the fight against HIV/AIDS by intensifying advocacy, allocating and raising resources and guiding the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic both in prevention and care within our constituencies in particular and the country as a whole;

PROMOTE a positive environment by confronting stigma, silence and denial, eliminating discrimination and ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by people living with HIV/AIDS.

ASSURE gender equality and the empowerment of women as a fundamental element in the reduction of the vulnerability of women and children to HIV/AIDS.

TAKE STEPS to ensure that the response includes a focus on youth.

INTENSIFY AND STRENGTHEN multisectoral collaboration and mobilizing for full and active part of a wide range of non-governmental organizations, the business sector, media, community based organizations,

religious leaders, families, citizens as well as people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the planning, implementation and valuation of the response to HIV/AIDS.

**Change in Indian Foreign Policy**

\*58. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Common Minimum Programme (CMP) has provided the framework for an independent foreign policy; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed changes in the foreign policy?

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

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

Government is determined to maintain India's independent foreign policy, built on national consensus and based on supreme national interests. To this end, India is expanding its network of international relationships—preserving solidarity with traditional allies and strengthening new partnerships. India is also working with like-minded nations for an equitable, multi-polar world order, which takes into account the legitimate aspirations of developing countries.

In consonance with our desire to live in a neighbourhood of peace and prosperity, relations with India's neighbours are being accorded high priority as has been evidenced in the recent discussions with Pakistan, the visit of the Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to India, and the External Affairs Minister's visit to Nepal. India remains fully committed to the peace process with Pakistan. This commitment has been reaffirmed and infused with greater substance following the External Affairs Minister's recent meetings with his Pakistani counterpart in Quingdao and Jakarta, as also during the Foreign Secretary level talks held in June, wherein it was reiterated that the dialogue between the two countries should lead to peaceful resolution of all bilateral issues including Jammu & Kashmir to the satisfaction of both sides in an atmosphere free of terrorism and violence.

With Sri Lanka, Government has stressed that it supports a process of seeking a negotiated settlement acceptable to all sections of Sri Lankan society within the framework of a united Sri Lanka and consistent with democracy, pluralism and respect for individual rights. It believes that an enduring solution has to emerge purely through internal process. India maintains an abiding interest in the security of Sri Lanka and remains committed to its territorial integrity and sovereignty. India would welcome a resolution of the current impasse in the peace process and an early resumption of negotiations. Any interim arrangement should be an integral part of the final settlement and should be within the framework of the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.

The choice of Nepal as External Affairs Minister's first destination abroad reflects the importance India accords to our closest neighbour. India's policy to support Nepal in strengthening its security capabilities and in developing its infrastructure including in the field of water resources. India has also agreed to share her experience in holding elections with Nepal's Election Commission and the Election Commissioner of Nepal has been invited to visit India soon.

The Government attaches prime importance to its relations with Afghanistan with whom we share deep historical and cultural ties. The Afghan National Security Advisor, Zalmay Rasool's recent visit to India a reflection of the importance that the Government of Afghanistan attaches to its relations with India.

The positive developments in India's relations with China have encouraged both countries to engage in the process of further diversification and expansion of these relations. Both countries have reiterated their commitment to developing their long term constructive and cooperative partnership on the basis of mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns, equality and the principles of Panchsheel. In the External Affairs Minister's meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing in Qingdao in June 2004, the Chinese side conveyed its desire to work with India to develop deeper relations. The process of resolution of the boundary questions is also to be seen from the political perspective of India-China bilateral relations.

The Government is determined to work closely with the US Administration to consolidate partnership in all areas. Both countries have clear commonalities in shaping a democratic and pluralistic world order, which is free of terrorism. In the External Affairs Minister's two meetings

with US Secretary of State Colin Powell over the last one month in Washington and Jakarta, discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues have been held in an open, friendly and frank manner.

With Russia, the further diversification of India-Russia relations, particularly in defence, high technology, space and nuclear energy, while intensifying economic cooperation is being pursued. The recent meetings of the External Affairs Ministers and the National Security Advisor with the Russian leadership have reaffirmed the desire of both the sides to consolidate and further deepen the bilateral relations in political, strategic, economic and defence fields.

The Government welcomes the unanimous UN Security Council Resolution No. 1546 on Iraq. The role of the UN has been unanimously accepted and it is India's expectation that the UN will play a central role in the developing situation in Iraq. The Government have seen the endorsement of the Interim Government of Iraq as the first step towards the transparent transfer of full sovereignty to the people of Iraq and have stated that the priority should be to ensure an early return to conditions of security and normalcy for all the people of Iraq.

Our traditionally strong relations with the countries of Southeast and West Asia, based on cultural affinities, economic interaction and a vibrant Indian expatriate community are being further strengthened.

From June 13-16, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed visited Saudi Arabia. This was the first high level contact with Saudi Arabia after the formation of the new Government in India. An Agreement on issues pertaining to Indian Haj pilgrims was also concluded with the Saudi Haj Minister during this visit.

India's commitment to further strengthening relations with ASEAN countries has also been underscored during the External Affairs Minister's recent visit to Jakarta for the 11th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) meeting. During this visit, the External Affairs Minister also held bilateral consultations with his counterparts from New Zealand, Canada, Russia, Mongolia, Vietnam, the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, China and Lao PDR. An MOU on combating international terrorism with Indonesia was also signed by External Affairs Minister with his Indonesian counterpart during this visit.

The Government continues to fully support the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. The

relationship with Israel, which is being developed on the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation in no way dilutes India's principles support for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

It is also India's vision that SAARC should be an active body. The present Government is committed to carry forward the process of active engagement with all members of the SAARC in all areas of cooperation.

Government have also stressed that the Non Aligned Movement needs to change. The international agenda of the 21st-Century is different from that of the era in which the Movement was founded. It has also stressed the need for a reform of the UN Security Council in order to make it more democratic so that it reflects more realistically the present world order.

*[Translation]*

**Population Growth Rate**

\*59. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:  
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:

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

(a) the rate of population growth at present in the country;

(b) whether rate of population growth is increasing;

(c) if so, the details of steps being taken by the Government for stabilization of population; and

(d) the details of target fixed for stabilisation of population during Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) The annual growth rate of population between 1991 and 2001 as per Population Censuses results works out as 1.93%.

(b) The annual growth rates of population growth as per decennial Censuses 1981, 1991 and 2001 are as below:—

Between the Years	Annual Growth Rate (%)
1981	2.22
1991	2.14
2001	1.93

As evident from the data, the population growth rate has decreased over the last three decades.

(c) The Government has taken following steps and introduced several programmes in the past as below:—

- Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization, with Community involvement in administering family planning services.
- Meeting the unmet needs relating to health infrastructure, health personnel, contraception through Social Marketing/Franchising to increase availability of contraceptives and induction of private sector medical personnel to provide Family Planning services.
- An Empowered Action Group has been constituted for the focused attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services, including family planning, in demographically weaker eight states. Higher rate of compensation for meeting the cost of Family Planning procedures is being provided in EAG States in both public and accredited NGO/private/public health facilities.
- No Scalpel Vasectomy (NSV) method (without a cut or a stitch) of male sterilization has been introduced to promote male participation in family planning programme since 1997.
- For increasing the awareness among the people regarding the Population issues, including the small family norms, the Department is continuously utilizing the services of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting through print media as well as electronic media.
- The Government is committed to replicating all over the country the success that some Southern and other states have had in family planning. Under the Common Minimum Programme, the Government will sharply focus its ongoing family planning programme in the 150-odd high fertility districts.

(d) The details of the targets fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) are as below:—

- Reduction in the decadal rate of population growth between 2001 and 2011 to 16.2% as against 21.34% in the decade 1999-2001.

**Shortage of Medicines at AIIMS, Delhi**

\*60. SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is large scale shortage of medicines at AIIMS as reported in the "Dainik Hindustan" dated June 11, 2004;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no shortage of life saving essential medicines at AIIMS. Such medicines and surgical consumables are procured in sufficient quantity and are issued to all patient care areas. As per existing system of procurement, the Institute has annual rate contract for supply of these items. In accordance with the consumption pattern, supply orders are placed on the firms approved in the rate contract. AIIMS has not reported any problem in regard to payment to the suppliers.

*[English]*

**Corruption in Kendriya Bhandar**

330. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 2447 dated December 4, 2002 regarding corruption in Kendriya Bhandar and state:

(a) whether information has since been compiled and collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which it is likely to be collected?

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 PACHAURI): (a) to (c) The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Disproportionate Assets**

331. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 1180 dated 9 December, 2003 regarding disproportionate assets and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected and compiled;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be collected?

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 PACHAURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission does not extend to Group Housing Co-operative Societies. However, the State/UT Co-operative Societies Act/Regulations contain suitable provisions to hold enquiry against those erring Central Government officials, who are also office bearers of the Society, and are indulging in the bungling/embezzlement of funds in their capacity as office bearers. Disciplinary action can also be taken against them under Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 or other relevant Conduct Rules for acquiring assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Separate Fund for Rural Telecommunication Facility**

332. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a separate fund for rural telecommunication facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount collected under this fund so far?

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

(b) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003, giving statutory status to the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), was passed by both houses of Parliament. It shall be deemed to have come into force on 1st day of April 2002. The Fund is to be utilized exclusively for meeting the Universal Service Obligation.

(c) The total amount credited to the Universal Service Obligation Fund by appropriation from the Consolidated Fund of India to date is Rs. 566.66 Crores.

*[English]*

#### Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan

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

(a) the number of Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan;

(b) whether all the exchanges in the State have been provided with digital microwave system and satellites and also STD and ISD facilities;

(c) if not, the latest position thereof; and

(d) the time by which all the Telephone Exchanges are likely to be provided with these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 2340 Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan.

(b) All the 2340 exchanges are working on reliable media like OFC, Microwave, Satellite etc. Out of these 44 exchanges are provided with microwave systems and 19 exchanges are provided with satellite systems.

All 2340 Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan have been provided with STD and ISD facility.

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

#### Shortage of Hepatitis-B Vaccine

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

(a) whether there is acute shortage of Hepatitis-B vaccine in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage production of Hepatitis-B vaccine indigenously?

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

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### Eradication of Leprosy

335. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of leprosy patients in the country at present;

(b) whether the number of leprosy patients has increased in the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to prevent this disease; and

(d) the extent of success achieved due to the steps taken by the Government to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The estimated number of leprosy patients in the country as on 31st March, 2004 was 2.66 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The country is making steady and satisfactory progress towards the goal of achieving elimination of leprosy *i.e.* bring down the prevalence rate of leprosy to below 1 case per 10,000 population. As against the prevalence rate of 57.6 in 1981 the prevalence rate has come down to 2.4 per 10,000 population as on 1st April, 2004. 17 States/UTs have so far achieved the level of leprosy elimination *i.e.* < 1 case/10,000 population and another 7 States/UTs are having a prevalence rate between 1 and 2 and are, thus very close to achieving the above goal. Leprosy services have now been integrated with the general health care services and

leprosy diagnostic and curative services are available in all Government health institutes on all working days of the week.

*[English]*

#### **Reduction In STD Rates**

336. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the rates of STD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The STD tariff is a forborne item vide 28th amendment to TTO (Telecommunication Tariff Order) dated 5th November, 2003 and the service providers are free to fix Market driven STD tariff.

#### **Setting up of WLL Towers in Satara**

337. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in setting up of WLL towers in Satara District of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the list of identified sites for WLL towers in Satara District; and

(d) the time by which these towers are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No. Sir.

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

(c) The list of identified sites are enclosed as statement.

(d) The likely time of completion of towers are given in the enclosed statement.

#### **Statement**

#### *WLL Towers status in Satara SSA (Secondary Switching Area) as on 30.6.2004*

S.No.	Name of Site	Tower Status
1	2	3
1.	Patan	To be completed by December, 2004
2.	Mangaon	To be completed by December, 2004
3.	Malharpeth	Completed
4.	Shindewadi	To be completed by December, 2004
5.	Tarte	To be completed by December, 2004
6.	Dhebewadi	Completed
7.	Bhalegharwadi	To be completed by December, 2004
8.	Medha	Completed
9.	Tapola	Completed
10.	Karhar	To be completed by December, 2004
11.	Kudal	Completed
12.	Rengdi	Completed
13.	Vaduj	To be completed by December, 2004
14.	Bhosre	To be completed by December, 2004
15.	Aundh M/W	To be completed by December, 2004
16.	Nimsod	To be completed by December, 2004
17.	Kaledhone	To be completed by December, 2004
18.	Pusesavli	To be completed by December, 2004

1	2	3
19.	Gopuj	To be completed by December, 2004
20.	Lonand	Completed
21.	Khandala	Completed
22.	Shirwal	To be completed by December, 2004
23.	Jawale	Completed
24.	Loni	To be completed by December, 2004
25.	Naygaon	To be completed by December, 2004
26.	Padegaon	To be completed by December, 2004
27.	Mhaswad	Completed
28.	Karkhel	Completed
29.	Dhakani	Completed
30.	Varkute M.	To be completed by December, 2004
31.	V. Malawadi	To be completed by December, 2004
32.	Dahiwadi	To be completed by December, 2004
33.	Bidal	To be completed by December, 2004
34.	Bothe	To be completed by December, 2004
35.	Khandechiwadi/ Math	To be completed by December, 2004
36.	Bijwadi	To be completed by March, 2005
37.	Palashi	To be completed by December, 2004
38.	Renand	To be completed by December, 2004
39.	Wathar Stn.	To be completed by December, 2004

1	2	3
40.	Peth Kinahi	To be completed by March, 2005
41.	Waghohi	To be completed by December, 2004
42.	Nandwal	To be completed by December, 2004
43.	Palashi	To be completed by December, 2004
44.	Sakharwadi	Completed
45.	Tambave	Completed
46.	Taradgaon	To be completed by December, 2004
47.	Bibi	To be completed by March, 2005
48.	Adarki	To be completed by March, 2005
49.	Karad	Completed
50.	Phaltan	Completed
51.	Satara	Completed
52.	Wai	Completed
53.	Koregaon	Completed

#### **Financial Assistance for Mansarovar Yatra**

338. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance is provided for Mansarovar Yatra;

(b) if so, the amount provided for the said yatra; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Ministry of External Affairs provides Rs. 3,250/- per Yatri to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) to partially offset the expenditure incurred by the Yatris. (KMVN arranges board and lodging for Yatris on the Indian side.) Government provides free medical inspection

and assistance, security and escort cover upto Lipulekh Pass, insurance cover and communication links for the duration of the Yatra. The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi provides free stay to Yatris in Delhi for five nights during the onward and return journeys. A Liaison Officer is attached to each batch of Yatris at government expenditure.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Solar Flares**

339. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that one of the largest solar flares ever seen on the Sun is taking place;

(b) if so, whether a blast of material called a coronal mass ejection is hurtling directly towards our planet;

(c) if so, whether any study has been carried out in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. One of the largest/powerful solar flares occurred on October 28, 2003 from 15:33 IST to 17:00 IST.

(b) A large CME (Coronal Mass Ejection) event associated with the above flare came earthwards with an initial speed of about 1800 km/s and reached earth after about 17 hrs. There is no report of any danger to humans on earth as the CME only consists of energetic charged particles which are shielded by earth's magnetic field.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This flare was recorded at the Udaipur Solar Observatory as part of its daily flare monitoring programme. This CME produced a major geomagnetic storm on October 29, 2003 which is being studied. Scientists around the world are studying the causes of such solar eruptions and its effects on the earth's magnetosphere and ionosphere. Department of Space has funded special projects at Udaipur Solar Observatory for measurement of solar magnetic fields that can provide vital information on such eruptions.

*[Translation]*

#### **Primary Health Centres**

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to strengthen the Primary Health Service in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Primary Health Centres functioning in the country at present, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to increase the number of Primary Health Centres during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The measures which have been taken to strengthen the Primary Health Care Services are as follows:

- Revision in the norms for rent, contingent expenditure, drug supply for health sub-centres, Rural FW Centres, State FW Bureaus and Post Partum Centres was carried out in 2002.
- 8669 new Subcentres have been sanctioned as per 1991 population norm.
- Delivery kits and essential drugs are supplied every year at the Subcentres and Primary Health Centres.
- Providing additional funds for strengthening of subcentres through Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY).

(c) A statement showing the number of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) presently functioning in the states/UTs is enclosed.

(d) The number of Primary Health Centres established during last three years since 2001-02 are 84.

**Statement***Number of Sub-Centres, PHCs & CHCs Functioning Position as on 31.3.2003*

S.No.	State/UT	Sub Centres	PHCs	CHC
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10568	1386	219
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	400	78	25
3.	Assam	5109	610	100
4.	Bihar	10337	1648	101
5.	Chhattisgarh	3818	512	114
6.	Goa	172	19	5
7.	Gujarat	7274	1048	248
8.	Haryana	2299	402	64
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2069	302	65
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1807	336	59
11.	Jharkhand	4462	561	47
12.	Karnataka	8143	1677	249
13.	Kerala	5094	941	107
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8864	1193	229
15.	Maharashtra	9725	1768	351
16.	Manipur	420	72	16
17.	Meghalaya	413	85	13
18.	Mizoram	351	57	12
19.	Nagaland	350	68	14
20.	Orissa	5927	1352	157
21.	Punjab	2852	484	105
22.	Rajasthan	9926	1674	287
23.	Sikkim	147	24	2
24.	Tamil Nadu	8682	1436	72

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Tripura	540	73	9
26.	Uttaranchal	1525	228	36
27.	Uttar Pradesh	18577	3551	287
28.	West Bengal	8126	1262	99
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	107	19	4
30.	Chandigarh	13	0	1
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	36	6	1
32.	Daman and Diu	21	3	1
33.	Delhi	42	8	0
34.	Lakshadweep	14	4	3
35.	Pondicherry	75	39	4
All India		138285	22926	3106

Figures are provisional

*[English]*

#### **Corruption in Purchase of Computers**

341. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 6 dated December 2, 2003 regarding corruption in purchase of computers and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected and compiled;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same is likely to be collected; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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 PACHAURI): (a) to (d) The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

#### **Eradication of Cholera**

342. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

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

(a) whether Cholera has spread in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the total cases of Cholera reported so far, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The number of notified cases of Cholera reported by the States/UTs during the current year (upto 12.06.2004) is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) To strengthen surveillance activities to promote early detection of outbreak and institute appropriate action for prevention and control of outbreaks of epidemic prone communicable disease including cholera, a "National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases" (NSPCD) under Central Sector Health Scheme is under implementation since 1997-98 in a phased manner. Currently, NSPCD is in operation in 101 districts of the country.

**Statement**

*Notified Cases due to Cholera in States/UTs in India during 2004 (upto 12.06.2004)*

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Cases
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	NR
4.	Bihar	NR
5.	Chhattisgarh	0
6.	Goa	0
7.	Gujarat	NR
8.	Haryana	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
11.	Jharkhand	NR
12.	Karnataka	49
13.	Kerala	9
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10
15.	Maharashtra	65
16.	Manipur	0
17.	Meghalaya	NR
18.	Mizoram	0
19.	Nagaland	0
20.	Orissa	NR

1	2	3
21.	Punjab	0
22.	Rajasthan	0
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	585
25.	Tripura	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	NR
27.	Uttaranchal	0
28.	West Bengal	57
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
30.	Chandigarh	3
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0
33.	Delhi	331
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Pondicherry	0
Total		1109

Note: NR—Not Received 0—Nil

*[English]*

**Eradication of Malaria**

343. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing cases of Malaria in the country particularly in Orissa;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken/being taken to eradicate Malaria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The incidence of malaria in the country has declined from 2.08 million in year 2001 to 1.67 million in the year 2003. The total number of

malaria cases in Orissa during last 3 years is indicated below:—

Year	No. of Malaria Cases
2001	454541
2002	473223
2003*	417276

\*Provisional

(b) The State-wise details of malaria cases is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Government of India is implementing a nation wide malaria control programme which has the following components:

- (1) Early diagnosis and prompt treatment of malaria cases by instituting active and passive surveillance through health care workers, health institutions and community volunteers by establishing Drug Distribution Centres and Fever Treatment Depots.
- (2) Integrated vector control including selective indoor residual insecticidal spraying, promotion of insecticide treated bednets and introduction of larvivorous fishes.
- (3) Information, education and communication for generating awareness about prevention and control of malaria.
- (4) Capacity building by training of health care workers and NGOs in prevention and control activities of malaria and strengthening of State and District Malaria Control Societies.
- (5) Monitoring and evaluation of the programme through Management Information System and periodic meeting with the State Programme Officers.

**Statement**

*State-wise Malaria Cases during 2003\**

S.No.	States/UTs	Malaria Cases
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35995
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	34810
3.	Assam	76570

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	2550
5.	Chhattisgarh	53093
6.	Goa	11370
7.	Gujarat	113372
8.	Haryana	4374
9.	Himachal Pradesh	133
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	309
11.	Jharkhand	112740
12.	Karnataka	99889
13.	Kerala	2380
14.	Madhya Pradesh	93780
15.	Maharashtra	62947
16.	Manipur	2589
17.	Meghalaya	18366
18.	Mizoram	7293
19.	Nagaland	3370
20.	Orissa	417276
21.	Punjab	377
22.	Rajasthan	142738
23.	Sikkim	278
24.	Tamil Nadu	43382
25.	Tripura	13807
26.	Uttaranchal	2350
27.	Uttar Pradesh	81853
28.	West Bengal	232846
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	753
30.	Chandigarh	84
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	468
32.	Daman and Diu	144
33.	Delhi	810
34.	Lakshadweep	6
35.	Pondicherry	63
Total		1673165

\*Provisional

**Earthquakes in Assam**

344. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Assam is prone to earthquakes;

(b) if so, whether any research or seismological study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the seismic zoning map published by Bureau of Indian Standards, the entire North-East India including Assam falls in Seismic Zone-V, which is considered to be most severe zone.

(b) to (d) State-of-the-art digital seismographs have been deployed in Assam and its adjoining areas to monitor the seismic activity. These systems are maintained and operated by different agencies including, Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat, Guwahati University, National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad and Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee etc. with the support of Department of Science & Technology in project mode. Also, India Meteorological Department, which is the nodal agency to monitor the seismic activity in the country, operates and maintains a few seismic stations in that area. Microzonation studies of Guwahati region have also been initiated, through multi-institutional efforts, for earthquake hazard and risk assessment to help in better planning with regard to disaster mitigation and management strategies.

**Construction of RCC Bridge**

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a RCC Bridge named 'Shankar Madhav Setu' over Brahmaputra river;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the regions that are likely to be connected by the said bridge; and

(c) the time by which the construction of the said bridge is likely to be commenced?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Mobile Service in Naxalite Areas**

346. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide mobile service in naxalite infested area of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the time by which the above service is likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to provide other connectivity service in the above area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Department of Telecommunications as a licensor has granted licences to Public Sector Undertaking namely, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and various other private operators to provide mobile services in the State of Maharashtra. They have already provided cellular mobile coverage in all the District headquarters and further planned to extend the mobile services up to Tehsil headquarters.

**Medical Facilities in Rural Areas**

347. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme for providing proper medical facilities to all individuals in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The medical facilities in rural areas are provided through three-tier Primary Health Care system *viz.* Sub-centre, Primary Health Centre, and Community Health Centre.

(b) and (c) A Sub-centre is the most peripheral contact point between Primary Health Care System and Community and is set up on a population norms of 3000-5000. Primary Health Centre (PHC) is a 4-6 bedded Health Centre and is a referral unit for 6 Sub-Centres, manned with a Medical Officer In-charge and 14 subordinate Para Medical and other staff. Community Health Centre (CHC) is a 30-bedded rural hospital with specialized services and serves as a special unit for 4 PHCs. There are 145980 Sub-centres, 22926 Primary Health Centres and 3106 Community Health Centres functioning in the country.

#### Setting up of Post Offices

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

(a) the number of villages in Uttar Pradesh without Post Offices, division-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open post offices in such villages; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said post offices are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of villages without Post Offices, division-wise, is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Post offices are opened on need based requirement, subject to fulfillment of prescribed norms laid down by the Department and availability of resources. As such, no time limit can be fixed.

#### Statement

S.No.	Name of division	The no. of village without post offices in the division
1	2	3

#### Agra Region

1.	Agra	643
2.	Aligarh	1285
3.	Bulandshaher	808
4.	Etah	1223
5.	Etawah	1183
6.	Jhansi	1855
7.	Manipuri	1331
8.	Mathura	668
Total		8986

#### Allahabad Region

1.	Allahabad	3054
2.	Ghazipur	2226
3.	Jaunpur	2867
4.	Mirzapur	2758
5.	Pratapgarh	1832
6.	Varanasi(E)	2379
7.	Varanasi(W)	866
Total		15982

#### Bareilly Region

1.	Bareilly	2664
2.	Bijnor	1870
3.	Budaun	1489
4.	Ghaziabad	708
5.	Hardoi	1594
6.	Kheri	1342
7.	Meerut	588

1	2	3
8.	Moradabad	3171
9.	Muzaffarnagar	611
10.	Saharanpur	1100
11.	Shahjahanpur	1867
Total		17004
<b>Gorakhpur Region</b>		
1.	Azamgarh	4613
2.	Basti	6265
3.	Ballia	1457
4.	Bahraich	1507
5.	Deoria	3073
6.	Gonda	2347
7.	Gorakhpur	3523
Total		22785
<b>Kanpur Region</b>		
1.	Banda	1689
2.	Fatehpur	1112
3.	Fatehgarh	1318
4.	Kanpur(M)	2740
5.	Kanpur city	138
Total		6997
<b>Lucknow Region</b>		
1.	Lucknow	885
2.	Faizabad	2038
3.	Barabanki	1669
4.	Sitapur	1930
5.	Sultanpur	2019
6.	Raebareli	1314
Total		9855
Total No. of Villages without post offices in U.P.		81619

*[English]***Adulteration in Food Items/Medicines**

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the brands of desi ghee available in market are adulterated; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check adulteration of food items and medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the information made available by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories, the percentage of adulteration found in samples under the category of Ghee, Butter, Ice-Cream and other Milk products during the calendar years 1999 to 2001 are as under:

Year	Percentage of Adulteration
1999	18.08
2000	19.36
2001	16.57

The provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder are implemented by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories through their enforcement staff, who draw random samples of various articles of food, including Ghee. Appropriate action is taken against the offenders under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/UT's are advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil on the quality and food articles, including 'Ghee' sold in the market.

Under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring their quality is vested with the State Governments. The State Governments are advised from time to time to gear up their enforcement machinery to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs moving in the inter-state commerce as well as to provide and strengthen their regulatory infrastructure; to establish their own State level testing

labs. To ensure speedy analysis of drug samples for which they are provided assistance to strengthen and augment infrastructure facilities in state labs. The State Governments have also been advised to keep strict surveillance over the suspected dealers; collect survey samples under NSQD programme; constitute/reactivate stake drug advisory committees in which various trade and industry association as well as consumer associations can file representations; establish separate intelligence-cum-legal cell; develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures; engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases etc.

Since manufacture and sale of spurious medicines is mainly a clandestine activity indulged in by anti-social persons, steps are taken from time to time by enforcement authorities of the States to detect the unearth spurious drugs in the inter-state commerce. The Government of India has taken the following initiatives to tackle the problem of spurious drugs:—

- (i) Detailed guidelines in respect of strategies required to be adopted for efficient surveillance over the movement of spurious drugs were communicated to State Government in November, 1999 to ensure focused surveillance over manufacture and sale of spurious drugs.
- (ii) Issues concerning alleged sale of spurious drugs was taken up by Union Health Minister with State Health Ministers in the 7th Conference of Central Council of Health (CCH) & FW held on 12-13 July, 2001. CCH resolved that in order to address issues relating to the increasing reports of spurious drugs/counterfeit drugs, special attention required to be given to monitor and unearth such illegal activities by constituting a separate intelligence-cum-legal cell in the respective drug control organizations and in seeking cooperation of the pharma industry, trade as well as the police.
- (iii) Department of Health, Government of India constituted a broad based Committee under the Chairmanship of DGHS in July, 2001 to examine issues concerning the problem of spurious drugs. The observations and recommendations of this Committee have been circulated on September 16, 2002 to all State Drugs Controllers for their information and necessary action in the matter.
- (iv) Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and specifically written to all Chief Ministers on

October 8, 2002 on the issue of spurious drugs, seeking their personal intervention to ensure that adequate measures are taken in each State to vigorously pursue the strategies needed to preclude any possibility of menace of spurious products so as to collectively ensure its total eradication.

- (v) A meeting of Health Ministers and Senior Officials of 13 major States of the country was convened by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare on 12.11.2002 to ensure concerted action to check any possible movement of spurious drugs in the country and to involve all stake holders to fight this menace. Suggestions/ views which emerged out of discussion were forwarded on January 8, 2003 to all the State Governments for their information and necessary action. One of the outcome of the said discussion, was enactment of "The Gujarat Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act, 1985 (PASA)" by the State Governments for deterrent action against offenders.
- (vi) In order to increase the number of drug samples tested in the country and to bring down the reporting time to less than month as against 3 to 6 months presently being taken by many laboratories, a comprehensive plan has been undertaken by Central Government under a capacity building project through World Bank assistance.
- (vii) In order to ensure speedy information exchange and networking of all States and Central Drugs Control Offices and Laboratories, computerization project has been undertaken by Central Government.
- (viii) A specialized training programme for drugs control officers of all State Governments responsible for keeping surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs has been formulated and was conducted from 24-27 June, 2003 by Central Government in cooperation with FDA, Maharashtra at Mumbai. 26 drugs control officers from different States had attended the training programme at FDA, Mumbai on investigational skills.
- (ix) Government of India set up an expert committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR and Secretary to Government of India to look into the various

issues related to Drugs Control Administration as well as to estimate the extent of the problem of spurious drugs and to recommend measures to deal with this problem effectively. On the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee, a Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2003 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2003 for amending the penal provisions in the Act in order to make them more stringent.

#### **Harmful Ingredients in Food Items**

350. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the recent revelation of the American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology that food items like Ketchup, instant noodles, chocolates, orange coloured drink etc. contain harmful additives that can cause childhood asthma;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any scientific analysis of the indigenously manufactured food items to ascertain how far these items are safe for consumption particularly by children;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) the intolerance to food additives used to enhance taste, provide colour or increase the shelf-life can trigger wheezing or an asthma attack. As per the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, food sensitivity affects 1-2 percent adults and about 8 percent children under the age of six. Common sources of allergy are artificial colours tartrazine and sunset yellow that give food its yellow and orange colour; flavour-enhancer monosodium glutamate that is added to instant noodles and chips; preservatives such as benzoates that are added to fruit juices, jams and sauces, and emulsifiers added to chocolate and ketchup that prevent the oil and water components from separating.

(b) and (c) In view of the limited information on the subject in India, the ICMR supported a project on identification of food allergy based on history and immunological parameters and also to confirm this with skin tests. Preliminary analysis of this project data shows that out of the 1200 patients participating in the study in Delhi 782 (65.1%) persons gave history of allergy to one or more food items. However, skin prick test showed 1444 out of 327 patients to be sensitive to one or more food items. In view of the high level of discrepancy in history and skin test, oral food challenge to the reported allergic food is being carried out to confirm the allergy. The study is likely to be concluded shortly.

(d) The use of food additives is regulated under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954/Rules 1955. The food additives are allowed in food items in limits which are considered safe. Based on scientific studies or published literatures the use of additives in food is reviewed from time to time.

*[Translation]*

#### **Pesticides in Bottled Drinking Water**

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

(a) whether the Government has seriously taken the matter of presence of pesticides in bottled drinking water of various brands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards proposes to change the standard of investigation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir to ensure safe packaged drinking water in the revised standards of Packaged Drinking Water prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955, the requirements of pesticide residues have been prescribed as follows:

(i) Pesticide residues considered individually :	Not more than 0.0001 mg/litre (The analysis shall be conducted by using Internationally established test methods meeting the residue limits specified herein)
(ii) Total pesticide residues	Not more than 0.0005 mg/litre (The analysis shall be conducted by using Internationally established test methods meeting the residue limit specified herein).

Packaged Drinking Water is under Compulsory Certification Scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Accordingly, the BIS inspects and tests the quality of this product as per the provisions contained in the inspection and testing scheme of BIS.

(c) and (d) The Bureau of Indian Standards has revised the test methods for pesticide residues as per Internationally Accepted Test Methods which became effective from 1.1.2004.

*[English]*

#### Revival of Training Camps in PoK

352. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorist training camps have been revived to train a large number of ultras in PoK as reported in the *Indian Express* dated June 21, 2004;

(b) if so, the veracity or otherwise of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) In the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004, President of Pakistan Gen. Musharraf had reassured that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. Since the November 25, 2003 ceasefire along the International Border, LoC and the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Jammu and Kashmir, there has been decline in infiltration. However, Pakistan has so far not any credible

steps to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism in that country. Recent reports suggest efforts in the context of reviving some training camps and launching pads.

India has consistently emphasized to Pakistan the need to put an end to cross border infiltration and terrorism into India, and to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism in that country on a permanent basis. The matter was also raised during the Foreign Secretary level talks that were held in New Delhi on June 27-28, 2004. The Joint Statement issued on June 28 elaborated that the two Foreign Secretaries exchanged views on carrying the process forward in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence.

*[Translation]*

#### Violation of Rules by Private Hospitals

353. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:  
SHRI KHIREN RIJUJ:

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

(a) whether private hospitals are not following the guidelines of the Government under which they were allotted land at concessional rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken against those hospitals; and

(c) whether the Government has issued any fresh directions to those hospitals in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it for the respective State Government to formulate guidelines for the allotment of land to private hospitals on concessional rates and also to ensure that these guidelines are followed by the hospitals to whom land is allotted on concessional rates.

*[English]***Opening of New Post Offices in West Bengal**

354. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening up new Post Offices in the district of North 24 Parganas of West Bengal during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of post offices opened in that district during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) There is a request for opening of a new Departmental Sub Post Office at Subhasnagar in the district of North 24 Parganas of West Bengal during the current financial year. The proposal is being examined to ascertain the justification.

(c) The number of post offices opened in the district during the last three years are as under:

2001-2002	—	(4) four
2002-2003	—	(4) four
2003-2004	—	(1) one

**Modernization of Assam Medical College**

355. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Assam for the financial assistance to make Assam Medical college in Dibrugarh a pioneer medical college with all modern infrastructure facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the above said college into a full-fledged Post Graduate National Medical Institute upto the standard of All India Institute of Medical Sciences; and

(d) if so, the time by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Department of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) have sanctioned Rs. 20.00 crores from Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) for Development of Assam Medical College & Hospital (HOPE) at Dibrugarh during 2002-2003 for strengthening the Infrastructure and quality of services of the Assam Medical College & Hospital (HOPE) at Dibrugarh. At present, there is no proposal to upgrade Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh into a Post Graduate National Medical Institute of the level of All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

*[Translation]***Vilaspur-Mungeli-Pondi as National Highway**

356. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to declare the Vilaspur-Mungeli-Pondi as national highway by linking it with national highway 12A; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to take shape?

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

(b) Does not arise.

**Opening of Passport Office in Uttaranchal**

357. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open a passport office in the newly created Uttaranchal State and its branch offices in various district headquarters/tehsils;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes. The Government has taken a decision to open a Passport Office at Dehradun in the Uttaranchal State and

to open District Passport Cells (DPCs) as part of the decentralization scheme for submission of passport applications at district level. The DPCs are opened by the State Governments. So far no DPC has been opened in Uttaranchal State.

(c) It is not possible to indicate precise timeframe for implementation since it involves several necessary requirements such as locating suitable premises for which help of State Government has been sought and deployment of personnel etc.

*[English]*

#### **Non-Functional of PCO in Orissa**

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

(a) the number of Public Call Offices (PCO) working in Orissa;

(b) the urban and rural area-wise break-up thereof;

(c) whether most of the PCO's remain non-functional particularly in the KBK districts in the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete measures taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, the number of Public Call Offices (PCOs) working in Orissa as on 31.05.2004 is as follows:

Urban	Rural	Total
18074	9816	27890

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) The PCOs are being monitored daily at Secondary Switching Area (SSA) level. In case of any complaint about fault of the PCO, prompt action is taken to restore the PCO immediately.

*[Translation]*

#### **Eradication of Polio**

359. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:  
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to make the Polio Eradication Programme a success;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds sanctioned for implementation of this plan during 2004-05;

(d) whether the number of Polio patients has decreased in the country; and

(e) if so, the number of polio projects in the country at present?

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

(b) The Pulse Polio Immunization activities have been intensified. During 2004, three National Immunization Days (NIDs) have been observed in the month of January, February and April, and one Sub-National Immunization day (SNID) has been observed in the month of May in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Two more NIDs will be observed during the month of October and November 2004. In addition, Mop-up rounds covering large areas will be conducted between July to September on detection of new polio virus cases.

(c) The approved outlay for 2004-05 is Rs. 1123 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir. The number of new polio patients has decreased. The polio cases declined from 1600 in 2002 to 225 in 2003 and only 14 cases in 2004 (till 26th June, 2004).

(e) There is only one polio eradication programme being implemented by Government of India in association with States and other development partners.

*[English]***Mitigation of Difficulties of Job Seekers**

360. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the job seekers for acquiring jobs in UAE regarding the attestation of their education and other certificates; and

(b) if so, the details of the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) Different Ministries of the Government of India and the State Governments have discussed the matter in order to mitigate the hardships of the applicants. Ministry of External Affairs suggested that in view of hardship being faced by applicants who come from far off places of Delhi for attestation of educational certificates. The Ministry of Human Resources Development has decided to decentralize their attestation work and in the case of Kerala, they have already issued letter empowering the Education Department of the Government of Kerala to attest educational documents.

**Review of Tenth Plan Documents**

361. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:  
SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the objectives and priorities drawn out in the Tenth Plan Document in view of change in the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No decision has been taken in this matter yet. The objectives and priorities of the Tenth Plan will in any case be reviewed during the Mid-Term Appraisal, also scheduled during the current year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***CBI Cases**

362. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CBI cases decided during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons found guilty; and

(c) the number of persons exonerated alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) The number of CBI cases decided in trial, number of persons found guilty and acquitted/discharged in such trials during the last three years are given in the table below:

	2001	2002	2003
Cases decided	448	673	692
Persons found guilty	551	794	673
Persons acquitted/discharged	478	572	461

While orders by the Trial Courts for acquittal of the accused are case-based decisions pronounced after weighing the evidence led by the prosecution and the defence, according to the CBI some general reasons for acquittal/discharge of the accused persons are:—

- (i) Hostility of complainant and independent witnesses;
- (ii) Long delays in trial of cases making it difficult to continue the same set of Investigating Officers and Prosecutors;
- (iii) Defective sanction order;
- (iv) Non-availability of prime prosecution witnesses;

- (v) Benefit of doubt;
- (vi) Lack of jurisdiction; and
- (vii) Preservation of evidence exhibits becomes difficult due to protracted trials.

*[English]*

#### **Special Category Status to Backward States**

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to grant special category status to the backward States of the country including Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) There is no proposal to grant Special Category Status to any other State, other than the existing Special Category States.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Ban on the Sale of Cosmetics**

364. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether general cosmetics like talcum powder, perfume, soap, nail-polish and lipstick are harmful to health and these products can cause cancer also;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take steps for cautioning the consumers about the side-effects of using these cosmetics;
- (c) if so, whether the Government also proposes to take steps to ban the production and sale of these artificial inorganic cosmetics; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No specific report indicating that general cosmetics like talcum powder, perfume, soap, nail polish and lipstick are harmful to health and can cause cancer are available with the Government. However, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, the cosmetics manufactures are required to indicate on the label of the product where a hazard exists, the following information:

- (1) Adequate directions for safe use.
- (2) Any warning, caution or special direction required to be observed by the consumer.
- (3) A statement of the names and quantities of the ingredients that are hazardous or poisonous.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 is the responsibility of the State Governments.

Further, it is the responsibility of the manufacturer to satisfy himself regarding the safety of the product before releasing it for sale. Only those chemical ingredients may be incorporated as raw materials and adjuncts which when incorporated are considered dermatologically safe for use in cosmetic products. Such cosmetic raw material and adjuncts has been classified by BIS into two categories:

- (i) Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) and
- (ii) Generally Not Recognized As Safe (GNRAS)

For evaluating the safety of a new formulation or of a new raw material used in old formulation reference is to be made to IS 4011:1997, methods of tests for safety evaluation of cosmetics.

- (c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government to prohibit/ban the production and sale of said cosmetics.

*[English]*

#### **Remote Sensing Satellite Data**

365. SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ISRO leads among other countries in providing data using Remote Sensing Satellites;

(b) if so, the areas where the data is made use of at present; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned during the year 2003-04 therefrom?

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

(b) The data is made use of in several countries including USA, Europe, Thailand, Myanmar, Japan, Republic of South Korea, UAE, Russia, Ecuador and Argentina in the areas of natural resource management such as forestry agricultural crop assessments, water resource monitoring, fisheries and mapping.

(c) The foreign exchange earned during the year 2003-04 is US\$ 2.63 Million.

*[Translation]*

#### Improvement in Postal Delivery System

366. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has any system for constant review of postal dispatch and delivery;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the system alongwith the discrepancies found is this regard during the last two years?

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

(b) Transmission and delivery of mail is constantly reviewed through various methods as under:

- (i) All India Live Mail Survey is conducted once in a year simultaneously all over the country.
- (ii) National Test Letter Run is conducted amongst important cities across the country on monthly basis.
- (iii) Live Mail Survey is conducted once in a month in selected post offices.
- (iv) Circle Test Letter Run is conducted at the Circle level.
- (v) Divisional Test Letter Run is conducted at the Divisional level.
- (vi) Test Letters and Trial Cards are posted to monitor the delivery efficiency and the bottlenecks in the routeing system.

(c) During review in last two years, instances regarding delivery of mails beyond prescribed norms of delivery were noticed. Instances of delay in delivery of mails due to one-carriage of mail by flights, late running of mail carrying planes, trains and state transport buses were also noticed. Based on the results of the All India Live Mail Survey (Rural & Urban) conducted during 2002 and 2003, the percentage of registered mail, ordinary mail delivered within prescribed norms, was as follows:

Year	Urban (Average % of mail delivered within norms)		Rural (Average % of mail delivered within norms)	
	Unregd.	Regd.	Unregd.	Regd.
2002	91	88.4	89.2	89.1
2003	92.3	92.1	89.7	89.2

#### STEPS TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM:

1. Regular monitoring of mail routening, transmission, and delivery is undertaken by posting Test Letters and Trial Cards.
2. Periodical review of mail transmission routes and modes is carried out to provide quicker and more reliable mode of transmission of mails.
3. Regular monitoring is being carried out at various levels, to ensure timely mail dispatches, transmission, delivery, and for making prompt supplementary or alternative arrangements as required from time to time.
4. Rationalization/restructuring of mail handling systems with a view to deploying adequate manpower as per requirement.

5. Progressive mechanization of mail conveyance and delivery.

#### **Four Laning of Delhi-Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar Road**

367. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert the Delhi-Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar road into four lanes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said four laning is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Delhi-Meerut-Haridwar road is a portion of National Highway No. 58. The road from Delhi to Meerut is already four-lane. The portion of the NH from Meerut to Haridwar is proposed to be four-laned on Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis. Bids for civil work between Meerut and Muzaffarnagar have been received by NHAI. For the remaining portions Detailed Project Report is under preparation.

(c) Likely time for completion is December, 2008 subject to response of the bids under BOT.

*[English]*

#### **Establishment of Passport Office**

368. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people from Hyderabad visit different countries every year;

(b) if so, whether there is only one passport office for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad;

(c) whether the people are facing hardships in getting passport due to heavy rush; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ease the problems of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Passport Office Hyderabad issues approximately 2,45,000 passports in a year.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) No. On an average 1200-1300 applications are received daily. Normally, the Passport Office operates 14 public counters for submission of applications. The steps taken in case of heavy rush include increase in the number of public counters, deployment of additional staff and operation of counters for extra hours if needed.

#### **Strengthening Relations with EU**

369. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any new steps to strengthen its relationship with the European Union;

(b) if so, whether there has been any talks between the European Union and India recently; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome of the said talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Since the institutionalization of Annual Summit-level Dialogue between India and the EU in June 2000, bilateral relations have diversified into a multi-faceted partnership. The India-EU Troika Ministerial Dialogue was held on 16th February 2004 in New Delhi. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global developments.

*[Translation]*

#### **Uranium Plant in Jharkhand**

370. SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a Uranium processing plant in Jharkhand; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

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

(b) It is likely to be set up by March 2006.

[English]

**Waiting List of Excel Mobile Phone Connections**

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

(a) the number of applicants in the waiting list in Kerala Circle for Excel Mobile Phone connections;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make SIM card indigenously;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present rate of international trunk call from India to USA and other western countries and the Gulf countries;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to reduced the international trunk call rates to Gulf countries to make it at a par with the rates applicable to USA and other western countries;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The waiting list in Kerala Circle for Excel Mobile connection as on 30.06.2004 is 145744.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. M/s ITI Limited is the indigenous supplier of SIM Cards in the country.

(d) BSNL's existing ISD rates are as under:

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(i)	For USA, Canada U.K.	Rs. 7.20/minute
(ii)	For Europe (other than UK), Singapore Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Hongkong	Rs. 9.60/minute
(iii)	Rest of the World (including Gulf countries)	Rs. 18.00/minute

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(e) No, Sir.

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

(g) It if not possible to reduce the ISD Call rates of Gulf countries to make it at par with those of USA due to higher settlement rates (charges for termination of calls abroad).

**Expansion of Telecom Network**

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

(a) whether the expanding communication network with a range of handsets, ATMs, Wireless sets and other electronic devices has made security more vulnerable;

(b) if so, whether an experts' conference held in New Delhi last year also cautioned the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Licences for the private wireless communication network are issued only after the security vetting of the applicant from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(b) No conference of experts on the subject was held last year under the aegis of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

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

**Studies on Areas hit by Earthquake**

373. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been conducted by the Government on areas worst hit by earthquakes;

(b) if so, the number of reports presented till date;

(c) the outcome of the reports; and

(d) the action taken on the basis of findings of the reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Department of Science and Technology, under its Seismicity Programme, supports Research and Development in the area of earthquake and related fields. A number of projects have been funded to various academic and research institutions for earthquake studies, especially, to understand the earthquake mechanism and source processes. Specific studies have also been conducted after the recent significant earthquakes namely, Bhuj 2001, Chamoli 1999, Jabalpur 1997, Latur 1993 and Uttarkashi 1991 and findings have been documented in the form of reports for these earthquakes.

(c) and (d) As per the recommendations made in the reports, specific studies for pre and post disaster mitigation and management strategies have been initiated. These include microzonation studies of selected urban centres, setting up of multi-parametric geophysical observatories for systematic study of precursors, up-gradation of seismic monitoring networks and earthquake education and public awareness etc.

#### Deaths on NH

374. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who lost their lives on National Highways due to accidents during each of the last three years;

(b) the funds allocated during 9th Five Year Plan for road safety programme on National Highways;

(c) whether the amount so allocated remained unspent during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per information available, the total number of persons killed on National Highways in the country due to road accidents during the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 were 30216, 30628 and 29031 (provisional) respectively.

(b) and (c) Road Safety features are an integral part of road engineering projects/maintenance programmes. It is not possible to quantify the exact amount earmarked for road engineering related Road Safety Programmes on National Highways. Besides, Central Government administers a number of road safety schemes which aim at inculcating awareness about road safety amongst all road users including those on National Highways and providing assistance for road safety equipment to States/ Union Territories. During the 9th Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 30.24 crore was spent on this account as against an outlay of Rs. 37.42 crore.

(d) The non-utilisation of the full outlay was mainly due to non-receipt of proposals from states.

#### Demand and Supply of Cables

375. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL is unable to give adequate cables to telephone exchanges in accordance with requirements in the country particularly in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of demand and supply in Kerala, location-wise; and

(d) the action taken/being taken to provide adequate cables to all exchanges in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Due to litigation in the cable tender in the year 2003-04, there was delay in finalisation of the tender and allotment of cable to the circles. After finalisation of the cable tender sufficient cable was allotted to circles as per requirement. In respect of Kerala circle 4.6 LCKM cable was allotted in November 2003 from Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) quota and 21.08 LCKM cable was allotted in March 2004 from cable tender 2003-04.

Against total requirement of 28.03 LCKM for 2003-04 in Kerala circle, 25.68 LCKM of cable has been allotted. Kerala circle will further allocate the cable to different locations in the circle as per requirement.

For the requirement of the year 2003-04 sufficient cable (25.68 LCKM) has been allotted to Kerala circle.

Circle ordered is expected to be supplied in phased manner by the firms and the supply is likely to be completed by October 2004.

#### **Acquisition of Roads**

376. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether roads had been acquired from other departments (the Department of Rural Development and others) for converting them to National Highways;

(b) if so, the number of such roads acquired in Bihar;

(c) the date on which such roads were acquired; and

(d) the present status of conversion of such roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir. No roads has been acquired from any such departments other than State Road Construction Department of Bihar.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **Reforming United Nations**

377. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the need to reform United Nations and expand the Security Council by including developing democratic countries and non-aligned countries; and

(b) if so, the constructive steps taken to work with China and other non-aligned countries to reform the United Nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes. India has consistently and actively stressed the urgent need for the reform and the restructuring of the UN Security Council. The necessity to have a larger representation of the developing countries including some developing countries as permanent members in an expanded Security Council has also been emphasized by us.

(b) This question has been under discussion at the United Nations for several years. There are several complex issues involved: the size of an expanded Council, criteria, balanced representation, etc. With regard to these issues, there is a certain commonality between the Non Aligned countries and developing countries including China. Discussions are continuing in the UN involving all these countries.

#### **Explosion in Sriharikota Space Launch Centre**

378. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an explosion at the ISRO Space Launch Centre at Sriharikota resulting in the death of some technical staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by the Government into the explosion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There was a fire accident at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 23rd February, 2004.

(b) The fire accident occurred on a segment of a development solid rocket motor at the Solid Propellant Space Booster Plant (SPROB) at SDSC SHAR in the afternoon of 23.2.2004. The accident occurred at the time of the final operations of removing the fixtures when the propellant in the segment inadvertently caught fire. Seven persons lost their lives.

(c) A High Power Committee constituted to investigate this accident has submitted its final report. The Committee came to the conclusion that the primary cause of the accident was due to propellant leak between two sliding metallic surfaces. The leaked propellant got ignited due to the friction induced heating during the removal of the casting fixtures.

(d) Action has been initiated to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

#### **Slow Implementation of Projects**

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

(a) the details of projects running behind schedule as on date;

(b) the percentage of cost escalation of these projects due to time overrun;

(c) the time by which all the projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As on 1.4.2004, out of 568 Central projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 18 projects have been completed, 198 projects were running behind schedule with respect to their latest approved schedule. Sector-wise project numbers and range of time overrun are furnished in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The total anticipated cost of 198 delayed projects has increased by 9.5% with reference to latest approved cost.

(c) The completion dates vary from project to project.

Statement-II gives project-wise information on the time by which project will be completed.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to improve project implementation include:

- (i) adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of project reports before investment approval;
- (ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;
- (iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government;
- (iv) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects;
- (v) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;
- (vi) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and
- (vii) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

#### **Statement-I**

##### *Extent of time overrun in projects with respect to latest schedule*

(Status as on 01.04.2004)

S.No.	Sector	No. of Projects	Range of delay (In Months)
1	2	3	4
1.	Atomic Energy	1	81
2.	Civil Aviation	2	13
3.	Coal	17	3— 108
4.	Fertilisers	1	27
5.	I & B	1	63
6.	Mines	2	23— 52
7.	Steel	2	18— 20
8.	Petroleum	13	3— 15

1	2	3	4
9.	Power	18	2— 60
10.	Railways	40	3— 158
11.	Road Transport and Highways	71	2— 65
12.	Shipping and Ports	20	3— 63
13.	Telecommunication	7	30— 24
14.	Urban Development	3	6— 38
Total		198	

**Statement-II***Sector-wise list of delayed project w.r.t. latest approved*

(Status as on 01.04.2004)

S.No.	Project	Now Anticipated Date of Commissioning (Completion)
1	2	3
<b>Atomic Energy</b>		
INDIRA GANDHI CENTRE FOR ATOMIC RESEARCH		
1.	PFBR-Stage a Phase-II	3/2005
<b>Civil Aviation</b>		
AIRPORT AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED		
2.	Ext. of Runway Jaipur Air	3/2004
3.	Development Amritsar Air	12/2004
<b>Coal</b>		
BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED		
4.	Pootkee Balihari UG	3/2004
CENTRAL COALFIELDS LIMITED		
5.	J.P. Rly. Line	3/2005
6.	Bokaro OC	3/2005
EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED		
7.	Amadand & Bartarai	3/2005
8.	Bagdeva UG RPR	7/2005

1	2	3
9.	Jhanjra UG	3/2004
10.	J.K. Nagar UG SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED	3/2004
11.	Manuguru OC III SOUTH-EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	3/2007
12.	Mahan OC	3/2004
13.	Pindura UG Aug.	3/2004
14.	Vindhya UG Aug.	3/2004
15.	Rehar UG RPR	3/2004
16.	Gayatri UG RPR WESTERN COAL FIELDS LIMITED	3/2004
17.	Naharia UG	3/2004
18.	Adasa UG	3/2006
19.	Dhurwasa OC	3/2007
20.	Tandsi UG Expn.	3/2005
<b>Fertilisers</b>		
BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY FERTILISER CORPORATION		
21.	Namrup Plant Revamp	5/2004
<b>L &amp; B</b>		
DOORDARSHAN		
22.	D.D. Bh. Delhi IC/CB PPFVAN	6/2004
<b>Mines</b>		
NATIONAL ALUMINIUM COMPANY LIMITED (NALCO)		
23.	Exp. of Cap. Smelter-CPP	4/2004
24.	Spl. Grade Alumina	4/2004
<b>Steel</b>		
NATIONAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NMDC)		
25.	PIG Iron Plant	6/2006 (New Frozen)
STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED (SAIL)		
26.	Upgradation ERW PPE Plant	5/2005

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1	2	3
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**Petroleum****BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED**

27.	Ref. Modernisation	10/2004
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**CENTRAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED**

28.	Refin. Expn. Cum. Mod.	6/2004
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**GAS AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED**

29.	Visakh-Secn-Derabad LPG	4/2004
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30.	Dahej-Hazira-Uran Pipeline	12/2005
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**HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED**

31.	Green Fuels & Emission CTL	12/2005
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**INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LIMITED**

32.	Panipat Ref. Expansion	4/2005
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33.	Linear Alkyl Benzene	8/2004
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34.	MS Quality Upgradation	12/2004
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35.	KBPL Conv. & Pol. Ppat-Rew	12/2004
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36.	MS Quality Upgrade. Faci.	6/2006
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37.	Panipat-Rew. Pipeline Pro.	11/2004
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**OIL & NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED**

38.	IOR Gandhar	12/2004
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39.	IOR Scheme Neelem	10/2004
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**Power****NATIONAL HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION**

40.	Dulhasti Hep	11/2004
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41.	Loktak D/S Hep	12/2008
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**POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED**

42.	Tehri Tr. System	12/2004
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43.	ULDCS for Eastern Reg.	12/2004
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44.	Kaiga Narendra TR. Sys.	3/2006
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45.	Madurai-Thiruvananthapuram	9/2004
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46.	ULDCS-WR	8/2005
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1	2	3
47.	Tr. System Strengthening	6/2004
48.	HVDC Back To back Gazuvak	3/2005
49.	400 KV DC-IKKAH-Bihar	12/2004
50.	Ranagadi-O TR. 132 KV	3/2004
51.	Baripada 400 KV S/S	6/2004
52.	Tala-Siligri Tr. Line	6/2005
53.	Sys. Strengthening in N.R.	11/2006
54.	System Strengthening-I	11/2006
55.	Sys. Strengthening-II	12/2006
	<b>SATLUJ JAL VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED</b>	
56.	Nathpa Jhakri H.E.P.	7/2004
	<b>TEHRI HYDRO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED</b>	
57.	Tehri Dam H.P.P.	3/2004
	<b>Railways</b>	
	<b>FREIGHT OPERATION INFORMATION SYSTEM</b>	
58.	Freight operation Inf. Sys.	12/2004
	<b>GAUGE CONVERSION</b>	
59.	Adilabad-Mudkhed	3/2007
60.	Rajkot-Veraval. WR	3/2004
61.	Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore	12/2004
62.	Hotgi-Gadag SWR	3/2006
63.	Agra-Bandikui	3/2005
64.	Viramgam-Bhildi, WR	6/2004
65.	New J'paiguri Bongaigon	6/2004
	<b>LINE DOUBLING</b>	
66.	Kanpur-Panki 3rd Line NR	6/2005
67.	Hospet-Guntakal SCR	6/2004
	<b>METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT PROJECTS</b>	
68.	Truvellacheri. MRTS Ext	3/2005
69.	Elec. Barasat-Hasnabad	6/2004

1	2	3
70.	Borivili-Virar, WR	3/2005
71.	Tollyganj-Garia (MTP) NEW LINE	6/2007
72.	Jammu Tawi-Udhampur NR	4/2004
73.	Nangaldam-Talwara NR	3/2008
74.	Tamluk Digha SER	6/2005
75.	Guna-Etawah ECR	3/2005
76.	Daitari-Keonjhar Bansp	12/2004
77.	Amarvati-Narkher, CR	3/2005
78.	Udhampur-Srinagar-B'mulla.	8/2007
79.	Kottur-Harihar, SWR	4/2005
80.	Kadur-C'magalur-S'pur	3/2005
81.	Koderma-Ranchi (Barkna)	3/2006
82.	Deoghar-Dumka, ER RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION	3/2007
83.	Ambala-Moradabad	3/2005
84.	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar	12/2004
85.	Ernakulam-Trivandrum	12/2004
86.	Renigunta-Guntakal SIGNALLING & TELECOMMUNICATIONS	3/2004
87.	CCG-VR Train Describer TRAFFIC FACILITIES	3/2004
88.	Remod of YD. PH-I ST-I. ER WORKSHOPS & PRODUCTION UNIT	3/2004
89.	RCF Kapurthala, PH-II NR	3/2006
90.	CLW-MFR of High HP ABB	3/2005
91.	Ludhiana-Elec. Locoshed	3/2005
92.	CLW-Elec.Loco. Aug. ER	3/2004
93.	Workshop Augmentation	12/2004
94.	4000/3000 HP Diesel Loco	3/2006

1	2	3
95.	DLW-4000 HP: Diesel Locos	3/2005
96.	Setting up of El. Loco Shed	12/2005
97.	Const. of 50 Loco Sheds	3/2004
<b>Road Transport</b>		
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (NATIONAL HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT'S PACKAGES)		
98.	Jaipur Bypass PH2 GQ	10/2004
99.	Jawaharlal-Port Trust Connection NH-4B	8/2004
100.	Lucknow-Kanpur KM 21.8-44 EWII	6/2004
101.	Jalandhar-Pathankot K4-26 NSII	3/2004
102.	Haldiaport-P. Connect	3/2005
103.	Delhi-Haryana K-44-66 NSII	9/2004
104.	Nandigama-Vijayawada other NH9	4/2004
105.	Jalandhar Bypass K372-387 NSI	4/2004
106.	8 Lane Dih'yanak 17-9NSII	9/2004
107.	8-Lane Nhi Delhi II K8-16NSI	11/2004
108.	Vizag Port (PC)	12/2004
109.	Purnea-Gayakota 410-419EWI	12/2004
110.	Guwahati bypass K 146-157 EWII	6/2004
111.	Dholpur-Sec. K-24-41 NSII	3/2004
112.	Dkhola-l'pur K447-470EWI	3/2004
113.	Agra-Gwalior K70-85 NSII	3/2004
114.	Dalkola-Islampur K 476-500 EWI	12/2004
115.	Nagpur-Hyderabad K464-74 NSII	7/2004
116.	Bangalore-Madurai K 180-199 NSII	10/2004
117.	Kesariaji-Ratanpur GQ	7/2004
118.	Bangalore-Salem Madurai	3/2004
119.	Aluva-Angamali K 333-16 NSII	4/2004
120.	Hyderabad-Bangalore NS-II	12/2004
121.	Himmatnagar-Chiloda GQ	12/2004

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1	2	3
122.	Lucknow-Kanpur KM 44-59.5 EW 9	6/2004
123.	Purnea-Gayakota-II	12/2004
124.	Surat-Atul GQ	6/2004
125.	Luck Bypass EW NH 25&28	12/2004
126.	Satara-Kagal GQ	8/2004
127.	Belgaum Bypass GQ	7/2004
128.	Belgaum-Dharawad GQ	10/2004
129.	Hubli-Haveri GQ	12/2004
130.	Haveri-Harihar (GQ)	12/2004
131.	Harihar-Chitradurga GQ	12/2004
132.	Vaniyambadi-Pallikonda GQ	9/2004
133.	Pallikonda-Walahjapet GQ	9/2004
134.	Kanchipuram-Poonamalee GQ	12/2004
135.	Dhankuni-Kolaghat GQ	12/2004
136.	Kolaghat-Kharagpur GQ	6/2004
137.	Kharagpur-Laxman Nath GQ	5/2004
138.	Laxman Nath-Baleshwar GQ	12/2004
139.	Balasore-Bhadrak GQ	6/2004
140.	Bhadrak-Chandikhole GQ	6/2004
141.	Bhuaneshwar-Khurda GQ	5/2004
142.	Khurda-Sunakhala GQ	6/2004
143.	Sunakhala-Ganjam GQ	12/2004
144.	Ganjam-Icchapuram GQ	12/2004
145.	Icchapuram-Korlam	9/2004
146.	Korlam-Palasa GQ	9/2004
147.	Palsa-Srikakulam GQ	12/2004
148.	Srikakulam-Champawati GQ	6/2004
149.	Champawati-Vizag GQ	5/2004
150.	Divancheru-Gowtami GQ	6/2004
151.	Bridges-AP19 V-V Section	9/2004

1	2	3
152.	Bridges-AP 20 GQ. W-Sect.	6/2004
153.	Chika Luripet-Ongole GQ	9/2004
154.	Ongole-Kavali GQ	12/2004
155.	Kavali-Nellore GQ	12/2004
156.	Nellore ByPass GQ	5/2004
157.	Tada-Chennai GQ	12/2004
158.	Fatehpur-Khaga GQ	12/2004
159.	Khaga-Kokharj GQ	6/2004
160.	Handia-Varanasi GQ	12/2004
161.	Mohania-Sasaram GQ	12/2004
162.	Dehri-on-Sone-Aurangabad GQ	6/2004
163.	Vivekanand Bridge & Appch GQ	12/2005
164.	Tumkur Bypass K 75-62 GQ	3/2004
165.	D'kung-Kh'Purk 18-136, GQ	6/2004
166.	Etawah Bypass K 308-321 GQ	6/2004
167.	Naini Bridge: NH 2 & NH 27	5/2004
168.	LKO-Kanpur K 60-76 GQ EWI	5/2005
<b>Shipping &amp; Port</b>		
INDIAN WATER TRANSPORT		
169.	Cutter Suc.-Dgers & Vess	3/2005
170.	Terminal at Gaighat	3/2005
171.	Constn. of Perm. Ter.	4/2005
PORTS		
172.	Modern of Mot Jetties	12/2004
173.	Repl. Dreger Coleroon	3/2004
174.	RRM For Imp. of Draught	12/2004
175.	Const. 400 PAX Vessel	8/2004
176.	Constn. of Oil Jetty	5/2004
177.	Procure: Grahbhopper DRGER	6/2004
178.	Constn. of West Quay	4/2004

1	2	3
179.	Repl. Common Shore P. Line	3/2004
180.	Repl. 7 Nos. Wharf Crane	4/2004
181.	Const. Addl. Gen. Berth	12/2005
182.	Res. Qrs. 'Q' Type	12/2004
183.	Dev./Upgrade Open Plots	7/2004
184.	Modn. of Bun-Der Basin	3/2005
185.	Procure 4 Wharf Crane	10/2004
186.	Constn. of 9th Cargo Berth	6/2004
187.	Capital Dredg.	3/2004
	SHIPPING	
188.	Eastblish TVS in Gulf	6/2006
	<b>Telecommunication</b>	
	CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS, TELECOM. TECHNOLOGY	
189.	Camp. Cons. C-DOT Proj.	3/2004
190.	2nd & 3rd Gen. Mobile Comm.	6/2006
	INDIAN TELEPHONE INDUSTRY	
191.	Bangalore: CSN	11/2006
192.	Manakpur: CSN-MM	11/2006
	MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM LIMITED	
193.	Expn. for Marol Exch.	3/2004
194.	Fraud Manag. Centre (FMCC)	5/2004
195.	Addl. GSM. EQ. PH-II	2/2004
	<b>Urban Development</b>	
	CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	
196.	Central Excise Bldg.	2/2005
197.	Residential Comp. IT Dep.	12/2006
	DELHI METRO RAIL CORPORATION	
198.	Delhi Metro Rapid SYS-I	9/2005

**Developing RML Hospital as Health  
Promoting Hospital**

380. SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to develop Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and other Government hospitals into "Health Promoting Hospitals" under a WHO programme;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the number and details of Hospitals in different States to be so developed under the WHO programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohi Hospital is being developed as a health promoting hospital with the WHO assistance on pilot basis. The salient features of the project are:

- (i) to carry out health status and risk assessment of the health personnel at such Hospitals.
- (ii) to develop a health promotion unit at the Hospital and sensitise the staff about concepts of health promotion.
- (iii) to initiate health promoting activities in the Hospital for its employees initially and ultimately for general public at large.

There is no proposal to develop any other Hospital as health promoting hospital at present.

**Filling Vacancies in Mormugao Port Trust**

381. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of profit and loss of the Mormugao Port Trust during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a large number of vacancies exist and have not been filled up for long in the said port;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any irregularity in filling up the vacancies have come to the notice of the Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of operating and net surplus of Mormugao Port Trust during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

	Operating Expenses	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Operating Income	187.56	187.59	207.69
2.	Operating Expenditure	132.73	128.32	134.73
3.	Operating surplus	54.83	59.27	72.96
4.	Total Income	196.95	195.45	215.16
5.	Total Expenditure	189.23	172.09	187.79
6.	Net Surplus	7.72	23.36	27.37

(b) and (c) Against a total strength of 4538 employees, 130 posts are lying vacant in Mormugao Port Trust. In addition, 1056 posts seem to have lapsed as these vacancies were more than one year old. Keeping in view surplus manpower in the Major Ports, Government had suggested measures for reduction of manpower such as reducing the age of retirement of port employees from 60 to 58 years and imposed restrictions on filling up of direct recruitment (entry level) vacancies during September, 2000. Hence, the direct recruitment vacancies could not be filled up. However, the Government has subsequently during December, 2003 revised the earlier instructions and has permitted the Ports to fill up 1/3rd of direct recruitment vacancies subject to 1% of total strength of the organisation and subject to approval of the Government. Accordingly, the Port has initiated action in this regard.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

#### **Special Packages for Jharkhand**

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

(a) the details of the special packages provided by the Government to the newly constituted Jharkhand State during each of the last two years; and

(b) the details of such packages likely to be provided to the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) No special package was provided by the Government of India to the newly constituted Jharkhand State during each of the last two years and no such package is likely to be provided during the current year. However, under the Backward District Initiative component of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, sixteen districts of Jharkhand State have been covered for which Special Central Assistance per district @ Rs. 15 crore per year would be provided as 100% grant for three years. A total of Rs. 720 crore would flow under this programme to the State from the Centre for development of these districts in the Tenth Plan.

#### **Modernisation of Post Offices**

383. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount spent by the Government for modernisation/upgradation of Post Offices in Gujarat during the 9th Plan Period;

(b) whether all the Post Offices in the State have been covered under it; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to cover the remaining Post Offices in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) During the 9th Five Year Plan, a total sum of Rs. 1.38 Crores was spent by the Union Government for modernization of Post Offices under the Plan Scheme "Modernization of Post Offices (Improving Ergonomics)" in Gujarat.

(b) Upto IXth Plan, 118 Post Offices have been modernized in Gujarat.

(c) Modernization of Post Offices is an ongoing process. 9 Post Offices have been modernized upto 2003-2004 in Xth Plan. Remaining major Post Offices in Gujarat will be considered for modernization in a phased manner in subsequent year depending on availability of funds.

#### **Lifting of Ban on Importing SSI Items**

384. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that its decision to withdraw ban on the import of large number of items has proved to be disastrous for the Small Scale Industries in the Country;

(b) if so, whether any survey/study has been conducted to find out the extent of damage caused to SSIs due to the policy of the Government; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to compensate the loss to the SSIs?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Government is constantly assessing and monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) and WTO Agreements on the economy including the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in the country. Though removal of QRs

have exposed the SSIs to a greater competition, yet the SSI sector has continued to grow. However, even after the removal of QRs, protection to industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto to the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports, etc.

The Government has also put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation.

*[Translation]*

**Committee to Investigate Alleged Corruption in MCI**

385. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee has been constituted by the Government to investigate into the alleged corruption prevailing in the Medical Council of India (MCI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

*[English]*

**Banned Items in Kendriya Bhandar**

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

(a) whether the sale of some items have been banned in the Kendriya Bhandar as per the purchase policy-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the banned items were approved by the Managing Director on his own and put on sale during March, 2004; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken thereon?

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 PACHAURI):

(a) and (b) The Purchase Policy, 2003, adopted by the Board of Directors of Kendriya Bhandar, provides that Kendriya Bhandar should not deal with technical products for which Kendriya Bhandar does not have adequate skilled manpower. The following items were identified in the above category:

- (i) Radio Wireless System
- (ii) Line Testing Equipments
- (iii) Tele message/Auto Voice Mail system
- (iv) IPM kits
- (v) Special Application Branded Software
- (vi) OT Lights.

The Purchase Policy, 2003 also contains provisions delegating power to the Executive Committee and Managing Director, in certain cases, for purchase of goods in relaxation of the Purchase Policy as per market/customer requirements.

(c) and (d) Kendriya Bhandar has supplied line testing equipment, and IPM Kit (Integrated Pest Management Kit) and special application branded software in relaxation of the Purchase Policy. Approval of the Competent Authority has already been obtained for procurement of these items.

**Expansion of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant**

387. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the expansion of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant has been pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the proposal at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Work on two additional nuclear power projects, Rajasthan Atomic Power Projects Units 5 & 6, at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan, is progressing as per schedule. There are already four nuclear power reactors in operation at this site.

*[Translation]*

#### Separate Cadre for CBI

388. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate cadre for the employees of CBI to ensure its autonomy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide more autonomy to the CBI and to keep it free from Government control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (d) There is no such proposal. The CBI already has full functional autonomy under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 as amended by the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 and the requisite authority under the law for investigation and prosecution purposes.

*[English]*

#### Expansion of Ennore Port

389. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second Port at Ennore in Chennai has been recently commissioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to expand the said Port;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Ennore Port is the 12th major port in India and was dedicated to the nation on 1st February, 2001. It commenced commercial operations from 22nd June, 2001. It is the first corporatised major port in the country and the administration, control and management and entrusted to Ennore Port Limited, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) and (d) Yes. there is a proposal to expand Ennore Port in the second phase. The Port has initiated action for development of various projects like construction of an alongside jetty for handling POL products/chemicals; construction of a coal berth; an iron ore berth, LNG jetty, a container terminal etc. These projects are to be developed through private sector participation on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Funds to Maharashtra Under CRF

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

(a) the amount sanctioned under the Central Road Fund to Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether utilisation certificates were received within the specified time limit from Maharashtra;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the criteria for fixation of annual amount for a particular State under the Central Road Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Amount sanctioned under Central Road Fund (CRF) to Government of Maharashtra during the last three years is as follows:

2001-2002	Rs. 216.79 crore
2002-2003	Rs. 79.12 crore
2003-2004	Rs. 158.20 crore

(b) and (c) Funds are released as and when utilisation certificates for the amount spent on CRF works are received. There is no specified time limit or amount fixed for furnishing utilisation certificate.

(d) The CRF accrual (annual amount) for the State is decided based on 60% weightage for fuel consumption in the State and 40% weightage for the geographical area of the State.

#### **WHO Report on Unsafe Injections**

391. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) report, at least 50% of the World's 12 billion injections administered every year are unsafe posing serious health risks such as Hepatitis and HIV;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per bulletin of the WHO 1999 "Unsafe injections in the developing world and transmission of blood borne pathogens", it is estimated that atleast 12 billion syringes are sold each year for injection purpose and that approximately 1 billion injections are given early in the course of childhood vaccination programme. It is further estimated that at least 50% of injections were unsafe in 14 countries, out of the study undertaken in 19 countries. The most common diseases acquired from unsafe injections are Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and AIDS.

The Government has initiated following steps to ensure the zero risk injection to the people:

- (i) Standard Operative Procedures on Hospital Associated infections have been made available to all State AIDS Control Societies for further dissemination to various Government hospitals and clinics.
- (ii) Inclusion of use of sterilized syringes and needles in all awareness campaigns of National AIDS Control Programme.
- (iii) Training of medical and paramedical worker on hospital infection control measures including safe injection practices.
- (iv) Supply of needle cutters to various Government hospitals through State AIDS Control Societies.

(v) Under the immunization programme to ensure proper sterilization of syringes and needles, pressure cooker sterilizers, stoves, assistance to procure fuel, glass syringes and needles are being supplied to all Government health facilities of States and Union territories.

(vi) Training on safe injection practices is being imparted as a part of regular training of all health functionaries.

(vii) Under the Pilot Project for introduction of Hepatitis B Vaccine, all vaccines are being administered using Auto Disable Syringes in the slums of 15 cities and in 32 districts. Government is also actively considering introduction of Auto Disable Syringes for the Immunization Programme in a phased manner.

#### **Reservation Policy of SC/ST In the Ninth Schedule**

392. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to bring reservation policy for SC/ST under Ninth Schedule of the Constitution for the effective implementation of reservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any memorandum in this regard from various SC/ST organisations; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

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 PACHAURI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Reservation Policy of the Government has been articulated through executive instructions, which have the force of law, as per the Supreme Court judgement in the Indra Sawhney case. An officer is designated as Liaison Officer in each Ministry/Department to ensure effective implementation of the reservation policy for Scheduled

*Castes/Scheduled Tribes.* In addition Department of Personnel & Training also centrally monitors the recruitment/representation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the central services. Moreover, SC/ST employees can write directly to the National Commission for SCs and STs on matters relating to appointments against the reserved quota.

[Translation]

#### Shipping Service between Patna and Haldia

393. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a regular shipping service has been started in the waterways between Patna and Haldia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to start shipping service on other waterways as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A fixed schedule service has been started between Haldia and Patna with effect from 14.1.2004 in National Waterway No. 1, deploying vessels of Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC). Under this, two round trips of cargo vessels of CIWTC are moved every month.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A fixed schedule service has also started between Guwahati and Dhubri in National Waterway No. 2, deploying one cargo vessel of Inland Water Transport Department, Government of Assam with effect from 01.6.2004. Similarly, in National Waterway No. 3, a fixed schedule service was started between Kochi and Allapuzha in October, 2003 deploying cargo vessel of Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation Ltd. (KSINC). This service, however, stands suspended from December, 2003 due to closure of navigational lock at Thannermukkom.

[English]

#### International Container Transhipment Terminal

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to develop some International Container Transhipment Terminal at some major ports;

(b) if so, the major ports where these International Container Transhipment Terminals are being set up; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is a proposal for the development of an International Container Transhipment Terminal (ICTT) in Cochin Port. Bids were invited to select the operator to develop, maintain and operate the terminal on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The successful bidder will operate the existing berth at Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT) during the initial period by which the ICTT will be constructed and operations are shifted there. The contract provides that the bidder shall not be obliged to commence construction work at ICTT, *inter alia*, until the traffic at RGCT reaches a level of 4,00,000 Twenty Equivalent Units (TEUs). The Cochin Port Trust has recommended award of the contract for the project to the highest bidder and has sought Government approval and the proposal is under consideration of the Government.

#### Waiting List of Landline and Mobile Telephone Connections

395. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of waiting list for Landline/Mobile telephone connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in Maharashtra and especially in Aurangabad; and

(b) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of waiting list as on 31-03-2004 for landline and mobile connections of Maharashtra Telecom Circle and Aurangabad SSA are as below:

Name	W/L for land line Telephones	W/L for Cellular Mobile Telephones
Maharashtra Telecom. Circle	162397	Not maintained
Aurangabad	7082	Not maintained

(b) The waiting list is generally in technically non-feasible areas where the reach of BSNL telecom infrastructure is presently not available. The infrastructure reach is being extended progressively. Most of the waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 2005.

#### **Simplification of Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules**

396. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representations from the exporters for simplification of drugs and cosmetic Act and rules to facilitate export of drugs from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such representations have been examined; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No representations have been received from the exporters for simplification of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules to facilitate the export from the country. However, this Ministry has received a representation from Drugs and Pharmaceutical Panel of Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Mumbai on 08.06.2004 regarding easing of certain procedural norms followed by Port Officers for clearing export consignment of drugs etc. The office of DCG(I) has advised all the Port Officers for clearing export consignment of drugs etc. The Office of DCG(I) has advised all the Port Officers to examine the issues raised by the Panel with a view to streamline the procedural norms.

In addition, the following initiatives have already been taken to facilitate exports of drugs:

- (i) Exemption from the requirement of registration of manufacturing site has been given to importers of drugs where the drugs have been imported against advance licence.
- (ii) Exporters have been allowed to manufacture drugs which are not yet approved in the country for the purpose of export only.
- (iii) Exporters are also allowed to export drugs with "neutral labels" that is allowing them to not mention the name and address of manufacturer on the label.

*[Translation]*

#### **Connections to Wait Listed Applicants**

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

(a) the number of prepaid connections of BSNL in Jalaun district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of applicants in the waiting list seeking connections; and

(c) the time by which these applicants are likely to be given connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of pre-paid connections of BSNL in Jalaun District of Uttar Pradesh as on 30-06-2004 is 2755.

(b) and (c) The waiting list of pre-paid connections is 1770 (Orai 1259 and Jalaun 511). All efforts are being made to connect the wait listed applicants.

*[English]*

#### **Overcharging by Kendriya Bhandar**

398. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 1047 dated December 9, 2003 regarding overcharging by Kendriya Bhandar and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected and compiled;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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 PACHAURI):

(a) to (c) The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Drug Testing Laboratories**

399. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that people are forced to consume sub-standard or fake drugs due to slow working of Government drug testing laboratories;

(b) whether more than 1,000 drug samples collected by the drug control department are lying untested in the Government drug testing laboratories;

(c) whether the drug control department has reduced the monthly sample collection due to shortage of testing staff; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No specific complaint is available. However, media reports have appeared alleging that drug samples lie untested in Government Laboratories.

(b) and (c) The information in respect of monthly sample collection by all State Drug Control Departments is not maintained centrally. However, the monthly sample collection as well as the time taken to test the samples varies from State to State depending upon the available infrastructure and manpower. It has been the endeavour of Government of India to ensure that the pendency period is progressively reduced by assisting the States in building and strengthening their testing capacities.

(d) A comprehensive scheme has been undertaken by the Government of India under the World Bank Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs where one of the objectives is to increase the number of drug samples tested in the country from the present level of about 38,000 samples per year to one lakh samples per year. The second important objective of this scheme is to reduce the delays in testing and bring down reporting time to less than a month. To achieve these objectives the scheme envisages the augmentation of the infrastructural facilities in State Government laboratories and training of drug regulatory and testing manpower.

*[Translation]*

### **Construction of Information Technology Park in Delhi**

400. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the plan of constructing an information technology park in Delhi was mooted in the past;

(b) if so, the detailed outline of the above plan;

(c) whether land has been identified for this purpose;

(d) if so, the location of the land so identified; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) No such proposal has been considered by the Software Technology Parks of India. However, the Government of NCT of Delhi, has formulated a proposal to set up an IT Park over an area of 100 acres of land to provide state-of-the-art facilities for software driven I.T. and Telecommunication industry. A site for the project has been identified in village Chawala.

Government of Delhi has also supported the proposal of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for setting up an I.T. Park at Shastri Park, Delhi.

*[English]***Setting up of Atomic Power Stations**

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Atomic Power Stations in the eastern region of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made in selecting the new sites for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up nuclear power plant in West Bengal;

(d) if so, whether any site has been selected for the purpose;

(e) whether fund has been allocated for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No suitable sites have so far been identified by the Site Selection Committee of the Department in the Eastern Electricity Region. Moreover, as the region is endowed with significant coal reserves, the priority for setting up of atomic power stations is relatively lower as compared to other regions.

(c) As of now, there is no such plan.

(d) A number of sites proposed by the West Bengal State Government have been considered. So far, no suitable site has been identified.

(e) and (f) Not applicable, in view of the above.

*[Translation]***Optical Fibre Cables in Uttar Pradesh**

402. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to connect all the sub-centres of telecommunication department in Uttar Pradesh with Optical Fibre Cable;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the construction work of tower being installed to provide cellone mobile phone service in the rural areas of Bhundel Khand has been completed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the Government propose to complete the construction work of tower?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) All the sub centers (Short Distance Charging Centres) of BSNL in UP Circle are already connected on Optical Fibre Cable.

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

(d) to (f) The tower erection work for providing cellular mobile service on Highway Allahabad—Banda route is in progress which will provide incidental coverage to some of the rural areas of the Bhundelkhand area along the highway. The tower erection work at all sites on Allahabad—Banda Highway is likely to be completed during the current year except at Khuraband (Banda) and Matondh (Manda) where the work will be initiated on availability of land.

**Anaemia Due to Malnutrition**

403. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether the number of patients suffering from anaemia is increasing constantly; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The available data shows that there is a decrease in the prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women over the period of last 15 years. However, the overall prevalence of iron deficiency anaemia still continues to be high. Some of the major reasons for wide spread anaemia among

vulnerable groups of population such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and preschool children are inadequate intake of dietary iron, inadequate absorption of iron from cereal based diets, frequent pregnancies with shorter intervals, high prevalence of infections and infestations and faulty feeding practices.

The Government of India is implementing the National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme under which iron and folic acid tablets are being distributed through Sub-centres and Primary Health Centres to targeted population viz. pregnant women, lactating women, family planning acceptors and children (1-5 yrs old). Under this programme, every pregnant women is given 100 tablets of iron/folic acid (large) for prevention of anaemia. Pregnant women who are anaemic are given an additional 100 tablets. Anaemic children are provided with 100 tablets of iron/folic acid (small). Several steps have been taken to improve nutritional status of women and children. These include the Integrated Child Development Scheme which provides supplementary nutrition to young children and pregnant and lactating mothers. Promotion of exclusive breast-feeding up to six months of age and appropriate feeding-practices is being undertaken.

#### **Shortage of Medicines in CGHS**

404. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties and inconveniences being faced by the CGHS beneficiaries due to shortage of medicines in the CGHS dispensaries; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of medicines in the CGHS dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Adequate quantity of medicines are available in CGHS dispensaries and there is no shortage. However, any drug prescribed by the Specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiaries from the authorised local chemist on the basis of individual prescriptions. In case of emergency, authority slip is issued to the beneficiaries for immediate procurement directly from the authorised local chemist without any payment, so that the beneficiaries are not inconvenienced.

Indents have already been placed for procurement of medicines from HSCC and MSO on the basis of requirement given by the CGHS dispensaries to ensure adequate supply of medicines.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Construction of Transshipment Terminal**

405. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for the construction of a new Transshipment Terminal at Vizhinjam, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had appointed any Committee to study the feasibility of the project; and

(d) if so, the finding of Committee thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala requested for inclusion of the project for a deep water container transshipment terminal at Vizhinjam under the 'Sagar Mala' Programme which was announced by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 2003. However, overall responsibility and control of ports other than major ports, including their construction and development, vests with the respective State Governments under Indian Ports Act, 1908. Construction of a new transshipment terminal at Vizhinjam, Kerala is, therefore, within the powers of the Government of Kerala.

(c) and (d) Government of India has not appointed any Committee for the purpose.

#### **Vallarpadam International Container Terminal**

406. SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:  
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in setting up of the International Container Transshipment Hub at Vallarpadam in Kochi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the speedy implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The feasibility of an International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) Project was established in 1990 and three attempts were made earlier through tendering for selection of the operator in 1992, 1999 and 2002. These were not successful mainly on account of the following reasons:

- (1) Lack of encouraging response in 1992.
- (2) Only single bid was received in 1999.
- (3) Non-submission of price bid by the pre-qualified bidders in 2002.

Fresh Global bidding commenced on 1st January, 2004 after redesigning the project to make it more investor friendly while keeping interest of Port Trust protected. After pre-qualification of bidders, Request for Proposal (RFP) document was finalised through various interactive meetings with bidders and final document was issued for submission of price bid by 25th March, 2004. The bid document provides that the bidder shall not be obliged to commence construction work at ICTT, *inter-alia*, until the traffic at Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT) reaches a level of 4,00,000 Twenty Equivalent Units (TEUs). Three offers were received on the due date, one of which was without bid security. The offer of the highest bidder offering 33.3% revenue share has been recommended by the Board of Trustees of the Board and the proposal was submitted to the Government of 20th May, 2004 and the said proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

#### Toll Tax

407. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to withdraw toll tax on National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of toll tax collected during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the likely revenue loss to the Government after the withdrawal of toll tax?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of the toll tax collected during the last three years are as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	Amount (Rs. Crore)
1.	2001-2002	131.21
2.	2002-2003	331.61
3.	2003-2004	443.33

(d) Does not arise.

#### Funds of Telecom Service in Himachal Pradesh

408. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for providing telecom services in Himachal Pradesh during each of the last three years and current financial year;

(b) whether the telecom circles have achieved the target fixed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Funds allocated for providing telecom services in Himachal Pradesh during each of the last three years and current financial year are as given below:

Year	Amount (In Crores)
2001-02	319.06
2002-03	236.76
2003-04	207.51
2004-05	29.45 (Upto July 2004 proportionately)

(b) The achievement of Himachal Pradesh telecom circle against the target fixed is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The details of the expenditure incurred during the period are given below:

Year	Amount (In Crores)
2001-02	344.12
2002-03	260.64
2003-04	158.88*
2004-05	23.49 (upto May, 2004)

\*Provisional, subject to finalisation of accounts of 2003-04.

#### **Statement**

Sl.No.	Parameters	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target
1.	DELs	87600	93507	74000	*55495	75000	*53525	152200
2.	Tax (KC)	2	0.5	4	0	21.5	26.5	6
3.	OFC (Rkms.)	1844	1463	1200	1117	1180	247	650
4.	M/w (Rkms.)	200	245	100	79	0	64.74	—

\*Gross achievement of DELs during 2002-03 & 2003-04 was 61345 & 91831 respectively. However, the indicated net achievement of DELs during 2002-03 and 2003-04 is less due to large scale disconnections of wired line telephones.

#### **Setting up of Primary Health Centres**

409. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up some new Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of PHCs set up, State-wise during the last three years and the number of PHCs proposed to be set up during the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission in consultation with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare sets up target for establishment of new Primary Health Centres (PHCs). The targets are fixed to fill up the gap between the number of Primary Health Centres in position and the number required to cover the 1991 population as per the existing norms for population coverage. Accordingly, the target of 1714 new Primary Health Centres has been set up for the 10th Plan period in the country.

(b) A statement showing the State-wise PHCs set up during the last three years is enclosed. 405 Primary Health Centres are proposed to be established during 2004-05.

#### **Statement**

##### *Number of PHCs established during 2001-2004*

Sl.No.	State/UT	2001-02	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	31	4	6
8.	Haryana	2	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1	1
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	38
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	0	0	1
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
Total		33	5	46

**Billing Problems of Mobile Phone of BSNL**

410. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the billing problems of subscribers of Mobile Phone (Cellone) of BSNL in Bihar;

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

(c) the action taken to improve the BSNL Mobile facility in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The number of billing complaints in Bihar for BSNL Mobile services (Cellone) are less than one in one thousand and is within the limit prescribed by TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India).

(c) BSNL is in the process of expanding the capacity of network by additional 79000 lines from the existing 148050 lines capacity. The network is further proposed to be expanded by 4.5 lakh lines for which procurement action has been initiated.

**Highway Projects**

411. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Government has executed highway upgradation projects;

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

(c) the funds allocated for these projects and the details of the highways upgraded after the implementation of said projects;

(d) the agencies selected for execution of these projects; and

(e) the time by when these projects will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is responsible for maintenance and development of National Highways. Details of upgradation works carried out on National Highways during the first two financial years of the Tenth Five Year Plan, and expenditure incurred, are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) During the first two financial years of the Tenth Five Year Plan, an allocation of Rs. 10639.60 crore was made for various types of upgradation works in National Highways. Upgradation works have been carried out in all the National Highways except the newly declared National Highways (declared as National Highways in February, 2004).

(d) The agencies for execution of works are essentially National Highways Authority of India, Union Territories/State Governments and Border Roads Organization.

(e) Sanction and execution of works for upgradation of National Highways is a continuous process, and, therefore, no time frame for completion of upgradation can be furnished.

**Statement**

*The details of achievement of various types of upgradation works on National Highways and the total expenditure (provisional) incurred for these works during the first two years of 10th Five Year Plan*

Sl.No.	Type of Improvement Work	During the first two years, i.e. 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 of 10th Five Year Plan (2002-2007)	
		Physical Achievement	Expenditure (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
1.	Improvement of low grade section	89 km	
2.	Widening to four lanes	1216 km	

1	2	3	4
3.	Widening to two lanes	1382 km	
4.	Strengthening existing weak pavement	2597 km	10606.84 Crore
5.	Improvement of Riding Quality	6585 km	(This does not include internal and extra budgetary resources)
6.	Construction of Bypasses	18 Nos.	
7.	Construction/Rehabilitation of Bridges including Railway Over Bridges and Railway Under Bridges	266 Nos.	

**Additional Funds for New Schemes***[Translation]*

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

(a) whether Planning Commission has received requests from various Ministries/Departments for granting additional funds for launching and expansion of new schemes during 2004-05;

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

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) As per the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961 amended from time to time, one of the basic functions of Planning Commission is to formulate the Plan for effective utilization of country's resources and make allocation of funds to Central Ministries/Department on the basis of Plan proposals received from them keeping in view the priorities determined by the Government and the availability of Gross Budgetary Support for the Plan to be provided by Ministry of Finance. As a regular exercise, Planning Commission received the Plan proposals from Central Ministries/Departments for the Annual Plan 2004-05 and, given the size of Gross Budgetary Support made available for the Plan, budgetary support of Rs. 81,367 crore was allocated to the Central Ministries/Departments for various Plan Schemes during the year 2004-05. The Ministry-wise and Scheme-wise break up of the budgetary support of Rs. 81,367 crore to Central Plan is given in Expenditure Budget 2004-05 (Volume-2) of the Interim Budget presented in Parliament on February 3, 2004.

**Funds for Family Welfare Programme in Five Year Plan**

413. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for Family Welfare Programme during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the State-wise details of amount spent during this period;

(c) whether additional funds have been allocated in the Tenth Five Year Plan for Family Welfare Programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Rs. 15,120 crores were allocated for Family Welfare Programme during Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) The State-wise releases made during Ninth Plan period are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The allocation in the Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs. 26,126 crores as against Rs. 15,120 crores in the Ninth Plan period. The Scheme-wise details are given in enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement I****Total State-wise releases on all schemes during Ninth Plan (1997-2002)**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13317.58	14618.72	21369.05	26493.72	26231.10	102030.17
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	452.04	554.76	488.97	571.57	746.83	2814.17
3.	Assam	5790.49	6737.43	11742.50	11119.43	14333.54	49723.39
4.	Bihar	13920.06	13646.39	34731.40	21803.56	16449.85	100551.26
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	314.10	6323.78	6637.88
6.	Goa	254.36	274.64	373.07	413.28	398.69	1714.04
7.	Gujarat	10375.67	12830.76	18104.52	11854.75	19532.60	72698.30
8.	Haryana	4505.49	4194.52	5291.65	6975.64	5549.09	26516.39
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1647.34	2948.69	2814.61	3680.49	3113.19	14204.52
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3773.68	2182.98	2618.98	3028.00	3287.08	14889.92
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	37.00	7930.65	7967.65
12.	Karnataka	11399.42	10022.15	19582.88	16244.83	18747.65	75996.73
13.	Kerala	4374.00	6279.04	7582.68	8225.84	24607.20	51068.56
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11092.90	14523.84	18588.79	20089.71	16038.18	80333.42
15.	Maharashtra	11712.80	15417.67	17090.81	19252.50	28687.20	92160.98
16.	Manipur	750.50	821.75	1548.81	1525.89	2556.62	7203.57
17.	Meghalaya	555.69	573.34	867.26	853.24	1438.82	4288.35
18.	Mizoram	374.50	774.99	998.98	1256.28	1696.95	5101.70
19.	Nagaland	390.74	418.79	646.37	699.08	1053.79	3208.77
20.	Orissa	6847.30	7284.20	9654.07	10189.44	12768.81	46743.82
21.	Punjab	3939.71	3871.28	4820.02	5122.51	5463.04	23016.56
22.	Rajasthan	11333.06	11627.30	16982.83	22907.28	22929.92	87780.39
23.	Sikkim	346.54	440.71	537.66	744.44	985.94	3055.29
24.	Tamil Nadu	13297.41	12061.32	24227.02	23304.86	18567.41	89478.02
25.	Tripura	656.77	2239.31	1257.37	2060.97	2238.87	8453.29
26.	Uttar Pradesh	30524.27	58964.25	47606.08	44135.38	44013.78	225243.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	208.59	4432.13	4640.72
28.	West Bengal	11424.85	14700.18	13385.06	16032.47	22927.78	78470.34
Total-All States		173057.17	218028.41	284711.44	279144.45	331050.49	1285991.96
<i>UTs with Legislature</i>							
1.	Delhi	2711.90	1668.39	2907.38	4135.27	3426.90	14849.84
2.	Pondicherry	260.90	241.57	240.85	499.03	529.51	1771.86
<i>UTs without Legislature</i>							
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	152.34	165.18	222.48	263.77	402.96	1206.73
2.	Chandigarh	154.28	200.50	272.04	362.14	282.74	1271.70
3.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	65.94	93.53	108.84	85.16	96.77	452.24
4.	Daman and Diu	97.87	76.82	108.40	92.69	115.04	490.82
5.	Lakshadweep	43.78	66.85	69.00	72.34	76.05	328.02
Total (UTs)		3487.01	2512.84	3928.99	5510.40	4931.97	20371.21
Grand Total		176544.18	220541.25	288640.43	284654.85	335982.46	1306363.17

Figures are provisional.

**Statement II**

*Revised Scheme-wise allocation for Tenth Plan*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Revised Tenth Plan Allocation
1	2	3
1.	Sub-Centres	9663.00
2.	Urban FW Services	580.00
3.	Direction & Administration	1100.00
4.	Logistics Improvement	50.00
5.	Contractual Services/Consultancies	397.64
6.	Area Projects (IPP Projects)	350.00
7.	Social Marketing Area Projects	20.00
8.	USAID Assisted Area Project	400.00
9.	EC Assisted SIP Project	1000.00

1	2	3
10.	Maintenance of vehicles already available	303.00
11.	Supply of Mopeds to ANMs	10.00
12.	Basic Training for ANMLHVs	350.00
13.	Maintenance & Strengthening of HFWTCs	70.00
14.	Basic Training for MPWs Worker (Male)	50.00
15.	Strengthening of Basic Training Schools	10.00
16.	F.W. Training and Res. Centre, Bombay	10.00
17.	NIHFW, New Delhi	20.00
18.	IIPS, Mumbai	10.00
19.	Assistance to I.M.A.	1.00
20.	Population Research Centres	45.00
21.	CDRI, Lucknow	12.00
22.	ICMR and IRR	100.00
23.	Other Research Projects	2.50
24.	Free distribution of contraceptives	850.00
25.	Social marketing of contraceptives	660.00
26.	Sterilization	1002.00
27.	Testing Facilities	2.50
28.	Role of Men in Planned Parenthood	18.00
29.	Immunisation	1410.00
30.	Routine Immunisation Strengthening	17.86
31.	Pulse Polio	3110.00
32.	Child Health	20.00
33.	Adolescent Health	50.00
34.	Maternal Health	1300.00
35.	MTP Services	4.00
36.	RTI/STI prevention and management	35.00
37.	Other RCH Interventions and services	461.00
38.	NGOs and SCOVA	130.00
39.	Training	250.00
40.	Tribal Projects (Included under SIP)	—

1	2	3
41.	Urban Slums Projects	350.00
42.	District Projects	51.00
43.	Other Projects under RCH	25.00
44.	Maternity Benefit Scheme	500.00
45.	Information, Education and Communication	489.50
46.	Travel of Experts/Conferences/Meetings etc.	7.00
47.	International Cooperation/Contribution	9.00
48.	Empowered Action Group	250.00
49.	Community Incentive Scheme	200.00
50.	FW Link Health Insurance Plan	150.00
51.	Policy Advocacy/Seminars	50.00
52.	National Population Stabilisation Fund*	100.00
53.	Other Initiatives	25.00
54.	Rural Health Training Centre, Najafgarh	45.00
Grand Total		26126.00

*[English]*

#### Empanelment of Government Hospitals

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

(a) the names of Government hospitals empanelled by the Government to provide financial assistance to poor patients, State-wise;

(b) whether any private nursing homes/hospitals have been empanelled in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are operating two schemes namely, Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant under which financial assistance is extended for treatment at a Super-Speciality or any other hospital in the Government Sector. While no panel of hospitals

eligible for sanction of grant for treatment of poor patients is being maintained, to expedite relief to the poor patient, under-mentioned Government hospitals have been provided with lump-sum advances under RAN and Medical Superintendents of these Hospitals have been authorized to extend financial assistance upto Rs. 50,000/-to indigent patient belonging to BPL (below poverty line) category requiring such assistance.

**Delhi:**

1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (AIIMS)
2. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi ((RMLH)
3. Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi
4. Lady Hardinge Medical College & S.K. Hospital, New Delhi (LHMC)

**Pondicherry:** Jawahar Lal Nehru Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education & Research, Pondicherry (JIPMER)

**Chandigarh:** Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER)

**Uttar Pradesh:**

- i. Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow (SGPGIMS)
- ii. King George Medical College, Lucknow (K GMC).

**Jharkhand:** Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi (C.I.P.)

**West Bengal:** Chittranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkatta (CNCI)

**Karnataka:** National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore (NIMHANS).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### Financial Package of Chhattisgarh

415. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chhattisgarh Government have sought any financial package for the developmental works in the State;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Chhattisgarh sought a special economic package involving Rs. 1435 crore which would

be similar to the one granted to Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal for industrial development and also for socio economic development of the areas which are severely affected by left wing extremism.

(b) and (c) As regards industrial development, it has not been found feasible by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry to extend special incentives to Chhattisgarh as at present such special incentive packages are being considered for special category of States and for areas which are least industrially developed, remote and inaccessible.

Regarding socio-economic development of the extremist affected districts, the Backward Districts Initiatives under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) have been formulated for dealing with the specific problems of the backward districts of the country, some of which have also been affected by left wing extremism. Under the scheme, Rs. 45 crore have been released to the Chhattisgarh State during 2003-04.

#### Optical Fibre Cables in Uttaranchal

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

(a) the places in Uttaranchal where optical fibre cable line has already been sanctioned till date, the place-wise length of the line alongwith the length of optical fibre cable line in kilometres proposed to be sanctioned, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which the said facility is likely to be made available to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Details of the new proposed Optical Fibre Cable systems are given in enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

##### *New Proposed Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity in Uttaranchal*

Sl.No.	Name of the District	Place	Proposed Optical Fibre Cable route length in Kms.	Likely Optical Fibre media commissioning date
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Almora	Kessan Band	6.5	Feb. 2005
		Gauri Ghat	2	Feb. 2005

1	2	3	4	5
		Dhaulchinna	16	Feb. 2005
		Bagwalipokhar	5	March 2005
		Karbala	6	March 2005
		Total	35.5	
2.	Pithoragarh	Majirkhand	2	March 2005
		Thal, Nachni	2	March 2005
		Khakar, Palrichinna	9	March 2005
		GIC (Pithoragarh)	2	March 2005
		Total	15	
3.	Champawat	Girgaon	2	March 2005
		Total	2	
4.	Dehradun	Patel Nagar, Raipur, Miyanwala IIP	25	Oct. 2004
		New By Pass, Clementown		
		Clementown Transport Exchange	3	March 2005
		Rishikesh	3.5	March 2005
		Harbatpur, Sabhawala	20	January 2005
		Chakrata, Nagthat	33	Feb. 2005
		Total	84.5	
5.	Hardwar	Ganeshpur	2	Oct. 2004
		Shivaliknagar	4	Oct. 2004
		Dhanauri	2	March 2004
		DTO Roorkee	3	March 2005
		Laksar, Aithal	12	Nov. 2004
		Bhimgoda, Shyamlok	3	Dec. 2004
		G. Narsain, Mangalore	10	March 2005
		Landhura	8	March 2005
		Total	44	
6.	Nainital	Nainital Army	5	January 2005
		Atrampur	10	Feb. 2005
		Total	15	

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Uttarkashi	Kharadi, Rajgarhi	12	Dec. 2004
		Total	12	
8.	New Tehri	Kunjapuri	8.	Dec. 2004
		Chirbatiyakhal	12	Dec. 2004
		Koteshwar	14	Dec. 2004
		Vinaykhal	2	Nov. 2004
		Gaza, Pokhari, Chaka, Devprayag	54	Dec. 2004
		Total	90	
9.	Puri	Rithakhal, Sanglakoti, Pokhra	51	Feb. 2005
		Total	51	
10.	Chamoli	Ghimtoli Chandranagar, Nagnath	49	Feb. 2005
		Pokhri		
		Total	49	
		Grand Total	398	

*[English]***Killing of Pakistani Fishermen in Indian Waters**

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the incident of killings of Pakistani fishermen by Indian Naval vessels in North Gujarat waters;

(b) if so, the facts regarding the said matters; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMED): (a) to (c) According to available information, a suspicious boat was encountered in Indian waters on 17th May, 2004. In spite of repeated warnings and firings of flares, the boat failed to stop and it was finally apprehended after warning shots. One of the crew members died of the warning shots and two others were injured. They were given first aid assistance but subsequently succumbed to injuries. The Indian authorities facilitated immediate repatriation of the dead bodies of the three Pakistani fishermen.

**Health Melas**

418. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Union Government to organize 'Health Melas' in every State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of 'Health Melas' so far been organized in the country; and

(d) the total amount spent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Health Melas have been organized since 2000-01 to provide quality health care and family welfare along with awareness on entire range of health care issues. The health melas are organized at the request of State Governments. It is an approved scheme in the annual plan 2004-05 with the budgetary provision of Rs. 2,70,00,000/-.

(c) and (d) The number of Health melas and total amount spent on them is given in the following table:

Year	No. of health melas	Amount in lakh Rs.
2000-01	6	23.42
2001-02	15	172.00
2002-03	19	192.00
2003-04	527*	4215.97
2004-05	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>4603.39</b>

\*515 Health Melas were held in each Parliamentary constituency during the 'Swasthya Jagrukta Maah' observed between 15th January, 2004 to 15th February, 2004.

#### Functioning of CGHS Dispensaries

419. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a surprise visit has been undertaken recently in the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi by him;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether there are various deficiencies in functioning of CGHS dispensaries in various parts of Delhi; and

(d) if so, steps taken to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare visited the Vardhman Mahavir Medical College & Safdarjung Hospital on 18.6.2004 and took round of the New OPD Block, Casualty, Kitchen, Medical Stores, Rehabilitation Department, Orthopaedics Department and Under-graduate Teaching Blocks and directed Hospital Authorities to take appropriate action for maintenance of the punctuality, cleanliness drive, strengthening of kitchen, reduction of waiting period of the patients and disposal of condemned items.

(c) and (d) There is an in built mechanism in CGHS to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspections, supervisions and guidance by the Senior Offices of CGHS. Eight Special Inspection Teams have also been constituted to monitor the functioning of CGHS dispensaries in Delhi.

*[Translation]*

#### Review of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

420. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:  
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:  
SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

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

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to keep a check on deadly diseases like Malaria, Tuberculosis, blindness and AIDS in the various States;

(b) if so, the outcome of this review, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The implementation of National Anti Malaria Programme, Revised National TB Control Programme and National Programme for/control of Blindness is being reviewed regularly. However, in the case of National AIDS Control Programme, which is 100% centrally sponsored scheme in the country, while the various components of the programme are being evaluated by the external agencies from time to time a national review of the entire programme has not been conducted so far.

(b) The performance of the Revised National TB Control programme has been satisfactory. The State-wise review of National Anti Malaria programme indicates that largest number of malaria cases in the country in 2003 were reported by Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Assam amongst NE States. The outcome of review of National Programme for Control of Blindness is given in enclosed Statement.

(c) The Revised National TB Control Programme is to be expanded to cover the entire population of the country. Regarding malaria, a nation wide malaria control programme for early diagnosis, integrated vector control, information education communication and capacity building is being implemented by the Government. Under National Programme for Control of Blindness, free cataract surgery in Govt./NGO Institutions; Detection & connection of

refractive errors in school going children; support to Eye Banks and promotion of Eye Donation; Grant-in-aid to NGOs, District/State Blindness Control society; Infrastructure development of Govt. & Non-Govt. sector; training of Eye Care personnel and public awareness for promotion and control of diseases is being carried out as remedial measures.

**Statement**

*Comparison of Prevalence of Blindness*

*National Surveys on Blindness*

*1986-89 & 2001-02*

Parameter	National Survey 1986-89	National Survey 2001-02	Difference +/-in%
1	2	3	4
Estd. Prevalence of Blindness (Visual Acuity <6/60)	1.49	1.1	-26.2
Estd. Prevalence of Blindness (Visual Acuity <6/60) after best correction	NA	0.56	—
<b>State-wise Prevalence Rates</b>			
Andhra Pradesh	1.50	1.42	-5.3
Madhya Pradesh	2.01	1.16	-42.3
Chhattisgarh	2.01	1.61	-19.9
Maharashtra	1.64	0.95	-42.1
Orissa	1.72	1.40	-18.6
Rajasthan	2.24	1.55	-30.8
Tamil Nadu	1.65	0.78	-52.7
Uttar Pradesh	1.58	0.94	-40.5
Bihar	1.28	0.78	-39.0
Gujarat	1.44	1.07	-25.7
Himachal Pradesh	0.87	0.70	-19.5
West Bengal	0.96	1.19	+23.9
Kerala	1.31	0.56	-57.2
Karnataka	1.28	1.78	+39.1
Punjab	0.73	1.01	+38.3

1	2	3	4
<b>Factors affecting Prevalence</b>			
Male	1.42	0.91	-35.9
Female	1.60	1.29	-19.4
Rural	1.63	1.14	-30.1
Urban	1.01	0.84	-16.8
Illiterates	NA	1.36	Strong
Primary	NA	0.62	relation-ship
Middle	NA	0.30	—
High School and above	NA	0.25	-67.7
Farmers	2.26	0.73	-38.6
Labour	1.27	0.78	-57.3
Housework	2.13	0.91	-73.4
Service/Business	1.09	0.29	-84.0
Retires/Too Old	15.58	2.49	

*Comparison of Causes of Blindness  
National Surveys on Blindness  
1986-89 & 2001-02*

Causes of Bilateral Blindness (%)	Survey 1986-89 (All ages)	Survey 2001-02 (50+)	Difference +/- in %
Cataract	80.1	62.6	-17.5
Uncorrected Refractive Errors	12.0	19.7	+7.7
Corneal Opacity	1.5	0.9	-0.6
Glaucoma	1.7	5.8	+4.1
Posterior Segment Disorders		4.7	
Surgical Complications	4.7	1.2	+6.2
Posterior Capsular Opacification		0.9	
Others		4.1	

**Employment on Compassionate Ground**

421. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that employment is not being provided to the dependents of those employees who passed away during service in various Ministries;

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

(c) the time by which such cases are likely to be cleared in various departments under the Union Government?

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 PACHAURI): (a) and (b) In terms of the Scheme formulated by the Government for compassionate appointments, each Ministry/Department/Office can allow appointment on compassionate grounds to dependent family members of those employees, who die while in service, where the family is indigent and deserves immediate assistance for relief from financial destitution. Such appointments can, however, be made up to a maximum of 5% of the vacancies falling under the direct recruitment quota in any Group 'C' or 'D' post on regular basis.

(c) The existing instructions provide that where it is not possible to offer compassionate appointment in a deserving case in the first year due to non-availability of the regular vacancies within the 5% limit, such case is to be reviewed every year and if found deserving can be considered for appointment upto three years. Administrative Ministries/Departments/offices have been delegated full powers to make compassionate appointments in terms of the guidelines formulated by this Ministry.

[English]

**Spurious and Banned Drugs In Circulation**

422. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:  
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

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

(a) the total number of cases of sale of spurious, outdated and banned drugs brought to the notice of the Government during the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Plan period;

(b) whether the number of such cases in on the increase especially in Metros during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken/proposed to be taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the feedback available from State Drugs Controllers, 36947, 38824 & 36314 drug samples were tested during the period 2000-2001, 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 out of which 112, 96 and 125 samples respectively were found spurious which is 0.3, 0.25 and 0.34% of the samples reported spurious for the last three years. Thus, it does not appear that there is increase in the number of such cases of spurious drugs during the said period. So far as cases of sale of outdated/banned drugs is concerned, no case of sale of such drugs was reported during the said period.

(d) Under the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetic Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder, the responsibility of regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring their quality is vested with the State Govts. The State Govts. are advised from time to time to gear up their enforcement machinery to detect and unearth spurious/fake drugs moving in the inter-state commerce as well as to provide and strengthen their regulatory infrastructure; to establish their own State level testing labs. To ensure speedy analysis of drug samples for which they are provided assistance to strengthen and augment infrastructure facilities in the State Labs. The State Govts. have also been advised to keep strict surveillance over the suspected dealers; collect of survey samples under NSQD programme; constitute/reactivate State drug advisory committees in which various trade and industry association as well as consumer associations can file representations; establishment separate intelligence-cum-legal cell; develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures; engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases etc.

Since manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is mainly a clandestine activity indulged in by anti-social persons, steps are taken from time to time by enforcement

authorities of the States to detect and unearth spurious drugs in the inter-state commerce. Govt. of India has taken the following initiatives to tackle the problem of spurious drugs:

- (i) Detailed guidelines in respect of strategies required to be adopted for efficient surveillance over the movement of spurious drugs were also communicated to the State Government, in November 17, 1999 to ensure focused surveillance over manufacture and sale of spurious drugs.
- (ii) Issues concerning alleged sale of spurious drugs was taken up by Union Health Minister with State Health Ministers in the 7th Conference of Central Council of Health (CCH) & FW held on 12-13 July, 2001. CCH resolved that in order to address issues relating to the increasing reports of spurious drugs/counterfeit drugs, special attention requires to be given to monitor and unearth such illegal activities by constituting a separate intelligence-cum-legal cell in the respective drug control organizations and in seeking cooperation of the pharma industry, trade as well as the police.
- (iii) Department of Health, Government of India constituted a broad based Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services (DGHS) in July, 2001 to examine issues concerning the problem of spurious drugs. The observations and recommendations of this Committee have been circulated on Sept. 16, 2002 to all State Drugs Controllers for their information and necessary action in the matter.
- (iv) Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare had specifically written to all Chief Ministers on Oct. 8, 2002 on the issue of spurious drugs, seeking their personal intervention to ensure that adequate measures are taken in each State to vigorously pursue the strategies needed to preclude any possibility or menace of spurious products so as to collectively ensure its total eradication.
- (v) A meeting of Health Ministers and Senior Officials of 13 major States of the country was convened by Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare on 12.11.2002 to ensure concerted action to check any possible movement of spurious drugs in the country and to involve all stake holders to fight this menace. Suggestions/

views which emerged out of discussion were forwarded on Jan. 8, 2003 to all the State Govts. for their information and necessary action. One of the outcome of the said discussion, was enactment of "The Gujarat Prevention of Anti-social Activities Act, 1985 (PASA)" by the State Govts. for deterrent action against offenders.

- (vi) In order to increase the number of drug samples tested in the country and to bring down the reporting time to less than a month as against 3 to 6 months presently being taken by many laboratories, a comprehensive plan has been undertaken by Central Govt. under a capacity building project through World Bank assistance.
- (vii) In order to ensure speedy information exchange and networking of all States and Central Drugs Control Offices and Laboratories, computerization project has been undertaken by Central Govt.
- (viii) A specialized training programme for drugs control officers of all State Govts. responsible for keeping surveillance over possible movement of spurious drugs has been formulated and was conducted from 24-27 June, 2003 by Central Govt. in cooperation with FDA, Maharashtra at Mumbai. 26 drugs control officers from different States has attended the training programme at FDA, Mumbai on investigational skills.
- (ix) The Govt. of India has set up an expert committee on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR and Secretary to Govt. of India to look into the various issues related to Drugs Control Administration as well as to estimate the extent of the problem of spurious drugs and recommend measures to deal with this problem effectively. On the basis of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee, a Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2003 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2003 for making the penal provisions in the Act in order to make them more stringent.

#### **Ban on Recruitment**

423. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exists a ban on recruitments in Government sector;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to lift the ban on recruitments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI):

(a) No, Sir.

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

#### **Ban on Quacks**

424. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that quacks are giving tranquillizer injections of un-prescribed dosages for nominal charges which can damage the brain and nervous system of a person;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any investigation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The issue of so called "quacks" practicing medicine has been addressed under provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. As per sub-section (2) of the Section 15 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, no person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on a State Medical Register shall practice medicine in any State and any person contravening with this provision shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to Rs. 1000/- or with both. The Regulations of MCI also prohibit practice of Allopathic System of medicine by any person other than those who are enrolled on any State Medical Register or the Indian Medical Register. The responsibility of enforcement of the MCI Act, 1956 is that of various State Governments.

*[Translation]*

#### **Atrocities on Minorities in Bangladesh**

425. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any information regarding atrocities being committed on minorities particularly Hindus in Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether any talks have been held with the Bangladesh Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the said talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Reports of violence and atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh are received from time to time. The primary responsibility for the protection of the life, liberty and property of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh. However, it has been conveyed at the highest levels of the Government that such incidents have an adverse impact on public sentiment in India, which in turn have the potential of affecting bilateral ties, and should be strictly dealt with. The Government of Bangladesh have stated that they are committed to safeguarding minority rights; that many of the incidents are not communal in nature and arise from disputes of a political or private nature and that stern action would be taken against the culprits. The High Commission of India in Dhaka continues to monitor the situation closely and is in touch with the Government of Bangladesh in this regard.

*[English]*

#### **Policy on Broadband/Internet Penetration**

426. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to push broadband and internet penetration with focus to provide faster connectivity at lower prices suggested by TRAI;

(b) if so, whether any concrete policy in this regard has been worked out by the Government; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the new policy is likely to attract new investment, create job opportunities and provide access to new and improved services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has submitted recommendations on accelerating growth of Internet and Broadband penetration to the Government. It is premature to evaluate its likely impact on new investment, job opportunities and quality of service.

*[Translation]*

#### **Non-NATO Status to Pakistan**

427. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA has recently accorded non NATO ally status to Pakistan;

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

(c) the likely effect on Indo-U.S. ties due to the conferment of this status to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes. The U.S. President designated Pakistan as a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States on 16th June 2004. Earlier, on 18th March 2004, the U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell had announced the intention of the U.S. Government to designate Pakistan as a Major Non-NATO Ally.

(b) and (c) The Government has expressed its disappointment at the announcement which has significant implications for Indo-US relations. It remains in active contact with the United States.

*[English]*

#### **Draft Anti-Smoking Treaty**

428. SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Assembly had adopted a draft Anti-Smoking Treaty with the support of 170 nations;

(b) if so, whether India has subscribed and signed the treaty;

(c) whether the U.S., Germany and China have objected to the treaty;

(d) if so, the reasons for their objection; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The 56th World Health Assembly held in May 2003 unanimously adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). India signed the FCTC on 10th September 2003 and later on ratified the same on 5th February 2004. USA, Germany and China have since signed the FCTC.

#### **Sinking of Ships**

429. SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vessels sunk during the last three years in Mormugao Port;

(b) whether due to this there has been an anchoring, loading/unloading and navigation problems for other ships coming to Mormugao Port area;

(c) if so, whether the Government has received any proposal from Mormugao Port Trust in this connection;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government on the said proposal; and

(e) the time by which such sunken ships are likely to be removed from Mormugao Port?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Two Barges had sunk during the last three years in Mormugao Port. Barge Kosti sank on March 03, 2001 near Buffalo rock and Barge Nautilus sank on April 02, 2001 near Ameer Shoals.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) Barge Kosti was removed on April 17, 2002 and Barge Nautilus was removed on December 05, 2002.

### Criteria for Opening of Post Offices

430. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for opening of Post offices/ Sub-Post offices in the country;

(b) whether the number of Post offices/Sub-Post offices in Assam is far below the actual requirement;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to open more post offices in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Criteria for opening post offices/sub-post offices is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) No. The existing number of post offices in Assam, compares well with the All India figures in terms of area and population served per post office, as given below:

Area	Areas covered per post office	Population served per post office
Assam	19.57 sq. km	6644
India	21.09 sq. km	6602

(c) and (d) Post offices are opened on need based requirement, subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms laid down by the Department and availability of resources. Government continues to give emphasis to improve postal facilities in the N.E. region, including Assam, taking into consideration the special norms for hilly, tribal and remote areas.

### Statement

#### *Norms for Opening of Post Offices*

### 1. Norms for opening of new Branch Post Office

#### 1.1 Population

(a) In normal areas:

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) In the hilly, tribal desert and inaccessible areas: 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

#### 1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas:

the minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

#### 1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% of cost.

(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

### 2. Norms of Opening New Departmental Sub Post Offices:

#### 2.1 In Rural areas:

The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day. The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400/- in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

#### 2.2 In Urban Areas:

2.2.1 In urban areas, the Post office should be initially self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

2.2.2 The distance between two post offices should not be less than 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. If it is a Delivery Post office, the distance from the nearest Delivery Post office should not be less than 5 Kms. Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

- 2.2.3 A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

#### Development of SSI Units

431. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has drawn up any guidelines for the development of SSI units in the country particularly in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the closed SSI units in Jharkhand are likely to be reopened;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The development of Small Sale Industries is primarily the concern of respective State Governments/Union Territories. The Central Govt. supports and supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories through implementation of various schemes and programmes relating to enhanced fiscal and credit support/better infrastructure, marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation. These schemes/programmes are being implemented across the country including Jharkhand.

(c) to (e) The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various steps to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries including institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter-Institutional Committees, Special Rehabilitation Cells in banks and State Financial Institutions. Elaborate guidelines have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick SSI units, which include, inter alia, change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability, concessional finance, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks for implementation. The revised criteria will facilitate the banks

to detect sickness at an early stage and take corrective action for revival of the potentially viable sick SSI units.

Further, the Government of Jharkhand has constituted an apex body under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Industries) for revival of closed and sick SSI units in the State.

#### Modernisation of Telegraph Services

432. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps for the modernisation of telegraph services in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) the total budgetary allocation made for this purpose during the last three years; and

(d) the time by which modernisation of telegraph services is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) District-wise details of modernization of telegraph services in Andhra Pradesh are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) No budgetary allocation has been made during the last three years as modernisation of telegraph services had already been completed as per plan.

#### Statement

*Details of SFMSS systems/EKBC/EKB/FTC/FT/and other modern equipments provided:*

- A: (1) 128L SFMSS system at CTO Secunderabad is having 115 ports connected to various places in the State for disposal of telegrams and EMT's including interstate SFT Network with Chennai (Tamilnadu), Trivendrum (Kerala), Cuttack (Orissa), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Mumbai, Pune (Maharashtra), Kolkatta (West Bengal) and Delhi States and 8 number of inter-districts Head-quarters.
- (2) 64L SFMS system and one 16L FTC at CTO Vijayawada are having 76 ports covering the

network of stations falling in Krishna distt and EMT stations of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, east Godavari, west Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore and Chittoor, Districts including interstate SFT Network with Bangalore and Nagpur.

- (3) One 32L system Two No's 16L Sita FTC's 2Nos of 16L Phonogram Concentrators are working in CTO Hyderabad covering the entire network of stations falling in Telangana Region.
- (4) One 32L system and one 16L concentrator is working in CTO Visakhapatnam covering the network of the station falling in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaran and Srikakulam distt.
- (5) One 32L system working at CTO Guntur is covering the stations falling in Guntur and Prakasham distt.
- (6) One 32L system One 16L FTC at CTO Rajahmundry and one EKBC at CTO Kakinada are covering network of stations of east Godavari and west Godavari Distts.
- (7) One 16L FTC at CTO Nellore is covering Nellore distt.
- (8) One 16L FTC at CTO Tirupati is covering Tirupati distt.
- (9) One 16L FTC at CTO Cuddapah is covering Cuddapah distt.
- (10) One 16L FTC at CTO Ananthpur is covering Ananthpur distt.
- (11) One 16L FTC at CTO Kurmoolis covering Kumool distt.

B. Total FT's provided are 341. All CTO's and TO's are provided with B-FAX service. Internet services are also introduced in some CTO's and DTO's, Telephone revenue collection counters has been opened in all CTO's TO's and Centralised Phonogram booking at SSA HQ for the stations falling within 100 Kilometers from SSA HQ has been introduced in five districts and it is under process in the remaining districts.

<b>Legends:</b>	1. SFMSS	Store and Forward message Switching system
	2. EKBC	Electronic Key Board Concentrator
	3. EKB	Electronic Key Board
	4. FTC	Formatted Terminal Concentrator

5. FT	Formatted Terminal
6. CTO	Central Telegraph Office
7. TO	Telegraph Office
8. EMT	Express Money Transfer.

#### **NGOs in Health and Family Welfare Programmes**

433. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NGOs working in different States in the various Health and Family Welfare Programmes;

(b) the State-wise details of the names of these NGOs, along with the financial assistance obtained by them from the Union Government as well as from the external agencies during each of the last three years; and

(c) the achievement of each NGO during the above period?

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

*[Translation]*

#### **Norms for Opening of Post Offices**

434. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for opening new post offices in rural areas;

(b) whether the Justice Talwar Committee have recommended modifications in the existing norms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The norms for opening of new Post Offices in rural areas are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Justice Talwar Committee has not recommended any modifications in the existing norms for opening new post offices in rural areas.

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

**Statement**

*Norms for Opening Post Offices*

**1. Norms for Opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:**

**1.1 Population:**

**(a) In Normal Areas:**

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

**(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

**1.2 Distance:**

**(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

**(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

**1.3 Anticipated Income:**

**(a) In Normal Areas:**

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % of cost.

**(b) In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:**

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

**2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental sub. Post Offices:**

**(a) In Rural areas:**

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss

Rs. 2400/-in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800/-in Tribal and Hilly areas.

**(b) In Urban Areas:**

In urban areas, the Post office should initially be self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Km. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

*[English]*

**Setting up of Small Industries Service Institute**

435. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Small Scale Industries Service Institute located in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up such an institute at Chenglaput/Kanchipuram;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The details of Small Industries Service Institute and Branch of Small Industries Service Institutes located in Tamilnadu are:

(i) Small Industries Service Institute, 65/1, GST Road, Guindy, Chennai-600032

(ii) Branch Small Industries Service Institute, 386, Patel Road, Ram Nagar, Coimbatore—641009

(iii) Branch Small Industries Service Institute, Plot No. 76, CGE Colony, Tiruchendur Road, Tuticorin—628003

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The existing 3 institutes in Tamilnadu are catering to the needs of small scale industries in Tamil Nadu including SSI units located in Chenglaput/Kanchipuram.

#### **Transportion of Cargo**

436. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether ships only upto third category can anchor on Indian ports and ships of larger size move towards Sri Lanka or Singapore ports for unloading of cargo;

(b) if so, whether great loss has to be borne for transportation of cargo from these ports to Indian ports; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Ships only upto third generation can anchor on major ports except at Chennai, Jawaharlal Nehru, Visakhapatnam and Ennore ports. Chennai, Visakapatnam and Ennore ports can accommodate upto to Panamax ships. Jawaharlal Nehru Port can accommodate upto post Panamax ships. About two-thirds of the containers originating from or destined for India are transhipped at neighbouring foreign ports, such as Dubai, Colombo, Singapore etc. This situation leads to increased transportation cost.

(c) To facilitate direct sailing of containers carrying Indian export cargo to the destinations or to receive import containers destined for India directly at Indian port without transshipment at any foreign port, efforts have been made by the Ministry to facilitate development of one hub port each on the west coast and the east coast of the country.

#### **Delay in Construction of National Highway**

437. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of National Highway No. 215 from Panikoil to Rajamunda has been inordinately delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the construction work; and

(d) the time by which the construction of the entire N.H. in Orissa is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Total length of National Highway from Panikoil to Rajamunda (NH 215) is 269 km. This road was declared as a National Highway in 1999. Since 1999, about 136 km length of this National Highway has been improved under various schemes (this includes 95 km length improved under Periodic Renewal Programme). For the balance length of 228 kms, 11 works have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 53.19 crores. Works in these stretches are at various stages of progress. To expedite the progress of on going works, quarterly work-wise review meetings are held and inspections are carried out by the Ministry's officers at the Head Quarter/Regional Office.

(d) The development and maintenance of the National Highways is a continuous process and is being taken up in phases in various Annual Plans depending upon the availability of funds and inter-se priority.

#### **Funding of Projects**

438. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the internal and external aided projects of National Highways;

(b) the amount received in this regard during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of projects funded; and

(d) the length of roads built thereunder in the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are 39 external aided projects of National Highways. The other projects are either funded from budget or through private investment on B.O.T. basis. There are no internal aided projects of National Highways.

(b) The amount received for the external aided projects during the last three years is given as under:

Year	Amount received (in Rs. Crore)
2001-02	1064.24
2002-03	1507.88
2003-04	1448.90

(c) and (d) The details of these projects are as under:

Agency	No. of Projects	Total Length undertaken	Completed
Work Bank	18	983 km	—
Asian Development Bank	14	1133 km	427 km
Japan Bank for International Cooperation	7	150 km	144 km

#### Placing of Indents by Kendriya Bhandar

439. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 443 dated July 17, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the provisions of OM dated 14.7.1981 have since been reviewed and any decision taken thereon;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay in reviewing the same;

(c) whether the Ministries of Consumer Affairs and Finance had made references to DOP&T to review the OM as the same is spreading the corruption in the sale of stationery and other items at higher prices by Kendriya Bhandar; and

(d) if so, the reasons for ignoring the rampant corruption in the sale and purchase of stationery and other items in the Kendriya Bhandar and not expediting

the review of its OM which is detrimental to the economic health of the country?

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 PACHAURI): (a) to (d) The information will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Development of Roads in Kerala

440. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects/proposals relating to construction of National Highway received from Kerala; and

(b) the total amount of funds earmarked and released for road development during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) For the National Highway works included in the Annual plan 2004-05 for Kerala, proposals for 14 works have been received. Details are given in enclosed statement.

(b) The details of allocation of funds and expenditure on development and maintenance of National Highways in Kerala State during the last three years are as under:

Year	(Rs. in crore)	
	Allocation	Expenditure
2001-02	115.97	113.84
2002-03	99.68	108.83
2003-04	115.81	121.51

#### Statement

Sl.No.	NH No.	Subject	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	17	Improvement to Junction at Km. 175/00 to 175/500	15.50
2.	49	Reconstruction of Steel Bridge at Km. 162/00 (near KRST Bus-Stand Munnar)	59.15

1	2	3	4
3.	17	Realignment from Km. 434/00 to 438/827 and Road Over Bridge (ROB) Edappally at Km. 437/375	2383.5
4.	17	Construction of Calicut Bypass Ph. IV Ch. 11760 to 14500	604.060
5.	49	Special repair/reconstruction of damaged culverts between Km. 119/017 to 183/00	119.00
6.	17	Improvement to Chattamachal junction at Km. 63/00 to 63/700	118.274
7.	NHs	Engagement of Consultant for DPR of NHs from 2 lane to 4 lane	36.30
8.	17	Widening & improving to 4 lane of the south approach of Valapattanam bridge between Km. 149/160 to 151/000	105.00
9.	17	Providing paved shoulders from Km. 429/550 to 434/430	31.099
10.	17	Improvement of riding quality from Km. 206/500 to 215/000	245.00
11.	17	Improvement of riding quality from Km. 438/00 to 450/00	298.77
12.	17	Improvement of riding quality from Km. 450/00 to 482/00	287.75
13.	17	Improvement of riding quality from Km. 167/00 to 174/105 and 186/105 to 187/600	209.00
14.	17	Improvement of riding quality from Km. 145/00 to 155/00	115.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>4627.40</b>

#### **Agreement with European Union**

441. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has secured an order from the European Union to launch a satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the profit likely to be accrued to ISRO after the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Antrix Corporation Limited which is a commercial arm of Department of Space has concluded a contract with COSMOS International Satellitenstart GmbH, Germany, for launch of a European satellite.

(b) and (c) The contract involves provision of launch of a scientific satellite called "AGILE" weighing about 320 kg into a nominal 550 km near equatorial orbit during

May 2005. The above launch service, when successfully carried out, will be a major international launch for PSLV at internationally competitive price.

*[Translation]*

#### **New National Highway in Bihar**

442. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:  
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

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

(a) the position and the number of the various projects related to the construction of new National Highways in Bihar and Rajasthan;

(b) the progress achieved in respect of each project till date;

(c) the amount spent thereon, project-wise; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The question presumably pertains to the recently declared National Highways in February, 2004 in Bihar and Rajasthan, the position about which is as follows:

Bihar-NH-28 B, NH-57A and NH-110,

Rajasthan-NH-11B, NH-112, NH-113, NH-114 and NH-116.

(b) to (d) These newly declared National Highways have not been entrusted to the agencies for development and maintenance. Therefore the question of sanctioning projects on these NHs does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Side Effects of Silver Fillings**

443. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that silver fillings used for bridging the gap in the tooth if consumed or exposed to on a high level, can cause deadly side-effects to both patients and doctors;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter thereof;

(c) whether these silver fillings have been banned in the western countries;

(d) if so, the reasons cited by them for the same;

(e) the reasons for its continuance in India; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The dental cavities are filled with silver fillings, which is a blend of silver and mercury, for the last hundred years or so not only in India but world-wide. There is no data of long-term research studies to substantiate the side-effects of this material. It is widely believed that mercury used in the amalgams does not pose health risk except in rare instances. This procedure is not practiced in Scandinavian countries as population there is allergic to this filling material.

#### **National Goitre Control Programme**

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

(a) the States where National Goitre Control Programme has been launched;

(b) the amount spent under that programme during each of the last three years; and

(c) the extent to which the programme has achieved the objectives in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme is being implemented in all States/UTs of the country.

(b) The amount spent under the programme during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Expenditure
2001-02	3.69
2002-03	8.68
2003-04	10.87

(c) Under the Programme, the following objectives have been achieved:

- (i) A quantity of 42.4 lakhs MT of iodised salt was distributed to various States/UTs.
- (ii) Resurveys conducted in some of the districts in the country indicated the significant reduction in the prevalence of Iodine Deficiency disorders as a consequence of the programme, and
- (iii) Almost all the States/UTs in the country have banned the use of non-iodised salt for edible purposes.

[Translation]

**Sickness of Small Scale Industries**

445. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the small scale industries in the country are becoming more sick after signing the WTO agreement in 1994;

(b) if not, the number of the small scale industries in the country and the number of sick industries out of them during the year 1994 and 2002-2003, respectively;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which compiles data on sick SSI units financed by the Scheduled Commercial Banks, the number of sick SSI units at the end of March, 1994, were 2,56,452, which declined to 1,67,980 at the end of March, 2003. Based on the Third All India Census of Small Scale Industries (SSI), the number of SSI units in the country during 1993-94 and 2002-03 has been estimated to be 76.49 lakh and 109.49 lakh, respectively.

(c) and (d) The main reasons for sickness are inadequate and delayed credit, obsolete technology, marketing problems, infrastructural constraints, management deficiencies etc.

The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken various steps to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries including institutional mechanism in the form of the State Level Inter Institutional Committees, Special Rehabilitation cells in banks and State Financial Institutions. Elaborate guidelines have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, based on the recommendations of the Working Group set up under the Chairmanship of Shri S.S. Kohli, the RBI has drawn up revised guidelines for rehabilitation of sick units, which include, *inter alia*, change

in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding on their viability concessional finance, etc. The RBI has circulated the revised guidelines on 16th January, 2002 to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks for implementation. The revised criteria will facilitate the banks to detect sickness at an early stage and take corrective action for revival of the potentially viable sick SSI units.

[English]

**Visit of Indian Delegations Abroad**

446. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:  
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:  
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:  
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Indian delegations which visited other countries since April, 2004, till date, country-wise;

(b) the details of the discussion held and bilateral agreement signed with them;

(c) whether he recently visited some countries after assuming charge; and

(d) if so, the extent to which relations with these countries were strengthened as a result of such visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Indian Delegations other than EAM visited the following countries:

**Sri Lanka:**

Additional Secretary (FA) led a delegation to Sri Lanka for six days from 26th April, 2004 to review the hospital project in Hatton.

**Pakistan:**

A delegation led by Additional Secretary (HR), Ministry of External Affairs, visited Islamabad and Karachi from 6-

13 May 2004 for inspection of High Commission in Islamabad and Government of India properties in Karachi.

**Malaysia:**

Joint Secretary (UNP) visited Kuala Lumpur to participate in the meeting of the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine.

**Indonesia:**

JS (L&T) visited Bali (Indonesia) from 21.6.04 to 25.6.04 to attend 43rd Session of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO).

**Myanmar:**

- I. Delegation Headed by JS (SEA-I) visited Myanmar on 16-20 May, 2004 to hold discussions on Yangon-Mandalay Trunk Line Project and Kaladan Multi-modal Transport Project with the Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Transport of the Government of Myanmar. No agreement was signed during the visit. As a result of visit, MOU and the financing details of the projects were finalized.
- II. JS (MER) visited on 1-2, June, 2004 to hold discussions with the Myanmar officials on various issues concerning the organization of India-ASEAN Car Rally 2004. JS (MER) also held discussions with Deputy foreign Minister and Director General (ASEAN) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His visit resulted in agreement on further steps to be taken in respect to proposed India-ASEAN Car Rally.

**Singapore:**

Foreign Secretary visited Singapore on 29-30 April 2004 to review bilateral relations and cooperation in diverse areas. The visit strengthened bilateral cooperation and understanding.

**Vietnam:**

- I. Secretary (ANA) visited Hanoi, on 4-5 May, 2004 to participate in the 50th anniversary celebrations of the victory at Dien, Bien Phu. During his visit he called on the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam and the head of the External Relations Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam to discuss and review bilateral relations. The visit strengthened bilateral relations.

- II. JS (MER) visited Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh City from 27-29 May, 2004 to meet senior officials of the Vietnamese Government to discuss organization of the India-ASEAN Car Rally. JS (MER) also had preliminary discussions with officials of the Government and Industry of Vietnam for setting up of an Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Vietnam.

- III. JS (SEA-I) had a familiarization visit to Ho Chi Minh City on 1-2 April, 2004 to strengthening of bilateral relations.

**Thailand:**

- I. Secretary (ANA) visited Thailand on 23.04.2004 as special envoy of EAM in relation with ARF membership issues.
- II. JS (MER) visited Thailand from 30th April, 2004 to 2nd May, 2004 for ACD Finance Minister's meeting.

**Philippines:**

Dir. (UNES) visited Manila on 17-18 May, 2004 to attend Regional Hearing on Migration for the Asia Pacific.

**ARF:**

- I. A Delegation led by Foreign Secretary participated in the ASEAN Regional Forum Senior Officials Meeting (ARF SOM) held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 12 May 2004 to prepare for the July 11th ARF Ministerial Meeting.
- II. A delegation led by Additional Secretary (IO) participated at the ARF Inter-Sessional Group meeting held in Yangon, Myanmar on 11-14 April 2004.
- III. Visits of AS (IO) as Special Envoy of EAM to Brunei Darussalam and Manila, Philippines on May 5-7, 2004 to deliver EAM's letter on expansion of the ASEAN Regional Forum.
- IV. Special Secy. (ER) visited Malaysia from 14-15 April, 2004 as special envoy of EAM and had discussions on development of Indo-Malaysian relations as also relations between India and ASEAN. Visit helped to convey India's views on expansion of ARF membership, further India-ASEAN relationship and discussing issues of importance in enhancing bilateral relations.

**Republic of Korea:**

Joint Secretary (EA) visited Republic of Korea on 11-14 April, 2004 to attend DG level Foreign Office Consultations between India and South-Korea. The Foreign Office Consultations provided an opportunity to exchange views on bilateral regional and international issues and prepare for the forthcoming VVIP visit to India.

**Saudi Arabia:**

- I. A delegation led by MOS (EA) visited Saudi Arabia from June 13-16, 2004 for signing the Haj Agreement for Haj 2005. This culminated in the signing of the Agreement regarding various issues pertaining to Indian pilgrimage. In terms of the agreement the total number of Indian pilgrims performing the Haj would be 117,000. Of these 72,000 would perform Haj through the Haj Committee and 45,000 through private tour operators. During the visit, MOS (EA) called on the custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on June 13 in Jeddah and delivered a letter from the Indian Prime Minister to King Fahd.
- II. A composite delegation led by Secretary (ANA) visited Taif and Riyadh from April 9-11, 2004 to review in detail the arrangements made during Haj 2004 and to plan comprehensively for Haj 2005. No agreement was signed during this visit.

**Jordan:**

A delegation headed by MOS (EA) Shri E. Ahmed visited Jordan from 16-18 June, 2004. Detailed discussions were held by MOS (EA) with HRH Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein, H.E. Dr. Mohammad Halaqa, Dy. PM & Minister of Industry and Trade, in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister, and Mr. Amjad Majali, Minister of Labour, in his capacity as Acting Foreign Minister. No Treaty/Agreement was signed during the visit.

**Qatar:**

Secretary (ANA) visited Doha from 25-27 May, 2004 to participate in UN sponsored International Donor's Conference for Iraq. No agreement was signed during the visit.

**Egypt:**

Secretary (ANA) visited Cairo from 19-21 June, 2004 for annual India-Arab League consultations and Foreign

Office Consultations with Egypt. Meetings were held with Arab League Secretary General, Advisor to the President, Foreign Minister and Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs. The talks focused on bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern.

**Poland:**

JS (Europe-II), accompanied the delegation led by Secretary (IPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry to Poland on 22-24 April, 2004 to attend Review Meeting of the Indo-Polish Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation.

**Slovenia:**

JS (Europe-II), accompanied the delegation led by, AS Deptt. of Commerce on 20-22 April 2004 to attend 5th session of Indo-Slovene ICM, enhance bilateral cooperation.

**Russia:**

Foreign Secretary visited Moscow on 23-25 June 2004. Bilateral meetings with Russian Foreign Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister on political and economic issues were held.

**Tajikistan:**

Secretary (ANA) visited Dushanbe on 7-9 May, 2004 for consultations with Tajik authorities. Talks were held with the Tajik President and Defence Minister.

**Armenia:**

JS (Eurasia) visited Yerevan on 3-4 May 2004. Talks were held with Foreign Minister, Minister of Science and Technology, Deputy Minister of Defence, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs.

**Turkey:**

AS(IS) led the delegation on 1-2 June, 2004 to attend the first meeting of the JWG on Combating Terrorism with Turkey. Discussions were centered on exchange of information on terrorism challenges and possibilities of cooperation.

**Switzerland:**

- I. Foreign Secretary visited Geneva on 17-20 March, 2004 to attend 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).
- II. JS (UNES) visited Geneva on 6-16 April, 2004 to attend 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

**Austria:**

JS (L&T) visited Vienna from 29.3.2004 to 8.4.2004 to attend 43rd Session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space COPUOS.

**The Netherlands:**

JS (L&T) visited The Hague from 7.6.04 to 15.6.04 to attend the Second Meeting of the Special Commission on the International Recovery of Child Support and other Forms of Family Maintenance.

**Germany:**

- I. Foreign Secretary visited Berlin from 31.3.2004 to 1.4.2004 to attend an International Conference "Afghanistan and the International Community—A Partnership for the future".
- II. Director (UNES) visited Bonn on 15-25 June, 2004 to attend 20th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific & Technical Advice (SBSTA) on the UN Framework Convention on Climate change.

**USA:**

- I. Director (L&T) visited New York from 14.6.04 to 25.6.04 to attend 37th Session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.
- II. JS (UNES) visited New York on 23rd May, 2004 to 4th June 2004 to attend 12th Session of Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).
- III. Director (UNES-II) visited New York on 23rd May to 4th June, 2004 to attend 3rd Session of the Un Ad-hoc Committee on Comprehensive & Integral International Convention on Protection of the Rights & Dignity of Persons with Disability.

- IV. Additional Secretary (IO), visited USA on 31.03.2004 to 2.4.2004 to hold bilateral discussions on India-US relations. The discussions in the visit were part of ongoing bilateral consultations.

**Canada:**

- I. Additional Secretary (IS) visited Canada on May 13-14, 2004 to attend the sixth meeting of India-Canada Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. Discussions were part of ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism.
- II. Joint Secretary (UNP) visited Canada from 3 to 6 May 2004 to participate in an international conference on the Military Operations Law Conference.

(c) and (d) External Affairs Minister visited the following countries after assuming charge:

**Nepal:**

EAM visited Nepal on 4-5 June, 2004 and held discussions with His Majesty King Gyanendra, PM, Shri S.B. Deuba, former Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa and Shri Girija Prasad Koirala, Shri Pashupati Shamsheer Rana of the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party, Madhesi Leaders and the Chief of Army Staff. No agreement was signed. The Visit provided an opportunity to review and further strengthen bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas of mutual interest including in the area of Hydro power, trade and security-related issues.

**USA:**

EAM attended the funeral of former US President Ronald Reagan on June 11, 2004. EAM met the US Secretary of State and the two sides reaffirmed the importance attached to India-US relations.

**United Kingdom:**

EAM visited London on 16th June, 2004. He met UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw. The two Ministers had wide-ranging discussions on bilateral relations and major international developments. EAM's meeting with UK Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw was the first high level contact with the UK government after the new government has assumed office.

**China:**

Delegation led by the EAM visited China on 21-22, June, 2004. EAM attended the ACD meeting on 21-22 June, 2004 at Qingdao, China. In the margins of the multilateral meeting, he met his Chinese counterpart, Li Zhoxing. Foreign Minister Li conveyed to the EAM that China is ready to work with the new government in India to develop deeper relations in the political, economic, military and other fields. EAM conveyed to Foreign Minister Li that the Government of India attaches great importance to relations with China. He invited Foreign Minister Li to visit India and reiterated Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's invitation to Premier Wen Jiabao to visit India. Later this year, Foreign Minister Li accepted this invitation and conveyed his hope that he would be able to visit India in the near future. EAM also underlined that India is committed to developing relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and equality.

**Reforms in Health Sector**

447. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken fresh steps to initiate reforms in the Health Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked therefor;

(d) the extent to which people are likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(e) the other steps taken to provide health service to poor people in remote areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (d) Government has continuously been initiating steps to reform the health sector. Increasing public investment in the health sector to take it to 2-3% of GDP in the next five years with focus on primary health care; national scheme for health insurance for poor families; stepping up of public investment for control of communicable diseases; providing leadership to the national AIDS control effort, ensuring availability of life saving drugs at reasonable prices and special attention to the poorer

sections in the matter of health care are some of the policy initiatives are some of the steps that are being contemplated. No additional funds have been earmarked for these steps for the present. The population, including the poor, shall be benefited by these steps, as per capita expenditure on health care will increase and morbidity and mortality on account of communicable diseases will be contained.

(e) Government has been implementing National Disease Control Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Leprosy, AIDS, Blindness, Cancer and Mental Health throughout the country. Medicines are provided free of cost under these programmes. To provide quality healthcare services to the people, especially the rural poor and the under-served, State Health Systems Projects are being implemented with World Bank assistance in selected states to upgrade the health infrastructure. A community based universal health insurance scheme is being implemented in which the Government contributes Rs. 100 per year per BPL family towards the annual premium so as to ensure the affordability of the scheme to the families living below the poverty line. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) has been launched for setting up institutions on the pattern of AIIMS in certain under-served states and upgrading existing institutions in certain remaining under-served states/regions to meet the demand for super speciality health services. To improve the availability of doctors in rural areas, some State Governments have already made rural service compulsory before admission to P.G. courses or at the time of initial appointment.

**Committee on 'Facilities to Extra Departmental Employees'**

448. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

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

(a) the total number of employees both regular and extra departmental in the Department of Posts;

(b) whether the Government had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Talwar for looking into the demands of Extra departmental employees of Department of Posts working in the country;

(c) if so, the recommendations of the Committee in this regard;

(d) whether recommendations in regard to basic demands of ED employees such as pension, status, promotion, trade union facilities etc. have not been settled so far;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken so far/proposed to be taken to fulfil their demands as recommended by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.3.2003 the total number of regular employees is 2,62,752 and the number of Extra Departmental Agents now called Gramin Dak Sevaks is 3,03,170.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) In context of the setting up of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the Government set up a one man Committee headed by Justice Charanjit Talwar on 31st March, 1995 to examine the system of Extra Departmental Agency, condition of employment, the wage structure etc. Justice Talwar Committee submitted its report to the Government on 30th April 1997. The recommendations made by the Committee in its report can be classified under the following broad categories:

- (i) **Status and Nomenclature of Extra Departmental Agents**
- (ii) **Financial Benefits:**  
Grant of Pay Scales and increments,  
Grant of Pension,  
Put off duty allowance, and  
Retirement benefits, etc.
- (iii) **Employment conditions:**  
Enhancement of educational qualification,  
Age of entry into the service,  
Working hours,  
Transfer liability, and  
Leave facility, etc.
- (iv) **Re-organisation:**  
No further creation of posts,  
No Extra Departmental Sub Post Office/Branch Post Office to be opened for next 10 years,  
Total freeze on filling up of vacant posts, and  
Abolition of vacant posts.
- (v) **Public facility:**  
Savings Bank withdrawal limit be increased.

The recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee were considered in the Department. The staff unions were also consulted. Thereafter, the recommendations were carefully considered by the Group of Ministers (GOM), and a package of benefits was issued by the Government, in full and final settlement of the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee, vide orders dated 17.12.98 extending the following benefits to the Gramin Dak Sevaks:

- (i) Raising the basis monthly allowance by a factor of 3.25 for the period of 01.01.96 to 28.02.98.
- (ii) Thereafter with effect from 01.03.98 placing them in Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA).
- (iii) Increasing the maximum amount of Ex-gratia Gratuity from Rs. 6000/-to Rs. 18,000/-.
- (iv) Increasing the office Maintenance Allowance from Rs. 25/-to Rs. 50/-per month.
- (v) Paid leave of 10 days for every half-year without provision of carry forward.
- (vi) Provision of Severance Amount of Rs. 30,000/- in case of retirement or death, if the period of continuous employment of GDS employees is minimum 20 years and Rs. 20,000/-if a GDS has completed 15-20 years of continuous employment. On absorption to regular departmental posts, the Severance Amount of Rs. 20,000/-is payable after 15 years of continuous employment.

The recommendation regarding grant of pension was not accepted. However, element of Severance Amount was introduced. Subsequently, the demand for change of nomenclature of Extra Departmental Agents and the proposal for Social Security Scheme in lieu of severance amount was considered by the Group of Ministers (GOM). The demand for change of nomenclature was accepted by designating them as Gramin Dak Sevaks, but no Government-sponsored social security scheme was found feasible.

The recommendation for grant of status as regular govt. employees to the Gramin Dak Sevaks was not accepted even on re-examination of issue by the Government. Provision are already available for 75% recruitment to Group 'D' level posts and 50% of postmen's posts in the department to be made from among the

Gramin Dak Sevaks so that they have an opportunity to better their promotional prospects and enter regular government service.

The Justice Talwar Committee had not made any recommendation with regard to provision of trade union facilities to the Extra Departmental Employees Union. However, All India Postal Extra Departmental Employees Union has already been availing a number of trade union facilities like channel of communications, collection of membership subscription, periodic interview with the management etc. As regards the demand for facilities of Foreign Service and Special Casual Leave, these were examined in consultation with the Department of Personnel and Training, and not accepted. Now the said All India Postal Extra Departmental Employees Union has filed an OA in the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal Bangalore Bench for the grant of facility of Foreign Service, one of the trade union facilities, and the case is sub judice.

#### **Closure of Post Offices**

449. SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several post offices were given closure notice by the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the post offices which were given notice till 31.3.2004;

(c) the criteria followed in such cases;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the above decision; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

#### **Funds to Maharashtra**

450. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sanctioned and released by the Union Government to Maharashtra for the development of

National Highways/Express Highways/State Highways and to connect the villages with National Highways;

(b) the details of the funds utilised by the State Government under various Heads till June 30, 2004 out of the amount so sanctioned;

(c) the extent to which progress has been achieved in this regard; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to ensure to proper utilisation of remaining funds by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) This Ministry is responsible for maintenance & development of National Highways. Maintenance and development of State Highways is the responsibility of the State Government. There is no Express Highway in Maharashtra under the Ministry. The total allocation & expenditure incurred on National Highways is as under:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
2002-03	119.78	119.78
2003-04	127.76	127.76
2004-05	38.00 (so far)	7.50 (upto 30th June, 2004)

There is no scheme with the Ministry for providing connectivity to villages from National Highways.

(d) As far as National Highways are concerned Government of Maharashtra have been fully utilizing the funds.

#### **Pending Out of Turn Connection Cases**

451. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of turn connection recommendations given by Members of Parliament are not given priority;

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

(c) the number of out of turn connection cases pending in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. These are given priority.

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

(c) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Pending Out of Turn Telephones*

Sl.No.	Name of Telecom Circle	No. of Out of Turn Connections Pending as on 31.5.2004
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	13
3.	Assam	221
4.	Bihar	2839
5.	Chhattisgarh	0
6.	Gujarat	397
7.	Haryana	816
8.	Himachal Pradesh	305
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	779
10.	Jharkhand	12
11.	Karnataka	802
12.	Kerala	950
13.	Madhya Pradesh	33
14.	Maharashtra	936
15.	North East-I	93
16.	North East-II	108
17.	Orissa	96
18.	Punjab	102
19.	Rajasthan	1127
20.	Tamil Nadu	739

1	2	3
21.	Uttaranchal	24
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	2830
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	419
24.	West Bengal	687
25.	Kolkata Telephones	0
26.	Chennai Telephones	0
27.	MTNL Mumbai	1
28.	MTNL Delhi	0

*[Translation]*

**Norms Laid Down for MPLAD**

452. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for ensuring the quality of the construction work being done under the MPLAD Scheme;

(b) whether the Government is aware that most of the construction works are not as per the prescribed norms; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, the head of the District Administration is required to get the works implemented by following the procedures laid down by the State Government subject to the MPLADS Guidelines. Since the works under the Scheme are being implemented by following the established procedures of the State Government, the State Government authorities and the implementing agencies ensure quality of construction work.

(b) and (c) Any complaint about quality of work received at the Ministry is referred to the State Government concerned for taking corrective measures.

*[English]*

**Indo-Pak Talks on Drug Trafficking**

453. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has proposed technical level talks with India on issues related to drug trafficking and smuggling;

(b) if so, whether India has welcomed this proposal; and

(c) if so, the proposed venue and the date decided for the said talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) In the Joint Press Statement issued on February 18, 2004 after the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan, it was agreed that a meeting of the Committee on Drug Trafficking and Smuggling would be held in June 2004. Subsequently, the meeting was held in Islamabad on June 15-16, 2004.

#### **Pricing of Kendriya Bhandar Items**

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

(a) the measures the Purchase Committee, Kendriya Bhandar, is taking while selecting suppliers/items of consumer, grocery, stationery and other items to ensure that its prices of items are not more than the open market;

(b) whether the Kendriya Bhandar called applications for the supply of stationery and other items on the basis of their revised purchase policy 2003;

(c) if so, whether action has been taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken against the officials for not taking action on the applications so called?

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 PACHAURI): (a) While selecting suppliers, the Purchase Committee normally takes into consideration the status of the concerned agency, its financial soundness, market reputation and standing of the firm, capacity and capability of the firm for timely supply of goods, price responsibility, popularity of the products and its availability in the market etc. Grocery items are purchased on the basis of limited tenders invited on fortnightly basis from the manufacturers/wholesalers empanelled with Kendriya Bhandar on the

basis of prescribed criteria. Mandi rates are also ascertained before deciding the tender of pulses & rice. Bi-partite/tri-partite agreement are entered into with the concerned manufacturer/authorized distributor wherever it is considered appropriate and essential.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A large number of applications have been received and there is already significant progress in finalisation of the proposals.

#### **Privatisation of Construction and Maintenance on NH**

455. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to assign the works relating to construction and maintenance of national highways to private parties;

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented;

(c) the number of highways proposed to be covered under the same;

(d) whether there is any provision for foreign capital investment in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for inviting bids on BOT basis involving private sector to assign the works relating to construction and maintenance of National Highways. The proposal includes 4-laning of 10,000 kms under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana, out of which 5244 kms covering 43 sections of 33 National Highways have been identified. The proposal also includes 123.5 kms covering 3 sections of National Highways in North South Corridor and 36.3 kms covering one section of National Highway in East West Corridor. It is premature to indicate the overall time for implementation of this proposal.

(d) and (e) There is no provision for foreign capital investment in this proposal. Foreign companies can however participate in the international competitive bidding.

**Protection of PSU Employees' Interest**

456. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to protect the interest of Public Sector Employees regarding pension in view of the cut in interest rate; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) The Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 is one of the schemes under the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. The payment of pension to such employees as are covered under the Scheme is made according to the prescribed norms based on the principles of 'pooling of resources and sharing of risks' and under the provisions of the Scheme. The Scheme is managed by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund. Hence, the interest of Public Sector employees as are covered under the Scheme are adequately protected.

(b) Question does not arise.

**Setting up of New Medical Colleges**

457. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) the criteria adopted to sanction a Medical College in any State;

(b) the number of applications received from the States to start new Medical Colleges, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any delay in clearing the proposals;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared?

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

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The detailed procedure for grant of permission to establish a new medical college is prescribed in the "Establishment of Medical College Regulations, 1999" brought out by Medical Council of India.

(b) During the year 2003 a total of 54 proposals were received from different States. The State-wise break-up of these proposals is as under:

Name of States	Number of proposals
Andhra Pradesh	8
Bihar	1
Delhi	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Gujarat	1
Jharkhand	2
Karnataka	9
Kerala	3
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	2
Orissa	6
Pondicherry	1
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	8
Uttaranchal	1
Uttar Pradesh	4
West Bengal	2

Out of above 54 proposals only 20 proposals were found to be in order and were referred to MCI for evaluation. The remaining were returned to the applicant as incomplete.

(c) to (e) Clearance of the proposals depends on availability of the infrastructural facilities as per the prescribed norms and recommendations of the MCI thereon.

### Strengthening Indo-US Ties

458. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to further strengthen Indo-US ties;

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

(c) the details of the various bilateral issues on which talks are likely to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) India accords high importance to its relations with the United States. As the two largest democracies, it is imperative that relations between the two countries maintain a steady course. The new government will continue the policy that seeks to further strengthen, widen and deepen India's relations with the US.

(b) EAM had a productive meeting on June 10, 2004 with the US Secretary of State Colin Powell during his visit to Washington DC for the funeral of President Ronald Reagan. An India-US Space Conference was held in Bangalore from June 21-25, 2004. Earlier, the 6th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group had taken place on June 1-2, 2004. Indo-US cooperation is ongoing and marked by continuity.

(c) The comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue Architecture that covers the main elements of our relationship is the primary vehicle for taking our ties forward. Consultations are ongoing and regular and take place at a mutually agreed time table.

### Irregularities in Implementing Pulse Polio Programme

459. SHRI B. VINDO KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate facilities are available in each State of the country to treat the polio patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any irregularities have come to the notice of the Government in implementing pulse polio programme;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb such irregularities and to achieve the targets set for the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Treatment facilities are available at tertiary level hospitals of States for treatment of polio patients.

(c) to (e) The vaccine is supplied to the States in kind. Funds towards operational expenses for conducting Pulse Polio Immunization rounds are given by Government of India to the States/UTs on the basis of approved financial norms for various components. Whenever instance of irregularities in the implementation of Pulse Polio Immunization come to notice, the State Governments are advised to take necessary action in the matter. One case of financial irregularities by some officials of Rajasthan Government was investigated and action taken by CBI as per law. In addition, two cases of alleged irregularities by State officials of Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh and Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh have been received and the respective States have been asked in May/June, 2004 to conduct departmental inquiries and send reports to the Government of India. One complaint against a Surveillance Medical officer (SMO) of National Polio Surveillance Project (NPSP)/World Health Organization (WHO) has also been received for which comments of NPSP have been sought.

### Repair and Maintenance of NH

460. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether repair and maintenance of National Highways are not upto the prescribed standard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is considering to raise the grants on the actual execution cost basis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The repair and maintenance of National Highways are taken up according to the availability of funds and condition of road and National

Highways is kept in traffic worthy condition, within the available fund. The available fund is substantially less than the total funds required for the maintenance of National Highways as per the prescribed norms. Therefore, the maintenance of National Highways may not be strictly as per the prescribed norms.

(c) and (d) The constraint of budgetary allocation does not allow the increase in allocation on the basis of actual requirement.

#### **Purchasing Branded Items at Higher Prices**

461. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar is purchasing computers, HP cartridges and other branded items at higher prices in contravention of the revised purchase policy, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated by the Government; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for violating the purchase policy?

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 PACHAURI):

(a) to (c) The Purchase Policy of Kendriya Bhandar provides that products will be procured from manufacturers and where the manufacturers express their inability for direct marketing, purchases will be made from their authorized distributors/agencies. As per information received from Kendriya Bhandar M/s Hewlett Packard do not undertake direct selling of cartridges. They have appointed their national distributors and apart from that, M/s HP India also appoints their RSR (Registered Supplies Reseller). As per M/s Hewlett Packard business model, even their national distributors are not permitted to undertake the direct selling to customer and they only sell/supply to their RSRs. It is the RSRs, who make the payments to the national distributors, maintain inventory and do the marketing. Kendriya Bhandar have therefore entered into a tripartite agreement with M/s Hewlett Packard and their RSRs duly appointed/authorized by them.

#### **Saras Aircraft**

462. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saras aircraft has made its maiden flight successfully in the recent past;

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

(c) the time by which the Saras project is likely to be completed and expenditure to be incurred therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The first prototype (PT-I) of SARAS made the maiden test flight on 29th May, 2004. The maiden flight was of 23 minutes duration. SARAS reached a maximum altitude of 7800 ft. and a maximum speed of 145 knots (269 km/hr) during this maiden flight.

(c) The Saras project was sanctioned by the Government in September, 1999, at an initial cost of Rs. 131.38 crore, which was later on revised to Rs. 157.59 crore.

The first prototype is undergoing flight-tests and the second prototype is expected to fly in about an year's time. For the completion of SARAS project, about 500 hrs of flight-testing has been planned to obtain certification from the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). This may taken about 24-30 months time from now on.

*[Translation]*

#### **Waiting List of Telephone Connections in Bihar**

463. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of waiting list of telephone connections in all the major cities, district headquarters and rural areas of Bihar as on date;

(b) the details in regard to telephone connections provided during the last three years and amount spent thereon; and

(c) the new Telecom schemes under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of waiting list of fixed telephone connections in all the major cities, district headquarters and rural areas of Bihar as on 31.05.2004 is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The details in regard to telephone connections provided during the last three years in Bihar Telecom Circle by BSNL and amount spent thereon is given below:

Year	Telephone connections provided (No. on lines)	Amount spent (Rs. in Crores)
2001-02	214161	371.305
2002-03	161075	180.413
2003-04	143599	46.00

(c) The details of the new Telecom Schemes under consideration of the BSNL are given below:

- (i) Expansion of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) (1,30,000 Connections) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS) (2,78,300 Connections) in the year 2004-05.
- (ii) Managed Leased Line Network (MLLN) equipment Patna, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, Gaya, Hajipur & Katihar.
- (iii) Direct Internet Access System (DIAS) at Muzaffarpur.
- (iv) Account less internet services at Patna.
- (v) SMS on wired lines at Patna.

**Statement**

*Waiting List as on 31.05.2004*

Sl.No.	Category of the Cities	Name of the Cities/Towns	Waiting List
1	2	3	4
1.		Patna	1903
2.		Muzaffarpur	221
3.		Bhagalpur	24
4.	Important Cities in Bihar Circle	Gaya	594

1	2	3	4
5.		Darbhanga	135
6.		Katihar	18
7.		Chapra	397
8.		Arrah	680
9.		Buxor	184
10.		Begusarai	229
11.		Bettiah	108
12.		Banka	0
13.		Gopalganj	786
14.		Siwan	3205
15.		Madhubani	330
16.		Arwal	175
17.		Aurangabad	86
18.		Jahanabad	77
19.		Nawada	114
20.		Hajipur	79
21.		Araria	3
22.		Purnea	46
23.	District HQ	Khagaria	62
24.		Kishanganj	4
25.		Motihari	19
26.		Jamui	139
27.		Munger	437
28.		Shekhpura	16
29.		Lakhisarai	108
30.		Sheohar	203
31.		Stamarihi	988
32.		Biharsarif	814

1	2	3	4
33.		Bhabhua	79
34.		Sasaram	168
35.		Madhepura	0
36.		Sharsa	10
37.		Supaul	2
38.		Samastipur	110
Rural areas of Bihar Circle			89042

[English]

#### Pending Schemes of H.P.

464. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:  
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes pertaining to Himachal Pradesh pending with the Union Government for clearance, as on date;

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

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken on these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Sir, no Scheme pertaining to Himachal Pradesh is pending with the Planning Commission for investment clearance.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Telephone Services

465. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

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

(a) whether a number of telephone services-providing companies are not providing services to the telephone subscribers as per the standard norms prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India;

(b) if so, the names of such companies;

(c) the shortcomings notices in the quality of their work;

(d) whether any instructions have been issued to these companies to improve the quality of their work; and

(e) if so, the details of the instructions issued and the penal provisions provided to take care of flouting of the instructions by these companies?

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

(b) and (c) The circle-wise details of such companies for the various Quality of Service parameters for quarter ending March 2004 are given in Statement-I and II.

(d) In order to find out the reasons/constraints being faced by the operators in not achieving the benchmarks, Senior Management of the service providers have been called for a meeting by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to address the issue of deficiency in the quality of service.

(e) Penalty provision exists in the section 29 of the TRAI Act, which states that "If a person violates directions of the Authority, such person shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees and in case of second or subsequent offence with fine which may extend to two lakh rupees for every day during which the default continues."

## Statement I

## Summary for Basic Services QoS Parameters for the quarter ending 31st March, 2004

1	2	3	QoS Parameters	New connections after registration of customer	Fault incidence per 100Subscribers	Fault reports by next working day			Mean Time to Repair (MTTR)	Cost of service (call per thousand)	Call completion rate in local network	Missing & falling connectivity % of calls (reported)	Operator Assisted Trunk calls (% answered within time norm)		Skills	Channels	Additional facility	Percentage of report made		
						100% in <7 days	<1	>90% (Month-1)					>90% (Month-2)	>90% (Month-3)				<4 hrs.	(a) Junction between local exchange (2/100)	>90%
1.	Andhra Pradesh	BSNL	NR	7.17	94.00	83.81	89.28	12.3	NR	46.37%	0.07	84.55	86.81	63.99	NR	NR	NR	7.02	10.11	8.18
		Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	2.2	0.005	70.88%	0.14	NA	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0	
		Tata	89	1.13	87.82	98.02	97.25	5.15	0.002	76.91%	0.49	83.82	79.52	61.49	0.00	73.08	7.01	5.61	5.49	
2.	Bihar	BSNL	NR	7.31	91.51	68.61	90.06	12	NR	58.20%	0.03	80.85	56.00	90.27	NR	NR	NR	5.22	2.57	2.34
		Reliance	NA	0.01	100.00	100.00	100.00	2.5	0.005	62.89%	0.20	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0	
3.	Delhi	MTNL	55	22.13	74.09	76.24	79.82	13.88	0.002	44.00%	0.14	81.39	77.54	85.37	96.80	82.46	13.28	11.87	11.99	
		Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	2.2	0.005	72.58%	0.20	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0	
		Bharti	64	2.74	97.92	98.53	99.16	3.89	0.5	51.07%	0.07	44	45.16	35.46	31.72	86.63	21.28	19.32	21.42	
		Tata	94	0.06	100.00	100.00	97.84	3.4	0.003	57.00%	0.88	89.083	89.823	44.32	0	75	0	0	0	
4.	Gujarat	BSNL	NR	8.85	94.49	96.10	98.07	10	NR	60.40%	0.09	88.37	86.26	74.75	NR	NR	NR	5.77	5.48	5.87
		Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	2	0.005	72.89%	0.17	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0	
		Tata	93	0.39	98.51	99.58	100.00	2.4	0.0004	52.65%	1.27	100	100	NA	100	98	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5.	Madhya Pradesh & Chattisgarh	BSNL (MP)	NR	7.98	87.48	86.92	87.75	12.33	NR	67.17%	0.13	88.11	85.62	82.22	NR	NR	NR	2.89	2.77	3.24
		BSNL (Chhatt.)	NR	12.63	88.79	90.08	91.62	2.33	NR	62.33%	0.07	100.00	99.87	81.57	NR	NR	NR	0.88	1.48	0.80
		Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.3	0.005	73.12%	0.19	N/A	N/A	100.00	NR	NR	NR	0	0	0
		Bharti	98	1.90	96.92	97.48	96.93	4.8	0	65.30%	0.06	80	NA	58.05	10.00	94.89	2.50	1.55	1.91	
6.	Maharashtra	BSNL	NR	6.77	88.73	88.74	86.85	16.33	NR	59.13%	0.06	83.76	89.87	40.79	NR	NR	NR	5.79	5.98	6.32
		Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1.8	0.005	69.28%	0.17	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0	
		Tata	NA	1.20	99.86	99.42	99.70	1.55	0.006	58.94%	0.57	NA	99	37.08	NR	43.44	6.72	6.12	6.24	
7.	Punjab	BSNL	NR	9.25	91.06	90.17	93.50	19	NR	62.40%	0.09	85.10	86.10	67.65	NR	NR	NR	1.89	9.83	1.61
		Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	2.4	0.005	67.29%	0.20	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0	
		HFCL	98	7.32	97.06	95.90	92.94	8.48	0	75.87%	0.07	NA	NA	58.87	83.30	97.75	10.04	10.20	7.84	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8.	Rajasthan	BSNL	NR	10.36	87.05	87.55	89.83	11	NR	59.53%	0.06	90.31	93.95	33.32	NR	NR	2.63	12.45	2.01
		Reliance	NA	0.01	100.00	100.00	100.00	2.4	0.005	69.41%	0.12	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0
		Shyam	96	3.09	98.48	99.23	98.79	5.2	0.001	96.00%	0.85	NA	82.79	85.98	65	96	9.42	0.51	0.35
9.	Tamil Nadu	BSNL	NR	5.20	96.40	96.55	96.82	7.67	NR	70.40%	0.04	98.92	98.92	63.00	NR	NR	0.79	3.45	0.93
		Reliance	NA	0.00	100	100	100	2.4	0.002	69.41%	0.12	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Bharti	99	2.44	100	100	97	1.3	0.005	82.04%	0.19	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Tata	70	0.27	96.77	96.26	99.06	2.52	0.0034	55.31%	0.35	64	72.72	9.23	89	58	4.39	3.74	3.85
10.	Haryana	BSNL	NR	9.17	92.04	92.54	92.90	14.33	NR	69.77%	0.07	74.61	20.99	48.39	NR	NR	3.26	3.36	7.10
		Reliance	NA	0.01	100.00	100.00	100.00	1.7	0.005	64.63%	0.19	74.61	20.99	100.00	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Bharati	86	3.04	94.99	99.59	100.00	5.24	0.5	49.38%	0.05	26	28	24.30	44.88	88.88	16.88	19.63	20.75
11.	Karnataka	BSNL	NR	5.48	97.14	96.99	96.51	4	NR	58.19%	0.04	94.57	96.95	80.02	NR	NR	4.61	4.05	5.12
		Reliance	NR	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.7314	0.005	73.14%	0.19	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0
		Bharti	80	0.76	99.89	99.52	99.47	2.4	0	60.44%	0.19	NA	NA	0.76	0.00	88	11.15	12.35	12.48
		Tata	19	0.24	98.90	96.17	93.85	4.58	0.0002	54.97%	0.30	NA	100	55.05	0	58	3	4	7
12.	Andaman and Nicobar	BSNL	NR	7.56	94.12	93.82	96.83	41.3	NR	47.33%	0.12	94.00	73.15	95.85	NR	NR	16.28	6.38	1.44
		Reliance	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NR	NA	NR	NA	NA	NA	100	100	NR	NA	NA
13.	Assam	BSNL	NR	8.21	94.86	93.85	95.70	24	NR	53.47%	0.09	93.39	77.33	40.76	NR	NR	1.03	1.02	0.79
14.	Chennai	Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1.7	0.005	71.67%	0.19	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00
		BSNL	NR	7.86	94.11	93.80	77.54	16.7	NR	71.17%	0.09	82.13	83.11	38.44	NR	NR	26.94	30.74	25.47
15.	Himachal Pradesh	BSNL	NA	10.05	96.33	94.14	95.72	6.33	NR	67.67%	0.06	86.31	82.01	61.80	NR	NR	2.08	1.33	0.61
		Reliance	NA	0.00	10.00	100.00	100.00	1.2	0.005	65.63%	0.00	N/A	N/A	100.00	NR	100	0	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	BSNL	NR	7.22	92.08	89.58	90.94	17	NR	34.43%	0.05	94.57	96.95	NR	NR	NR	1.27	1.93	1.27
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	BSNL	NR	14.24	83.80	86.86	85.63	12.3	NR	42.53%	0.07	77.22	76.18	24.40	NR	NR	4.03	7.95	1.67
18.	Kerala	BSNL	NR	6.73	92.10	93.67	93.47	13.3	NR	67.60%	0.04	94.91	97.98	45.80	NR	NR	5.74	6.33	6.29
		Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	2.8	0.005	68.02%	0.20	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0
19.	Kolkata	BSNL	NR	7.06	90.72	100.00	91.10	26	NR	53.50%	0.08	87.12	80.51	40.13	NR	NR	4.78	3.87	4.78
		Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1.6	0.005	72.78%	0.19	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Mumbai	Reliance	NA	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	1.9	0.005	71.93%	0.19	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0.00	0.00	0.00
		MTNL	17	7.89	74.09	76.24	79.92	27.3	0.009	84.78%	0.00	73.43	74.92	14.01	100	100	13.28	11.87	11.99
21.	North East-I	BSNL	NR	4.94	70.46	88.95	74.54	40	NR	44.40%	0.10	87.95	85.50	NR	NR	NR	8.57	6.49	1.28
22.	North East-II	BSNL	NR	8.54	94.74	88.14	85.98	29.3	NR	44.70%	0.11	80.42	71.71	10.56	NR	NR	3.48	1.94	3.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
23.	Orissa	BSNL	NR	6.69	93.02	97.83	93.28	9.33	NR	73.90%	0.23	75.00	91.91	27.32	NR	NR	0.71	2.17	1.32
		Reliance	NA	0.01	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.9	0.005	88.25%	0.19	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh-East	BSNL	NR	12.54	35.10	88.21	89.00	9	NR	86.53%	0.02	80.02	86.24	41.27	NR	NR	0.41	0.01	1.03
		Reliance	NA	0.01	100.00	100.00	100.00	1.3	0.005	82.04%	0.18	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh-West	BSNL	NR	8.02	95.41	96.41	96.84	5	NR	53.47%	0.04	92.30	87.16	47.98	NR	NR	3.88	4.34	3.16
		Reliance	NA	0.01	100.00	100.00	100.00	2.2	0.005	86.38%	0.08	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0
26.	Uttaranchal	BSNL	NR	10.80	97.92	90.79	91.76	6	NR	86.53%	0.02	80.02	86.24	41.27	NR	NR	1.36	1.38	1.43
27.	West Bengal	BSNL	NR	7.52	87.36	89.84	89.82	21	NR	55.67%	0.05	86.40	92.17	36.85	NR	NR	1.59	1.50	1.58
		Reliance	NA	0.04	100.00	100.00	100.00	2.2	0.005	87.90%	0.08	N/A	N/A	100.00	100	100	0	0	0

Operator not meeting prescribed benchmark

NA : Not Applicable

NR : Not Reported

**Statement II****Details QoS Parameters for Cellular Services as reported by CMSPs for the quarter ending 31st March 2004**

Sl.No.	Operators with Circles	Fault incidence & Repair			Network Performance				Billing Complaints		
		(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)
		No. of faults (per 1000 subscribers)	Faults cleared with 24 hrs.	Accumulated down time of community isolation	Call Success Rate (within licensee's own network)	Service Access Delay	Call Drop Rate	% of connection with good voice quality	Complaints per 100 bills issued	% of complaints resolved with 4 weeks	Period of all refunds/payment due to customers from the date of resolution of complaints as in (f) above
Benchmarks											
		<1	100%	<24 hrs	>99%	9 to 20 sec	<3%	>95%	<1%	100%	<4 weeks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
(i)	'A' Circle										
1.	BPL, MH	1.72%	59.00%	53.42 hrs	99.92%	5 Sec	1.45%	98.25%	0.105	100.00%	28 Days
2.	IDEA Cellular, MH	0.00%	100.00%	105.43 hrs	96.59%	13.58 Sec	1.22%	98.54%	0.07%	100.00%	30 Days
3.	BSNL, MH	1.63%	31.00%	50 hrs	86.10%	2.37 Sec	1.43%	NA	2.00%	96.00%	28 Days
4.	Bharti Cellular, MH & Goa	0.60%	100.00%	22.34 hrs	99.17%	9.43 Sec	1.00%	95.85%	0.43%	100.00%	28 Days
5.	Fascel-Hutch GJ	0.00%	100.00%	74.45 hrs	99.99%	14.54 Sec	1.40%	96.70%	0.00%	100.00%	25 Days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6.	IDEA Cellular, GJ	0.00%	100.00%	3.45 hrs	99.00%	13.96 Sec	1.14%	97.90%	0.06%	100.00%	28 Days
7.	BSNL, GJ	1.50%	99.06%	Nil	99.01%	2.08 Sec	1.18%	NA	0.02%	100.00%	14 Days
8.	Bharti Cellular, GJ	0.01%	100.00%	18.62 hrs	99.23%	16.53 Sec	1.08%	98.95%	0.04%	100.00%	14 Days
9.	IDEA Cellular, AP	0.00%	100.00%	15.18 hrs	99.97%	9.52 Sec	1.80%	98.45%	0.08%	100.00%	2 Days
10.	Bharti Mobile, AP	0.05%	100.00%	11 hrs	99.01%	15.77 Sec	1.21%	98.45%	0.07%	100.00%	30 Days
11.	BSNL, AP	0.10%	94.91%	0	98.00%	6 Sec	1.78%	98.00%	0.08%	83.00%	28 Days
12.	Hutchison Essar, AP	1.00%	95.00%	24 hrs	90.68%	5 sec	1.17%	94.00%	0.04%	100.00%	28 Days
13.	Bharti Mobile, KTK	0.04%	100.00%	10.53 hrs	99.08%	10 Sec	1.80%	95.80%	0.02%	100.00%	28 Days
14.	Spice Comm., KTK	0.20%	100.00%	4.01 hrs	99.80%	9 Sec	1.32%	98.30%	0.10%	100.00%	14 Days
15.	BSNL, KTK	0.60%	100.00%	7 hrs	86.84%	9 Sec	1.24%	98.00%	1.00%	100.00%	14 Days
16.	Hutchison Essar, KTK	0.05%	99.00%	82 hrs	97.50%	3.48 Sec	1.10%	98.22%	0.15%	100.00%	2 Days
17.	BPL Cellular, TN	0.16%	100.00%	20.24 hrs	99.10%	9.23 Sec	1.27%	99.24%	0.10%	100.00%	28 Days
18.	Aircel, TN	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	BSNL, TN	1.60%	97.05%	Nil	87.52%	10.47 Sec	1.17%	97.80%	1.24%	100.00%	14 Days
20.	Bharti Cellular, TN	0.10%	100.00%	21 hrs	99.08%	15.62 Sec	1.32%	97.89%	0.08%	100.00%	4 Days
(II)	'B' Circle										
21.	Escotel Mobile, KR	0.27%	100.00%	1.14 hrs	99.94%	14 Sec	1.30%	97.50%	0.12%	100.00%	28 Days
22.	BPL Cellular, KR	0.00%	100.00%	6.13 hrs	99.07%	8.89 Sec	1.16%	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%	28 Days
23.	BSNL, KR	1.80%	94.00%	99.36 hrs	87.21%	17.28 Sec	1.54%	87.00%	170.50%	85.00%	30 Days
24.	Bharti Cellular, KR	0.12%	100.00%	18 hrs	99.01%	18.26 Sec	1.78%	99.30%	0.10%	100.00%	4 Days
25.	Spice Comm., PB	0.25%	98.80%	0	98.50%	7 Sec	1.25%	97.50%	0.02%	100.00%	1 Day
26.	Bharti Mobile, PB	0.03%	100.00%	4.1 hrs	99.20%	10 Sec	1.50%	99.80%	0.07%	100.00%	1 Day
27.	BSNL, PB	0.00%	95.08%	545 hrs	98.00%	4.8 Sec	0.67%	91.00%	2.69%	95.42%	98%
28.	Escotel Mobile, HR	0.21%	100.00%	14.15 hrs	99.72%	15 Sec	1.31%	99.11%	0.05%	100.00%	28 Days
29.	Aircel Digilink, HR	0.02%	99.80%	29.26 hrs	99.72%	8.7 Sec	1.83%	99.80%	0.26%	78.00%	8 Days
30.	BSNL, HR	0.60%	99.83%	17 hrs	95.0%	5.6 Sec	2.88%	97.25%	0.19%	100.00%	21 Days
31.	Bharti Cellular, HR	0.08%	100.00%	4.2 hrs	99.30%	9 Sec	1.60%	99.70%	0.07%	100.00%	1 Day
32.	Escotel Mobile, UP (W)	0.10%	100.00%	11.23 hrs	99.50%	12.7 Sec	1.27%	95.95%	0.29%	10.00%	28 Days
33.	BSNL, UP (W)	1.00%	85.00%	NA	100.00%	17.38 Sec	2.68%	98.50%	0.24%	100.00%	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
34.	Bharti Cellular, UP (W)	0.75%	100.00%	18.4 hrs	99.42%	12 Sec	1.84%	96.40%	0.09%	100.00%	28 Days
35.	Aircel Digilink, UP (E)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36.	BSNL, UP (E)	0.60%	99.17%	3 hrs	96.00%	4 Sec	2.73%	94.06%	0.08%	100.00%	NA
37.	Aircel Digilink, RJ	0.01%	52.00%	89.3 hrs	100.00%	8.7 Sec	1.76%	97.53%	.07%	10.00%	16 Days
38.	Hexacom, RJ	1.09%	67.52%	87.4 hrs	98.10%	6 Sec	1.45%	92.02%	0.03%	100.00%	1 Day
39.	BSNL, RJ	0.60%	92.35%	8.86 hrs	98.51%	5.38%	1.65%	93.37%	0.65%	92.92%	28 Days
40.	IDEA Cellular, MP	0.20%	96.50%	43.2 hrs	99.07%	12.32 Sec	1.13%	97.95%	0.85%	100.00%	28 Days
41.	Reliance, MP	0.01%	100.00%	17.36 hrs	100.00%	8.73 Sec	2.75%	96.96%	0.04%	100.00%	1 Day
42.	BSNL, MP	1.20%	96.48%	NA	94.41%	2.59 Sec	1.29%	99.00%	0.06%	100.00%	28 Days
43.	Bharti Cellular, MP	0.00%	100.00%	.5 hrs	99.91%	13.44 Sec	0.83%	99.03%	0.09%	100.00%	14 Days
44.	Reliance, WB	0.01%	100.00%	21.42 hrs	98.00%	9.26 Sec	2.66%	97.92%	0.00%	NA	NA
45.	BSNL, WB	0.90%	100.00%	Nil	99.15%	5.66 Sec	2.73%	98.65%	0.00%	100.00%	Nil
(III)	'C' Circle										
46.	Bharti Telenet, HP	0.06%	100.00%	4.4 hrs	99.04%	10 Sec	1.65%	99.60%	0.06%	100.00%	1 Day
47.	Reliance, HP	0.12%	100.00%	21.15 hrs	100.00%	7.55 Sec	1.96%	99.09%	0.00%	100.00%	10 Days
48.	BSNL, HP	1.10%	77.58%	Nil	85.85%	6.1 Sec	3.24%	91.40%	0.19%	100.00%	Nil
49.	Reliance, BR	0.02%	100.00%	53.74 hrs	99.00%	8.64 Sec	2.02%	95.67%	0.00%	100.00%	7 Days
50.	BSNL, BR	0.06%	85.30%	9 hrs	97.27%	7.27 Sec	1.40%	92.95%	0.09%	99.90%	28 Days
51.	Reliance, Orissa	0.14%	100.00%	11.10 hrs	99.72%	8.44 Sec	2.27%	97.20%	0.00%	100.00%	NA
52.	BSNL, OR	0.36%	89.96%	100.87 hrs	82.25%	7 Sec	2.47%	96.00%	0.70%	100.00%	Nil
53.	Reliance, AS	0.00%	100.00%	Nil	99.00%	9.86 Sec	2.06%	96.85%	0.06%	100.00%	NA
54.	BSNL J&K	0.79%	0.90%	16 hrs	48.00%	16 Sec	2.30%	96.00%	0.12%	100.00%	NA
55.	Reliance, NE	0.00%	100.00%	0	99.00%	9.50 Sec	1.33%	99.02%	0.02%	100.00%	2 Days
(IV)	Metro										
56.	Bharti Cellular, Delhi	0.34%	100.00%	0	99.32%	12 Sec	1.87%	96.13%	0.10%	100.00%	30 Days
57.	Hutchison Essar, Delhi	1.00%	100.00%	0	99.98%	10 Sec	1.36%	95.25%	0.03%	100.00%	30 Days
58.	MTNL, Delhi	0.18%	96.00%	0	96.20%	13 Sec	1.01%	99.00%	0.10%	100.00%	30 Days
59.	IDEA Cellular, Delhi	0.15%	96.77%	0	99.98%	7 Sec	1.30%	97.06%	0.20%	100.00%	30 Days
60.	BPL Mobile, Mumbai	0.32%	100.00%	4.03 hrs	94.82%	16.5 Sec	1.64%	98.80%	0.10%	100.00%	40 Days

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
61.	Hutchison Max, Mumbai	0.32%	100.00%	24 hrs	100.00%	10 Sec	1.56%	96.85%	0.00%	100.00%	30 Days
62.	MTNL, Mumbai	0.01%	100.00%	0	98.50%	11.66 Sec	1.62%	97.33%	0.01%	99.33%	42 Days
63.	Bharti Cellular, Mumbai	0.40%	100.00%	0	99.10%	9 Sec	1.48%	97.00%	0.08%	100.00%	25 Days
64.	Aircel Cellular Ltd, Chennai	0.22%	100.00%	3.4 hrs	100.00%	14.5 Sec	1.44%	95.10%	0.40%	100.00%	30 Days
65.	Bharti Mobinet, Chennai	0.06%	99.00%	0	99.50%	11.2 Sec	0.89%	96.28%	0.10%	100.00%	4 Days
66.	Hutchison Essar, Chennai	1.00%	100.00%	0	100.00%	9.2 Sec	0.73%	98.80%	3.70%	92.00%	30 Days
67.	Bharti Mobinet, Kolkata	0.46%	100.00%	0	99.66%	15 Sec	1.59%	97.13%	0.10%	100.00%	30 Days
68.	Hutchison, Kolkata	0.02%	100.00%	8.98 hrs	99.75%	17 Sec	0.97%	96.38%	0.10%	100.00%	30 Days
69.	BSNL, Kolkata	4.80%	86.63%	0	98.44%	7 Sec	1.56%	98.36%	0.50%	100.00%	Nil
70.	BSNL, Chennai	0.52%	100.00%	Nil	98.61%	12.20 Sec	0.54%	100.00%	0.77%	98.00%	14 Days

**Note:**

NA = Data Not available	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
Not meeting the benchmarks	9	26	13	24	0	1	8	23	10	3
Meeting the benchmarks	60	43	55	45	69	68	61	46	59	60
Total	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70

Benchmark not meeting the Service Providers.

*[English]*

### Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

466. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:  
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign dignitaries who visited India since March, 2004 till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of these dignitaries;

(c) the details of the bilateral agreements including agreement on Agricultural products signed with them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the relations with other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH). The visits of Foreign Dignitaries to India from March to June 2004 are given below, country-wise:

#### Bhutan

(a), (b) and (c) Mr. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Foreign Minister of Bhutan visited India on June 7-10, 2004. Bilateral discussions were held including security related issues, economic and cultural cooperation. No agreements were signed during the visit.

#### Bangladesh

(a) and (b) The Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Shri Morshed Khan visited India from 31st May till 4th June 2004. He came as a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and delivered letter of invitation to Prime Minister and Chairperson of the UPA to visit Bangladesh.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

**Sri Lanka**

(a) Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka visited India from 28 to 29 April 2004 and again from 30 May to 2 June 2004.

(b) On both occasions, the Minister came on a Bilateral visit.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

**Thailand**

(a) The Foreign Minister of Thailand Mr. Surakiart Sathirathai visited India on June 8-11, 2004.

(b) The visit was primarily for making contacts with the new Government. However, issues of bilateral, regional and International significance were discussed during the visit.

(c) No bilateral agreement was signed.

**Iran:**

(a) Head of Judiciary of Iran, Ayatollah Shahroudi visited India from 9-15 March 2004.

(b) Strengthening of bilateral relations, especially development of relations in the field of judicial cooperation was discussed. As per the MoU on the Road Map to Strategic Cooperation signed between the two countries in January 2003, the two countries are following a focused approach to strengthening bilateral cooperation in the spheres of political dialogue, energy, trade and transit and science and technology.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

**Zanzibar**

(a) H.E. Mr. Amani Abeid Karume, President of Zanzibar paid on official visit to India from March 8-12, 2004.

(b) Deliberations were held on a variety of issues including importance of strengthening democracy in the respective countries; assisting Zanzibar in the field of science and technology by deputing teachers in science & technology, by training Zanzibar teachers as well as by providing aid in the form of books, educational kits, computers

and hospital equipment. Discussions were also held to provide assistance to Zanzibar in rice farming especially in undertaking research on rice seeds.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

**West Africa: TEAM-9 Meeting in New Delhi**

(a) The Foreign Ministry/Ministers in-charge of TEAM-9 Countries (Techno Economic Approach for India Africa Movement) visited India between February 29 to March 3 to attend the Meeting of TEAM-9.

(b) Wide range of subjects like cooperation in agriculture, irrigation, water management, health, communications, small scale industries, human resource development, employment and energy were discussed.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding for Technical and Economic Cooperation and Transfer of Technology was signed between India and the 8 African countries from West Africa, namely, Burkina Faso, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali and Senegal. For this purpose, the Government of India announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million to be used for projects and infrastructure development of these West African countries.

**U.K.**

(a) to (c) Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott visited India as a Special Envoy of the UK Prime Minister from 24-25 June 2004. He called on Prime Minister and also met External Affairs Minister during the visit. The UK Deputy Prime Minister handed over to Prime Minister letters from UK Prime Minister Mr. Tony Blair. EAM had earlier visited UK on 16 June 2004. Steps continue to be taken to develop bilateral relations with the UK in a wide range of areas.

**USA**

(a) Mr. Colin Powell, Secretary of State of USA paid an official visit to India on March 15, 2004.

(b) Both sides exchanged views on all bilateral and international issues.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

**Brazil and South Africa (IBSA)**

(a), (b) and (c) Foreign Minister of Brazil, H.E. Ceslo Amorin and Foreign Minister of South Africa H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, visited India on March 4-5, 2004 at the invitation of EAM for First Meeting of the Trilateral Commission of India, Brazil and South Africa Dialogue Forum. At the end of the meeting the New Delhi Agenda of Cooperation and Plan of Action was adopted by the three Foreign Ministers.

(d) Strengthening of relations with other countries is a continuous process.

**Maharatna Status to BSNL**

467. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL has requested the Government to accord Maharatna status;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial position of the company during the last three years; and

(d) the action taken by the Government for according Maharatna status to BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, BSNL requested the Govt. in August 2001 for grant of Maharatna status, BSNL later revised its proposal in November 2001 for grant of Navratna status only.

(c) Financial position of the BSNL for the last 3 years i.e. 2000-01 to 2002-03 is furnished at Statement enclosed.

(d) The grant of Maharatna status to BSNL does not arise as no such status is recognized by Department of Public Enterprises.

**Statement***Financial Position of BSNL for the Last Three years*

Particulars	Amount in Crore of Rupees		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Income	11699.48	24681.69	25892.60
License Fee Reimbursement	0.00	2300.00	2300.00
Employees Remuneration	2070.07	3848.45	6266.03
Admn., Financial & other expenses	3168.03	4131.81	6285.78
Licence and Spectrum Fee	1579.25	3403.12	3431.58
Depreciation	3858.08	8746.13	9551.31
Profit before tax	1030.05	6852.18	2657.90
Tax	283.00	540.01	1213.45
Profit after tax	747.05	6312.17	1444.45

Note: Figure for the year 2000-01 are only for six monthly period ending 31.03.2001.

**Delay in Golden Quadrilateral Project**

468. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:  
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

(a) whether the completion of Golden Quadrilateral road project in several States of the country is running behind the original time schedule;

(b) if so, the State-wise and length-wise details of the roads which are running behind the original time schedule;

(c) the details of additional expenses likely to be incurred on these projects due to delay in their completion;

(d) the time by which the entire project is likely to be completed; and

(e) the progress made so far in Salem-Cochin NH-47 Express Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise and length-wise details of the ongoing projects which have not been completed as per the original contractual date of completion are as under:

State	Length (in kms)
Uttar Pradesh	14
Bihar	85
West Bengal	182
Orissa	388
Andhra Pradesh	449
Tamil Nadu	201
Rajasthan	157
Gujarat	80
Maharashtra	162
Karnataka	95

(c) It is expected that the Golden Quadrilateral project will be completed within the original approved cost.

(d) Substantial completion of the project is targeted by December 2004. The entire project is likely to be completed in 2005 except Allahabad bypass.

(e) Salem-Cochin Section of NH-47 is to be widened to 4-6 lanes as part of a spur of the North South Corridor. The Detailed Project Reports are under preparation for the section from Salem to Angamali. Four laning has already been completed from Angamali to Cochin.

#### Road and Rail Connectivity to Ports

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

(a) whether some ports have been provided with road and rail connectivity;

(b) if so, the port-wise position as on date; and

(c) the steps taken to provide the same in the rest of the ports?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) All the 12 major ports have been provided with road and rail connectivity.

(b) and (c) The port-wise position on road and rail connectivity is given in the statement enclosed. However, improvement in major ports' connectivity is an ongoing process.

#### Statement

#### Road Connectivity

- (i) Kolkata Port: Kolkata Dock System is connected with NH-6, NH-2 and NH-34. Haldia Dock Complex is connected with NH-41 and NH-6.
- (ii) Paradip Port: NH-5A connects Paradip Port with Chandikhole at NH-5 route between Kolkata and Chennai.
- (iii) Visakhapatnam Port: The port is connected with NH-5.
- (iv) Ennore Port: The port is connected with NH-4, NH-5 and NH-45.
- (v) Chennai Port: The port is connected with NH-4, NH-5 and NH-45.
- (vi) Tuticorin Port: The port is connected with NH-7A and NH-45B. Major District Road links Tuticorin with Kanyakumari via Tiruchendur along the east coast.
- (vii) Cochin Port: The port is connected with NH-47, NH-49 and NH-17.
- (viii) New Mangalore Port: The port is connected with NH-17 and NH-48.
- (ix) Mormugao Port: The port is connected with NH-17.
- (x) Mumbai Port: The port is connected with National Highways 3 and 4.
- (xi) Jawaharlal Nehru Port: The port is connected with NH-4B, NH-17 and SH-54.
- (xii) Kandla Port: The port is connected with NH-8A.

**Rail Connectivity**

- (i) Kolkata Port: The Kolkata Dock System is connected with Eastern Railway and Haldia Dock Complex is connected with South Eastern Railway.
- (ii) Paradip Port: The port is connected with East Coast Railway.
- (iii) Visakhapatnam Port: The port is connected with the East Coast Railway.
- (iv) Ennore Port: The port is connected with Southern Railway.
- (v) Chennai Port: The port is connected to Southern Railway.
- (vi) Tuticorin Port: The port is connected to Southern Railway.
- (vii) Cochin Port: The port is connected with Southern Railway.
- (viii) New Mangalore Port: The port is connected with South-Western Railway.
- (ix) Mormugao Port: The port is connected with South-Western and Konkan Railways.
- (x) Mumbai Port: The port is connected with Western and Central Railways.
- (xi) Jawaharlal Nehru Port: The port is connected with Central, Western and Konkan Railways.
- (xii) Kandla Port: The port is connected with Western and North-Western Railways.

**Problems Afflicting Hospitals in Metro Cities**

470. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that major hospitals in four metro cities are facing lots of problems due to acute shortage of manpower and requisite equipments;

(b) whether the Government is also aware of the fact that these hospitals are not getting required electricity which causes under-utilisation of several machines; and

(c) if so, the specific plan drawn/proposed to be drawn to tide over the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is for the concerned State Governments to ensure the availability of requisite manpower and equipments including its optimal utilization in their hospitals.

No machine is under utilized due to shortage of electricity in Central Government Hospitals. Efforts are on to fill the vacancies and to provide latest equipments in these hospitals, which is a continuous process.

*[Translation]*

**Illegal Occupation of Areas by Neighbouring Countries**

471. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the neighbouring countries have illegally occupied certain areas of our country;

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

(c) whether Pakistan has illegally occupied our territory and has given a part of it to China;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) the areas freed from the possession of the neighbouring countries till date; and

(f) the extent to which the said matter has been highlighted at the international arena?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (f) India has outstanding boundary issues to be resolved with Pakistan and China. China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 sq. kms in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan has been in illegal and forcible occupation of approximately 78,000 sq. kms. Under so called "Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963", Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms of Indian territory to China.

Indian and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. In the Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation issued on June 23, 2003 during Prime Minister's visit to China,

India and China have agreed that both would appoint Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of boundary settlement. Two meetings of the Special Representatives have taken place so far. India and Pakistan are committed under the Simla Agreement to resolve all outstanding issues peacefully and bilaterally.

*[English]*

#### **Foreign Exchange Inflows from NRIs**

472. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to slow down foreign exchange inflows from Non-resident Indians;

(b) if so, the reasons for the said decision;

(c) whether the RBI has furnished a report on external liabilities to the Government;

(d) if so, the main recommendations regarding foreign exchange inflows from NRIs in the said report; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government on the said recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e) Inputs are being obtained. As and when the information is received, the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Sanctioned Schemes of MPLAD**

473. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sanctioned schemes of MPLAD for the year 2003-2004 will be released soon;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether the executives of Block Level are not following the guidelines; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The MPLAD Scheme is a continuous scheme. Funds for implementation of MPLAD Scheme are released as per the Guidelines. The District Administration releases funds to the Implementing Agencies for the sanctioned works. The funds for 2003-04 for the eligible cases have been released. As against the Budget Estimate of Rs. 1580 crore, Rs. 1682 crore have been released by getting additional amount of Rs. 102 crore in the supplementary grant during 2003-04.

(c) and (d) Para 2.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS stipulates, "Implementation agencies can be either Government or Panchayati Raj Institutions or any other reputed non-governmental organization who may be considered by the District Head as capable of implementing the works satisfactorily..... The Head of the District shall identify the agency through which a particular work recommended by the Member of Parliament should be executed". Block can be one of the agencies to implement the works recommended by the Member of Parliament. The executives at the Block Level are to follow the guidelines on MPLADS. In case, there is any complaint in this regard, the same is referred to the State Government for taking remedial and corrective measures.

#### **Congestion Problem at Ports**

474. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any major ports in the country are facing congestion problem; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, port-wise along with the steps taken to reduce the congestion in those ports?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No major ports except Chennai and Jawaharlal Nehru Ports have been facing congestion problems. The details of congestion and steps taken to reduce it in these ports are given below:

Name of Port	Details of congestion	Steps taken to reduce congestion						
Chennai	<p>Chennai Port is not facing congestion for any commodities except for containerised cargo. This congestion has taken place due to go slow/strike by the staff of the private container terminal in May-June, 2004. As on 1.7.2004, following container vessels were waiting:</p> <p>Ruthnupura — From 29.6.2004  Kripa — from 29.6.2004  Jurang Bebaru — From 30.6.2004</p>	<p>The private operator in coordination with the stake holders such as liner operators, Custom Housing Agents (CHA), etc., are taking steps such as enbloc movement, non-delivery at terminal etc. to reduce the congestion.</p>						
Jawaharlal Nehru	<p>There has been congestion in Jawaharlal Nehru Port, leading to delays in movement of containers. Besides inadequate handling capacity of containers, other courses, at present, are as follows:</p> <p>(a) Rise in container traffic.  (b) Mega block taken by Western Railway  (c) Lack of adequate rake handling capacity at Ludhiana Inland Container Depot (ICD).</p> <p>The pendency position of containers in Jawaharlal Nehru Port as on 1.7.2004 was as follows:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="391 1197 822 1436"> <tr> <td data-bbox="391 1197 656 1295">1. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT)</td> <td data-bbox="776 1269 822 1295">5500</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="391 1310 656 1408">2. Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT)</td> <td data-bbox="776 1377 822 1404">4367</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="452 1412 594 1436">Total Pendency</td> <td data-bbox="776 1412 822 1438">9867</td> </tr> </table>	1. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT)	5500	2. Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT)	4367	Total Pendency	9867	<p>In order to enhance capacity, existing Bulk Terminal is being converted to Container Terminal. For this, letter of Intermt has been issued on 24.6.2004 to M/e MAERSK-CONCOR (Container Corporation of India) consortium for conversion of bulk terminal into container terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust on Build Operate Transfer (BOT) basis.</p> <p>The port held a special meeting with the representatives of Nhava-Sheva International Container terminal (NSICT), Container Corporation of India and (CONCOR) &amp; Port Users and following corrective measures are being taken:</p> <p>(i) JNPCT to mobilise 2 additional Reach Stackers. Out of this, one has already commenced operations on 4.7.2004.</p> <p>(ii) CONCOR to take Inland Container Depot (ICD) Containers destined for Ludhiana to ICD at Dadri and to shift such containers from Dadri to Ludhiana by road.</p> <p>(iii) In order to improve turn around of mixed rakes at NSICT rail lines 4&amp;5, JNPCT identified area for stacking of JNPCT bound export containers arriving on trains at lines 4&amp;5.</p>
1. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT)	5500							
2. Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT)	4367							
Total Pendency	9867							

**Scam In Kendriya Bhandar**

475. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether scams after scams are taking place in Kendriya Bhandar and the Government are not investigating them;

(b) whether Kendriya Bhandar have sold LG brand air-conditioners and Gateway brand typing and duplicating papers at higher than the market rates;

(c) whether Kendriya Bhandar decided to fix the responsibility of the employees but have failed to take any action against them;

(d) whether an enquiry against the guilty employees/purchase committees had already been carried out; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the corrupt employees/purchase committee?

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 PACHAURI): (a) to (e) Complaints, as and when received, are examined by Kendriya Bhandar. A complaint regarding the selling of LG brand Air conditioners at higher rates than the market rate was examined by Kendriya Bhandar. On investigation, the supplier was found to have violated the Price Guarantee. Accordingly, business dealings with the supplier were terminated and a recovery of Rs. 2.72 lakhs was made. Responsibility of the Purchase Committee/employees in the matter is being investigated.

A case of selling of Gateway brand Typing and Duplicating paper is under investigation by Kendriya Bhandar's Vigilance department.

*[Translation]*

**AIIMS, New Delhi**

476. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the utter chaos prevailing in various departments of AIIMS, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is considering creation of temporary accommodation arrangements for patients coming from different parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. There is no chaos prevailing in any Department of All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Patients care activities which are provided through are comparable to the best anywhere. It is because of its distinctly high reputation that on an average every day 6000-7000 patients attend the OPD. The systems and procedures involved in treatment, admission, surgical and therapeutic procedures, diagnostics and patient care are fully established.

(c) and (d) At present, two Vishram Sadans namely Rajgharia and Sureka having a bed capacity of 112 and 190 beds respectively are functioning in the AIIMS with dormitory/semi dormitory and room facilities. Shri Sai Vishram Sadan with 100 bed capacity is also complete.

**Expansion of Telephone Services**

477. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

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

(a) whether any targets were set for the expansion of telephone services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated percentage achievement of targets made by each of the urban and rural areas so far; and

(d) the time by which the Government are likely to achieve the targets set for the rural areas?

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

(b) As per NPT-1999, the overall tele-density target of 7 per hundred was to be achieved by 2005 and 15.0 by 2010. Further for the rural areas, the tele-density target of 4.0 is to be achieved by 2010.

For the 10th plan, a target of 9.91 is to be achieved by the end of 2006-07. For the rural areas, the target of tele-density of 3.0 is to be achieved by the end of the Plan.

(c) The over-all tele-density of 7.15 has already been achieved by the end of 30.04.2004. For the rural areas, the achievement is 1.58. The tele-density achieved in urban areas is 21.17.

Out of 6.07 lakh villages, 521552 villages have been provided Village Public Telephones as on 30.04.2004. All the exchanges in the country have been provided with reliable media and the District Headquarters have been provided with Internet connectivity.

(d) With the introduction of non-lapsable USO Fund and its use to cover the rural areas and increasing competition in the market, it is expected that the laid down targets for the rural areas shall be achieved.

*[English]*

#### **Bid for Acquisition of Rwanda Telecom**

478. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether MTNL Board has approved the bid for the stake of overseas acquisition of Rwanda Telecom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of other Indian Private Telecom Operators eligible for the above bidding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) MTNL Board in its 195th meeting dated 1st June, 2004 has approved that

MTNL may procure the bidding documents and get due diligence through some reputed agency so that based on the outcome of due diligence, decision whether to invest could be taken.

(c) Private Telecom operators are not required to intimate Department of Telecommunications for bidding in any tender.

#### **Promotion of Khadi and Village Industries**

479. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to promote Khadi and Village Industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to each State for promotion of Khadi and Village Industries during last two years; and

(d) the amount utilised by these States during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The promotion of Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) in the country is an ongoing programme of the Government. For the promotion of Khadi industries, Government is already implementing Rebate/Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme, Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) providing subsidized rates of interest on bank loans and Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs. For promotion of village Industries, Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) is being implemented in the rural areas of the country wherein margin money subsidy is provided for setting up of industries in the rural areas.

(c) and (d) The State-wise amount allocated and utilised for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 are available at statement enclosed.

**Statement****Zone-wise and State-wise Allocation & Utilisation of Funds Under KVI Sector**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/ Union Territories	2002-2003				2003-2004				
		REGP		Khadi		REGP		Khadi		
		Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation	Allocation	Utilisation	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>I. North Zone</b>										
1.	Chandigarh	29.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.24	0.00	0.00	
2.	Delhi	43.00	16.16	67.78	479.99	27.92	12.31	78.19	919.35	
3.	Haryana	804.00	884.91	463.73	424.51	1072.95	1938.36	702.40	311.15	
4.	Himachal Pradesh	570.00	643.78	238.90	202.97	1046.96	757.11	270.96	225.83	
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	267.00	179.00	167.59	117.63	81.48	363.45	136.85	113.55	
6.	Punjab	1160.00	1744.62	310.65	592.41	1271.88	819.63	470.58	292.79	
7.	Rajasthan	1052.00	2189.08	963.97	846.56	3325.10	2890.28	1052.50	663.68	
	Total-I	3925.00	5657.95	2212.62	2664.07	6826.29	6791.38	2711.48	2526.35	
<b>II. East Zone</b>										
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	89.00	78.24	0.00	5.35	94.59	28.44	0.00	18.16	
2.	Bihar	752.00	108.13	246.69	544.61	972.48	186.03	584.37	298.49	
3.	Jharkhand	290.00	421.01	118.83	233.46	600.89	198.08	203.83	189.95	
4.	Orissa	483.00	156.78	22.40	77.46	760.20	784.11	65.97	74.78	
5.	Sikkim	34.00	6.70	3.84	7.01	99.62	24.66	4.65	28.72	
6.	West Bengal	1280.00	1202.17	445.68	471.26	2421.93	1593.51	908.38	366.31	
	Total-II	2928.00	1973.03	837.44	1339.15	4949.71	2814.83	1767.20	976.41	
<b>III. North East Zone</b>										
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	300.00	45.36	1.00	32.83	53.75	52.77	3.86	69.98	
2.	Assam	613.00	375.68	155.17	433.59	1246.70	806.83	142.76	268.22	
3.	Manipur	198.00	110.53	23.01	26.40	180.86	11.06	33.58	45.43	
4.	Meghalaya	430.00	135.94	1.81	17.55	304.89	121.79	6.55	31.93	
5.	Mizoram	196.00	224.40	6.00	13.23	94.63	61.10	42.57	51.43	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6.	Nagaland	157.00	50.15	4.66	27.05	187.17	117.2	39.11	88.56
7.	Tripura	213.00	106.23	2.00	10.87	206.23	224.02	1.13	31.88
	Total-III	2107.00	1048.29	193.65	561.32	2254.23	1394.77	269.56	587.43
<b>IV.</b>	<b>South Zone</b>								
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1078.00	1775.01	1978.69	204.11	1450.66	1670.83	295.80	197.07
2.	Karnataka	1220.00	1560.05	797.26	647.52	1819.77	1692.17	739.22	499.27
3.	Kerala	1202.00	1196.03	576.25	748.35	2438.61	2753.15	665.05	396.02
4.	Lakshadweep	52.00	0.00	273.85	0.00	1.02	7.42	0.00	0.00
5.	Pondicherry	40.00	0.29	12.14	0.43	12.35	12.65	8.65	0
6.	Tamil Nadu	605.00	604.07	0.00	1910.81	1100.64	1362.17	2681.10	1377.13
	Total-IV	4197.00	5135.45	3638.19	3511.22	6823.05	7498.39	4389.82	2469.49
<b>V.</b>	<b>West Zone</b>								
1.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	26.00	9.49	0.00	0.42	0.00	4.13	0.00	3.43
2.	Daman and Diu	28.00	0	0.00	4.25	3.86	0	0.00	0
3.	Goa	203.00	198.06	0.00	18.13	342.01	82.98	0.00	11.52
4.	Gujarat	623.00	102.23	2297.61	1055.07	519.17	130.34	1385.38	733.25
5.	Maharashtra	1029.00	1541.92	4.20	608.88	2295.55	873.25	286.02	341.22
	Total-V	1809.00	1851.70	2301.81	1686.75	3160.59	1090.70	1671.40	1089.42
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Central Zone</b>								
1.	Chhattisgarh	346.00	427.33	62.32	36.07	1002.78	1098.00	124.53	74.52
2.	Madhya Pradesh	1441.00	605.97	155.18	254.05	1039.74	1355.07	245.64	235.62
3.	Uttaranchal	223.00	378.02	30.38	438.14	637.84	979.7	450.65	502.8
4.	Uttar Pradesh	2662.00	2293.52	3220.42	4079.72	3433.85	3415.18	4796.18	3037.13
	Total-VI	4672.00	3704.84	3468.30	4807.98	6114.21	6847.95	5617.00	3850.07
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Others</b>								
1.	Departmental	0.00	0.00	0.00	649.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	1169.94
2.	UNDP	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total-VII	0.00	0.00	0.00	669.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	1169.94
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>19738.00</b>	<b>19371.26</b>	<b>12652.01</b>	<b>15239.90</b>	<b>30128.08</b>	<b>26438.02</b>	<b>16426.46</b>	<b>12669.11</b>

**Cargo Traffic**

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

(a) the cargo traffic handled by each port during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether any steps has been taken to construct additional berths/terminal in any port in Tenth plan period;

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

(d) the steps being taken to increase efficiency of major ports?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The port-wise cargo traffic handled during the last three years, year-wise is given below:

(In Million Tonnes)

Name of the Port	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)
Kolkata	30.40	35.80	41.05
Paradip	21.13	23.90	25.31
Visakhapatnam	44.34	46.01	47.74
Ennore	3.40	8.49	9.28
Chennai	36.12	33.69	36.71
Tuticorin	13.02	13.29	13.68
Cochin	12.06	13.00	13.57
New Mangalore	17.50	21.43	26.67
Mormugao	22.93	23.65	27.87
Jawaharal Nehru	22.52	26.84	31.18
Mumbai	26.43	26.80	29.96
Kandla	37.73	40.63	41.52
<b>Total:</b>	<b>287.58</b>	<b>313.53</b>	<b>344.54</b>

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Additional capacity of 20.65 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) has been created in Major Ports through completion of 10 additional berth/terminals so far during the 10th Plan period. As part of ongoing process for creation of additional capacities in the 10h Plan, 7 berths/terminals with an aggregated capacity of 18.30 MTPA are under construction.

(d) Improvement in efficiency in Major Ports is an ongoing process. To increase efficiency of major ports, the following major steps have been taken from time to time in relation to major ports:

- (i) Construction and equipping of new berth/terminals;
- (ii) Replacement of existing equipment with the state-of-art equipment on existing berths;
- (iii) Labour training and improvement in management practices for achieving higher efficiency output;
- (iv) Private sector involvement in the development and operation of port facilities to bring out additional investment and modern techniques for greater efficiency;

- (v) Computerisation of port working and partial induction of Electronic Data Interchange; and
- (vi) Setting up of Vessel Traffic Management System.

#### **Policy on Spectrum**

481. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI SURESH KURUP:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to frame a comprehensive policy on spectrum to redress several hitches of the telecom operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether TRAI had initiated consultations on this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Telecom Operators are given spectrum as per their respective License Agreements and the spectrum policy.

(c) and (d) Yes, TRAI had initiated a consultation paper on spectrum issues, including its Efficient Utilization, Allocation and pricing.

#### **Share of Small Scale Industries in Production**

482. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of very small industries, cottage industries and small scale industries in the total production of the country is negligible;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage this sector in order to generate the employment; and

(d) if so, the details of programmes chalked out by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The share of Village and Small Industries Sector (VSI), including tiny units in the total production of the country for the year 2002-03 (at 1993-94 prices) was estimated to be 46.68%.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has taken several measures to encourage SSI sector through various schemes and programmes relating to enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure, marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation. For employment generation various schemes such as Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) are being implemented. During the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07), this sector has been assigned additional target of employment of 4.4 million persons in SSI sector, 2 million under REGP of KVIC, 1.65 million under PMRY and 0.10 million under Coir Sector. Keeping in view the potential of REGP Scheme in providing employment through the process of rural industrialization, Government of India has increased the target for employment generation during the 10th Five Year Plan from 2 million to 2.5 million.

*[Translation]*

#### **Reservation of Items in Small Scale Industries**

483. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any advisory committee to decide the cases of reservation and non reservation of items for manufacture in the area of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the composition of the committee and the areas the committee members represent;

(c) the reasons for the recommendations of items to be reserved and the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to remove the anomaly prevailing in the case of reserved and non-reserved items?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In pursuance of sub-section (2B) of section 29B of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 (65 of

1951) Government has constituted an Advisory Committee consisting of the following persons, for giving its expert advice in the matter of determining the nature of any article or class of articles that may be reserved for production by the ancillary or small scale industrial undertaking, namely:

1. Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries—Chairman.
2. Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry—Member.
3. Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry—Member.
4. Advisor, Village and Small Industries Division, Planning Commission—Member.
5. Additional Secretary to the Government of India and Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries—Member Secretary.

(c) The Advisory Committee while considering an item for reservation for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector decides within the following prescribed criteria laid down in the ID & R Act, which is as follows:

- a. the nature of any article or class of articles which may be produced economically by the ancillary, or small scale industrial undertakings;
- b. the level of employment likely to be generated by the production of such article or class of articles by the ancillary, or small scale industrial undertakings;
- c. the possibility of encouraging and diffusing entrepreneurship in industry; the prevention of concentration of economic power to the common detriment, and
- d. such other matters as the Advisory Committee may think fit.

(d) Ministry of SSI consults the stakeholders to identify the cases of anomaly in the list of reserved items so that the matter can be referred to the Advisory Committee for their recommendations on desirable amendments to be made in the list of reserved items.

*[English]*

### **East-West Corridor**

484. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to retain the original alignment for the proposed East-West Corridor (Express Highway) between Siliguri in West Bengal and Shrirampur in Assam through NH-41 (C);

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) It is presumed that the Hon'ble member is referring to NH-31 and NH-31 (c) and not NH-41 (c).

The survey and investigation work along the original alignment of NH-31 & NH-31C has been carried out to retain the existing alignment for the East-West Corridor Project between Siliguri in West Bengal and Shrirampur in Assam. Ministry of Environment and Forests have raised some objections on this alignment since a part of this alignment is passing through pristine forest area. The matter is under examination.

### **Extradition of Akshardham Conspirator**

485. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Abu Hamza, an absconder in the chargesheet filed by the Crime Branch and the main conspirator of the attack on Akshardham temple in Gandhinagar in September 2002, was arrested in Britain on terror charges;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has initiated efforts to seek Scotland Yard's help for his extradition; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the reaction of the British Government in the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) According to information obtained from agencies concerned, Abu Hamza @ Abdul Bari of Hyderabad was the main conspirator for the attack in Akshardham Temple, Gandhinagar in September 2002. However, this Abu Hamza @ Abdul Bari is not the same person as Abu Hamza who has been arrested recently in UK on terrorism charges. The Abu Hamza arrested in UK is not connected with the Akshardham conspiracy.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Proposal to Alter Indo-Pak Border**

486. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister has opened the door for a fresh controversy by not ruling out the possibility of altering India's borders with Pakistan for a resolution of the Kashmir problem as reported in the *Deccan Chronicle* dated June 11, 2004;

(b) if so, whether there is any departure from the past policy; and

(c) if not, the views of the Government to get a solution on the Kashmir problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Government's clear, consistent and principled position has been that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Pakistan is in illegal and forcible occupation of a part thereof.

India is committed to a peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues with Pakistan.

#### **Irregularities in the Purchase of Drugs Under CGHS**

487. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that there have been 'massive irregularities in the purchase of drugs' under CGHS during the last 3 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered by the Government;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) There have been complaints alleging irregularities in the purchase of drugs under CGHS during the last 3 years. The major ones related to (a) the irregularities in the appointment of local chemists for supply of medicines to CGHS dispensaries in Delhi during 2001 (b) charging of sales tax at higher rates or higher cost for the medicine supplied etc. by some of the local chemists in Delhi (c) procurement of poor quality of Unani medicines procured by CGHS in Delhi during 1999-2002 and (d) over-payment made to the local chemists in Allahabad.

While disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the former Addl. Director (CGHS) in the matter of appointment of local chemists in Delhi, disciplinary action against others in the case relating to Unani medicines is contemplated.

CBI has also registered two cases and have started their investigation. Further action will be taken on the basis of the outcome of the departmental proceedings and on the recommendation of the CBI after the investigation.

#### **Loan Provided by KVIC**

488. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPAHTY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loan provided to economically weaker persons through Khadi Board of KVIC during the last five years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether any irregularities have been found in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the officials found guilty?

provided for the year 1998-1999 were not maintained by the KVIC.

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The State-wise details of the loans provided to weaker section persons through State Khadi Boards and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during the last four years are given at statement enclosed. The details of the loans

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Irregularities noticed pertain to delays in release of Margin money under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) scheme of the KVIC to the beneficiaries or release of Margin money to ineligible units. The concerned delinquent officials of the Banks, State Boards and the KVIC have been proceeded against as per rules.

### Statement

*State-wise details of loans provided to weaker section persons through KVIBs/KVIC during last four years*

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	States/ Union Territories	Estimated Loan Amount Provided to Weaker section Beneficiaries			
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.96	22.05	11.58	35.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.03	0.83	0.06	1.68
3.	Assam	0.24	0.48	0.32	7.23
4.	Bihar	0.63	0.64	0.54	2.55
5.	Goa	1.23	3.46	7.00	6.21
6.	Gujarat	0.57	1.47	1.21	1.2
7.	Haryana	1.35	8.54	7.42	19.23
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.18	1.02	8.64	11.25
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	8.46	10.18	11.48	1.23
10.	Karnataka	14.7	12.70	19.07	32.28
11.	Kerala	6.54	6.59	20.92	30.15
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20.1	33.12	15.26	15.69
13.	Maharashtra	11.49	26.18	37.31	45.78
14.	Manipur	0.15	1.50	0.16	3.42
15.	Meghalaya	8.16	2.59	2.30	3.75
16.	Mizoram	0.6	1.25	0.12	9.39

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Nagaland	1.05	16.96	2.36	2.34
18.	Orissa	1.02	0.83	8.99	7.65
19.	Punjab	9	13.24	16.25	28.32
20.	Rajasthan	37.35	15.39	38.52	28.35
21.	Sikkim	0	0.03	0.00	0.12
22.	Tamil Nadu	3.6	6.72	8.70	17.52
23.	Tripura	0	0.09	0.35	1.62
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2.22	31.90	27.10	36.66
25.	West Bengal	21.57	3.29	42.08	17.73
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.09	0.09	0.73	2.01
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	0.00	1.72	0
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.03	0.03	0.18
29.	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0.00	0
30.	Delhi	0.12	0.16	0.44	0.06
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0.03	0
32.	Pondicherry	0.03	0.25	0.09	0
33.	Jharkhand	0	0.03	2.78	3.27
34.	Chhattisgarh	0	0.32	2.01	7.35
35.	Uttaranchal	0	0.19	3.93	7.29
<b>Total</b>		<b>157.50</b>	<b>222.12</b>	<b>299.50</b>	<b>387.45</b>

Note: Prior to 1999-2000, the break-up figures are not available.

#### Loading Norms

489. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has stopped providing central assistance to the States for construction and maintenance of roads for not adhering to the loading norms for goods transport vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to restore the assistance to the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) A decision was taken to withhold the Central assistance from the Central Road Fund to seven States, namely Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, due to issue of special passes/tokens/cards by these States,

which facilitated overloading of vehicles in violation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. All the seven State Governments later informed that the special passes/tokens/cards had been withdrawn. Thereafter, Central assistance has been restored to these States. At present, Central assistance is being provided to all States.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Rally Against Torture on Iraqis**

490. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there was a big rally in New Delhi on 20th June, 2004 against the USA for atrocities perpetrated on Iraqis and for ruining of religious places there; and

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

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

(b) The Government is concerned at the violation of international conventions and norms by some members of the US forces in Iraq in dealing with Iraqi people and has taken note of the punitive and preventive measures taken by the US Government in this regard. The Government has also noted with concern the violation of the sanctity of holy places in Iraq and has emphasized the imperative need to respect the sanctity of the places of religious worship by all the concerned in Iraq.

*[English]*

#### **Protest Lodged with Nepal**

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

(a) whether some people in Kathmandu had burnt an effigy of the ex-Prime Minister of India and shouted anti-India slogans in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any protest had been lodged with the Government of Nepal in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of Nepal thereto?

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

(b) Our Embassy in Kathmandu took up the issue with His Majesty's Government of Nepal and also issued a Press Release condemning the incident.

(c) His Majesty's Government of Nepal condemned the incident and expressed their regret.

*[Translation]*

#### **T.B. Control Programme**

492. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:  
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) the funds allocated to each State under the revamped National T.B. Control Programme implemented with the help of the World Bank during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government released funds for NGOs and Private Organisations to make the programme more effective during the above period;

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

(d) the action plan of the Government in controlling the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A statement indicating State-wise allocation of funds under World Bank assisted Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), during last three years is given at Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under the Programme, involvement of NGOs has been decentralized to the district level and no cash grant is given directly to NGOs from the Centre. Funds to NGOs are given by the concerned district TB Society. A Statement indicating the amount released State-wise to the NGOs during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04 as reported by the State TB Societies, is given at Statement-II enclosed. Many NGOs also participate without any assistance. However, under the Global Funds for AIDS, TB and malaria (GFATM) assisted RNTCP project, for establishment of Urban DOTS Centres, funds are released directly from the Centre to the NGOs. Till

date, funds amounting Rs. 41.28 lakhs have been released to only one NGO namely REACH, Chennai.

(d) With an objective to achieve cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect atleast 70% of such cases, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) based on DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in a phased manner. Presently, more than 886 million population in about 500 districts has been covered under the revised strategy. It

is envisaged to cover entire country under this strategy by year 2005.

To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is also being given to involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme.

**Statement I**

*State-wise Allocation of funds for the last three years*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Allocation 2001-02	Allocation 2002-03	Allocation 2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.45	1.38	1.18
2.	Bihar	663.52	537.44	447.56
3.	Chandigarh	12.17	9.54	7.77
4.	Chhattisgarh	34.63	151.01	0.00
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.04	0.92	0.79
6.	Daman and Diu	0.83	0.92	0.79
7.	Delhi	216.81	146.25	119.07
8.	Goa	14.73	13.78	11.21
9.	Gujarat	767.81	536.22	436.56
10.	Haryana	185.05	141.02	0.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	174.00	64.64	52.63
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	69.60	84.90	69.77
13.	Jharkhand	52.25	188.72	0.00
14.	Karnataka	599.72	512.40	418.52
15.	Kerala	651.37	336.99	274.34
16.	Lakshadweep	3.11	1.06	0.86

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Madhya Pradesh	624.03	549.72	450.20
18.	Maharashtra	1595.77	1025.81	835.16
19.	Pondicherry	11.06	9.40	7.69
20.	Punjab	267.05	201.27	165.51
21.	Rajasthan	1016.57	598.74	487.47
22.	Tamil Nadu	947.65	658.09	535.78
23.	Uttar Pradesh	1329.05	1432.88	1176.19
24.	Uttaranchal	14.74	47.00	0.00
25.	West Bengal	1052.01	849.90	691.95
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	113.19	15.00	30.19
27.	Assam	201.30	350.12	399.81
28.	Manipur	95.23	30.77	65.88
29.	Meghalaya	18.57	29.49	45.27
30.	Mizoram	13.43	11.54	22.48
31.	Nagaland	94.18	25.64	54.90
32.	Sikkim	30.16	6.41	13.72
33.	Tripura	28.92	31.03	67.75
Total		10900.00	8600.00	6891.00
HQ		300.00	800.00	740.00
Grand Total		11200.00	9400.00	7631.00

**Note:**

- During the above said period in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, the Programme was implemented with the assistance of DFID and DANIDA respectively. In the year 2003-04, RNTCP in the State of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand & Uttaranchal was implemented with the grant from GFATM and in Haryana with grant from USAID.
- Though over the period, population coverage and RNTCP has increased from 450 million to 775 million, the allocation under the World Bank Project was reduced due to:
  - Adjustment of the advances lying with the district/State TB Societies;
  - Cost of anti-TB drugs for sputum positive cases was met out of the funds from the sources other than World Bank *i.e.* GFATM and USAID for the States covered under the Projects assisted by these agencies.

**Statement II**

*State-wise details of funds spent under NGO head for the year 2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04*

Sl.No.	State Name	Rs. (in lakhs)		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4.36	4.07	9.13
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	1.05	0
4.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0
5.	Bihar	2.76	0.00	2.11
6.	Chandigarh	0.18	0.15	0.26
7.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0
8.	Delhi	0.05	3.98	6.18
9.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0
10.	Gujarat	2.86	3.46	2.82
11.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.09	0.02
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.13	0
14.	Jharkhand	0.50	3.10	0.46
15.	Karnataka	2.21	2.48	6.72
16.	Kerala	0.56	3.91	1.93
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	0.50	1.67	1.10
19.	Maharashtra	6.62	20.58	9.70
20.	Manipur	1.65	1.12	0.62
21.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0
22.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0
23.	Nagaland	0.00	1.10	0.84
24.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	0

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0
26.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.35
27.	Rajasthan	1.58	4.67	2.95
28.	Sikkim	0.30	0.44	0.53
29.	Tamil Nadu	2.45	3.44	10.61
30.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0
31.	Uttar Pradesh	0.75	1.51	10.08
32.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0
33.	West Bengal	15.90	6.00	27.99
Grand Total		43.23	62.95	94.41

#### Setting up of Primary Health Centres

493. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:  
SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up primary health centres in all the villages of the country especially those in the backward districts of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of villages in the above States where the primary health centres have not been set up so far; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government to set up new primary health centres during the last three years in the said States and during the current financial year, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to the National Population Norms, a Primary Health Centre is set up for the population norm of 20,000-30,000. The State Government decides the location for setting up a new Primary Health Centre.

(b) and (c) Village-wise data is to available. However there are 1768 and 3551 Primary Health Centres

functioning in the State of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

Funds are directly provided to the States by Planning Commission under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP)/Basic Minimum Scheme (BMS) Programme. No target has been given to Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh for establishment of New PHCs during 2004-05.

*[English]*

#### Irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar

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

(a) whether a large number of complaints regarding irregularities have been received in Kendriya Bhandar in Delhi and branches outside Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of investigation conducted by the Government on each of them and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether a number of suppliers were suspended without carrying out formal investigations on the complaints received;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the effective measures proposed to be taken by the Government against the authorities for not enforcing the law prescribed 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 PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar, being a commercial organization dealing with supply of goods to individual customers and Govt. offices, receives customer complaints in Delhi as well as in outside branches of Kendriya Bhandar. The complaints, as and when received, are attended to by the Chief Vigilance officer of Kendriya Bhandar and action is taken after carrying out investigations, wherever considered necessary.

(c) to (e) Kendriya Bhandar has adopted a Revised Purchase Policy, 2003 with the approval of the Board of Directors. Since adoption of new Purchase Policy, 2003, no supplier has been suspended on the basis of complaints received against them.

#### **By-Pass Road of National Highway-2**

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

(a) whether the junction point of By-pass road of Panagarh of National Highway-2 to Panagarh Bazar road is maintained by the National Highways Authority;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the crossing point of By-pass road of Bud Bud Bazar of National Highway-2 is maintained by National Highways Authority; and

(d) if so, the breadth of the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The by-pass road of Budbud Bazar is under construction. The existing NH-2 passing through Budbud Bazar is presently being maintained by NHAI.

(d) The breadth of the road is 7m (bituminous portion) and 1.5m unpaved shoulder on both sides.

12.00 hrs.

### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Economic Survey, 2003-2004' (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 73/04]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 74/04]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 75/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 76/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2002-03, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 77/04]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, for the year 2002-2003.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 78/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 79/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 80/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 81/04]

12.02 hrs.

**ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES****(i) Central Supervisory Board**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg move:

"That in pursuance of section 7(2)(f) read with section 8(1) of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two women members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Supervisory Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 7(2)(f) read with section 8(1) of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two women members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Supervisory Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

*The motion was adopted.*

**(ii) All India Institute of Medical Sciences,  
New Delhi**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among

themselves to serve as members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

*The motion was adopted.*

**(iii) Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education  
and Research, Chandigarh**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 5(g) of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Act, 1966, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 5(g) of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Act, 1966, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

*The motion was adopted.*

**(iv) Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 3(1) (o) of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as the members of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 3(1)(o) of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the members of this

House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as the members of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

*The motion was adopted.*

**(V) Governing Council of North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of rule 3(b) read with rule 4(b) of the Rules of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Governing Council of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of rule 3(b) read with rule 4(b) of the Rules of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Governing Council of North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, subject to other provisions of the said Rules."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you. Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I now come to matters of urgent public importance. Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please hold some patience.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have moved a motion for Adjournment.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You also might have but how all of you will speak simultaneously.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called a very senior Member. If you want to take away his time, it is for you.

*...(Interruptions)*

12.05 hrs.

**(I) Re: Inadequate arrangements for the pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra**

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw attention of the House towards the plight of the Amarnath pilgrims. There has been a centuries old tradition that pilgrims of Amarnath have darshan of Lord Amarnath on the full Moon (Purnima) of 'Shravana' and before that all arrangements are made to ensure their safe journey. Arrangements of food are made for them. Furthermore, voluntary organisations willing to hold 'lungars' on the way are permitted to do so. It is for the first time that neither any arrangements are made to ensure the safe pilgrimage journey nor any measures have been taken for the safety of the pilgrims. The pilgrims have been left on their fate. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very strange situation has emerged.

The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir stated that the 'Yatra' should reach there on July 02. It will reach on the occasion of 'Shravan Purnima' and its duration will be two months. Four Ministers of the Congress Party resigned against it and they stated after resigning that the 'yatra' should reach there on July, 2 itself. Earlier Dr. Karan Singh who is from the Congress Party, himself used to make all the arrangements for the 'yatra', and he also holds the same view. I have also seen the statement of Shri Gulam Nabi Azad. He has stated that it would be good if the period of 'Yatra' is for two months. It was 'Shravan purnima' on July, 2. Making no arrangements for the Yatra on the occasion of Shravan Purnima is not only a religious discrimination but it has created a terrible situation there.

I would like to know whether the Governor reached there on July, 2 and had 'darshan' of Lord Amarnath on the occasion of 'Shravan purnima'? But the Government stated that they had not recognised the 'yatra' and the Chief Minister says that no arrangements would be made for the 'yatra'. Will the Chief Minister decide about the 'yatra' as to whether the 'yatra' should start from August, 1 or after July 15? Whether the Chief Minister will decide the day of Haz, Id, and Deepavali? Will he determine this? The Governor reached there. He inaugurated the 'yatra' while the Chief Minister had refused to make all arrangements for that.

I have seen the statements of those Ministers from the Congress. Four Ministers from the Congress Party reached there with their families on July, 2. They stated that they had to sleep under the open sky amidst heavy snowfall in the night at the height of 13 thousand feet. There were no arrangements. Was it a plot to kill them? This is their statement which has been published.

I wonder that the Prime Minister himself did not intervene. Sonia ji, the super Prime Minister also did not intervene. Nobody intervened in this. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): This is not related to this subject. ...(*Interruptions*) Why is he so agitated? ...(*Interruptions*) Let him withdraw his statement. ...(*Interruptions*) Please control him. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let it go.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already stated. Why are you bothered?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have to tell that six thousand pilgrims have already reached there. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Malhotraji, how can he speak like this about Sonia ji? ...(*Interruptions*) He should make his point only. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, his words should be expunged.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not be too touchy.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, please ask your Members not to interrupt you.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, please conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am completing within two minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

No arrangements have been made there, no safety measures have been taken. The militants are free to strike as the Government are not taking any safety measures. 10 thousand pilgrims have reached there till now. If any terrorist incident takes place there, if any pilgrim dies in the want of such arrangements, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir along with the Government of India would be held responsible for that. They should intervene immediately in this regard. I would like to request that all arrangements be made there for the 'yatra'.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your cooperation.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Leader of the House is here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: So you want to give a reply now?

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): We have listened. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You have listened. But what are you going to do in this matter? ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is from Jammu and Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)* He must assure this House. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government has to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has not stood up to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: What I would like to state is please do not introduce a new practice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, what I am saying is—yes, the Government will respond, but not instantly.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that is alright.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The hon. Member cannot expect the response from the Government instantaneously.

MR. SPEAKER: That is right. Hon. Member, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra knows it very well.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, before 15th July they must come with a reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Before 15th July he should come with a reply. Shri Ramji Lal Suman to speak now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since long. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am graying to give everybody an opportunity. Those who will interrupt will not get any chance. Shri Ramji Lal Suman, you please carry on.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: I shall fully carry out your orders. ...*(Interruptions)* last time the suicide cases of farmers have appeared in a number of newspapers, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Kamataka and Maharashtra where hundreds of farmers have committed suicide. This is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief and to the point.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The Prime Minister had recently been to Andhra Pradesh. He declared aid of Rs. Fifty thousand each to the families of the deceased farmers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the proper solution to the problem. The real and basic question is that the farmers have lost their capacity to pay off loan. This is a very serious matter. Whenever the questions pertaining to suicides by farmers have been raised in Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha, the Government have ever tried to put it off saying that this matter is enlisted in the State list. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I thought the Chair wanted protection.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I have the answer to the question which Shri Nanaji Deshmukh raised in the Rajya Sabha. The most important question is that our rate of production is less as compared to that in the rest of the world. From this point of view, we are nowhere in the international market. We must endeavour as to how to increase the rate of production and reduce the cost of production. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be quiet.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a debate, please be brief.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: We need your protection and I want your assurance to hold a discussion in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It will be done.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: This is the problem of the country. This question is related to the lives of the farmers, Agriculture is no more remunerative now-a-days. A serious discussion needs to be held on this question. There is anxiety in the minds of farmers of the country.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall have a discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait. You are a very senior Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Munawar Hassan, Shri Mohan Singh, Shri Ravi Prakash verma, Shri Rewati Raman Singh, Shri Rajnarayan Bodholia and Shri Paras Nath Yadav have all given notices.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have no patience to listen to us.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have all given notices on the same subject. I am requesting you to associate yourself with this by very brief interventions. Please cooperate. There are so many important issues that the hon. Members want to raise.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You please finish your speech within a half minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter of suicides by farmers recently raised by the hon'ble Member Shri Ramjilal Suman is a very serious one.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I want to tell the government that the farmers are not getting the remunerative price for their produce. Will the farmers pay his loan or run his family with this salutary sum of Rs. Fifty thousand announced by the hon'ble Prime Minister. This is a serious matter, I urge upon the government through you to hold a discussion in this regard under rule 193. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It will be done. I want to inform the hon. Members about that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to speak. This will be discussed. I have already allowed this motion. It will

[Mr. Speaker]

be fully discussed. You can participate in that. I am only saying, at the moment, the importance of this issue is recognised. Therefore, please associate yourself so that we can go to some other subject. Nobody is minimising the importance of the issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Munawar Hassan. Please associate yourself.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN (Muzaffarnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculture in our country is providing to be a business of loss. Therefore, the farmers find it difficult to pay back the loan. Nor they finding it easy to earn livelihood for their family. Out of frustration the farmers are compelled to commit suicides. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Sir, why do you not allow a discussion on this subject?

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed a discussion and it will come in due course. You can ask about it from Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are such a senior Member of the House, you should not setup standards with which others would be misled.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The matter is so serious.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajgang, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had given notice for to move adjournment motion. This has always been the practice of the House to give priority to the adjournment motion. You began zero hour. You did not allow our adjournment motion. This has been the practice earlier also. You used to allow the adjournment motion first.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish his submissions first. Yes, Shri Munawar Hassan, please be brief.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to the fact that the farmers in our country have been compelled to commit suicide for many past year and the government are not paying any attention to this. Be it in U.P., Haryana or Punjab farmers are not getting remunerative price for their production.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please associate yourself. This matter has already been raised and there will be a discussion on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Therefore, I request you that a discussion may be held under the Rule 193 to provide remunerative price of crops to the farmers so that their problems could be sorted out. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Mohan Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singh, please be very brief as you are very articulate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with our friends who have expressed the agony and sufferings of the farmers. A question was asked yesterday in this House on this important issue and according to data given by the Government the number of suicidal death cases was more than one thousand and one hundred. The cause of the cases of suicides was stated by the Government that the farmers were not able to pay the Government and bank dues. It is true that the Government are fully aware of the agony of the farmers and the basic reason of farmer's suicide but the Government lacks the seriousness and promptness which these cases deserve. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We shall have a discussion and then you can raise this question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: So I demand that discussion should be held on this subject. The Government should furnish all the facts and suggest alternatives before the House. Therefore I demand a discussion on this subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already announced that there will be a discussion on this subject.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ravi Prakash Verma, please be very brief. Just associate yourself.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, I will complete in one minute.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the impact of globalisation policy is reflecting on the earth and it is causing adverse effect on agriculture. There is a need to reconsider this issue as to how we could further develop it as business enterprise. I associate myself with my colleagues.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very-very much. Now, Shri Rewati Raman Singh please speak to the point.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with whatever Shri Ramji Lal Suman has said. But I would like to add two more things to it. After independence during the sixties the wheat which used to be fodder for animals in America was imported in India. The farmers of India now have increased wheat production to such an extent that India has become self sufficient. But what have we done for farmers. The Agriculture Price Commission was constituted

and the rate determined by the Commission is lower than the cost of farmer's crop. Its result is before us. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue when we have a discussion on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall conclude my speech in a minute. The farmers are not only committing suicide but their fields, orchards and houses are also being sold. I would like to demand that a separate Commission should be constituted for farmers and a discussion may also be held in this regard. The entire House is unanimous on this issue that a Commission be constituted for this purpose and the policy may be revised within three months.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We shall discuss this issue. Shri Rajnarayan Bodholla—Not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not cooperating, then I would not call anybody.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I will take one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, you have not given any notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: My submission is that due to lack of time separate discussions would not be possible as the issues to provide proper prices to farmers and drought situation. Therefore, you may please permit to hold a discussion on both issues jointly.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your suggestion. Now, I give the floor to Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. Shri Dasgupta, please be brief.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I seek the indulgence of the entire House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be quiet. These are important issues that are being raised.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): I would like to draw attention not only Government but also of the entire House.

*[English]*

It is a matter of concern to all parties. A serious information regarding Provident Fund Organisation has come to light. Nearly 49 per cent of the subscribers who contribute to the provident fund and whose number is not less than 1.5 crore, and most of them are daily workers and contract workers, are not getting their provident fund dues. It is because of the reason that these people are moving from one place to another, changing the employer. Therefore, no account is being maintained as a result, out of three crores of people who are covered under this provident fund scheme, nearly 49 per cent of the subscribers do not get their money back. They are deprived of their lifelong savings. This is a secret report submitted to the Provident Fund Organisation. It has been totally suppressed by the Organisation and it has not come to light.

Sir, the situation is like this. Though their money is being deducted from their salaries, they do not get their money back.

MR. SPEAKER: You have referred to the report and that is enough. There should be no discussion on this.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I will take just two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except the submission being made by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. Please conclude now, Shri Dasgupta.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I appeal to you to please allow me to complete my submission. While the money is being deducted from the salaries of the employees, they are not paying it back as a result, Rs. 8,000 crore unclaimed fund is lying with the Provident Fund Organisation.

MR. SPEAKER: Please mention it briefly.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: People are in a dangerous situation. I seek the intervention of the Government because people's own money is being eaten up by the Ministry of Labour and the Provident Fund Organisation.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The Government needs to intervene immediately. The whole thing has come to the Press.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, please give me a minute because I just want to associate myself with what he has stated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Unless I call somebody, please do not volunteer. Shri Lakshman Seth, you can just associate yourself. You should not make a speech.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: While associating myself with what Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has said, I would like to enlighten the House on some important issue. I suggest that the Government should introduce a common code which should be applicable throughout the country. In addition, offices of the Provident Fund Organisation should be set up in all those places where the maximum number of organised and unorganised workers are being engaged. Otherwise, the unorganised labour will not be getting their money back. This is an important issue and I seek your indulgence and intervention of the government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow anybody. Nothing will be recorded. Now, I give the floor to Shri Anant Gangaram Geete.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I should also be given an opportunity to speak.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, there is no notice from you. You just cannot stand up like this. I would not permit you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Nearly nine thousands children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes had died in the fifteen districts of Maharashtra including Thane, Nasik and particularly in many districts under Vidarbha during the last one year. They were below six years of age. Malnutrition was the main reason for their death. They should have been fed balanced diet for proper nutrition, lack of which has caused death of these nine thousand children.

This survey report has been submitted by the Government of Maharashtra. When this survey was published in the Times of India and some other newspapers, the acting Chief Justice of Hon'ble High Court of Maharashtra, Mr. Shah took cognizance of the news-item and admitted it as a Public Interest Litigation at that time. Simultaneously, after going through such report in the media, even the PMO has sought report thereon by calling for the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra has failed on all fronts and due to that the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes living in the tribal areas of hilly region are not getting the assistance of which they are entitled to. The Scheduled Tribes constitute nine percent of the total population of Maharashtra. There should be a provision of at least Rs. Nine hundred crore in the state Government's budget for the proper sustenance and livelihood of the Scheduled Tribes, for which they have already raised a demand. But the state Government has made a provision of only Rs. Two hundred Crores during the last year. The State Government hasn't been able to contribute properly for the nutrition of these Children belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. Several schemes are implemented by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and provision of funds is also made therefor. I demand more financial assistance may be provided to the Government of Maharashtra by the Government of India.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: They have noted it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Apart from this, since PMO has paid attention towards it and the parliamentary session is also going on, a request may be made by the Union Government to the State Government to know about the factual position in this regard. I condemn the failure of the State Government.

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, this is a very serious matter. The Government should respond to it. How can it be left like that? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is dictating to the Chair. There is a limit to this.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, this is a very serious matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Sir, though atrocities being committed on women. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Whatever Shri Ramdas Athawale says, unless he is called upon by me, nothing will be recorded. Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, please be brief. If you are brief, everybody can get an opportunity. I am trying to give opportunity to all sides of the House. Please cooperate.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the issue of atrocities being committed and misbehaviours being metted out with the women is quite oftenly discussed but I am raising a very serious issue. The report of National Commission for Women is before us wherein a reference of West Bengal has been made. The issues raised are of very serious nature. There are many things about Gang rapes. Many incidents of gang-rapes are mentioned in it. How the girls are kidnapped from the marriage procession and gang-raped.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Except Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, nobody else's statement will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at Aashmali village in Nadia, ten to twelve girls were kidnapped from the marriage procession and then were gang raped. There followed the incidence of gang rape

\*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

at Gailtor in Midnapur and thereafter there had been several incidents of gang rape at Bashirhat. The report of the National Commission of Women is serious because the same party has been in power there for the last 25 years, even though witch-hunting is very much prevalent there. ...*(Interruptions)* Why is it prevalent there ...*(Interruptions)* I am not saying it on my own.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The State Government is not here.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: I am not saying that.

MR. SPEAKER: No State Government is here to defend itself. Therefore, you please refer to matters on which the Central Government is concerned.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Sir, I am talking of the Central Government only. This issue is related to the women. All the more serious issue is the reasons for which witch-hunting a practised over there. There has been no electrification in villages there. There is lack of Education there. ...*(Interruptions)* In case the West Bengal need assistance the same can be provided to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Why are you saying so. Please listen to the voice of the people of West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are also doing so.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, you are such a Senior Member. You are such an *Anubhavi* Member.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Some similar incidents about Maharashtra have also been reported by the Commission. Some incidents have been reported from Orissa also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Karuna Shukla, you are also doing the same thing.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You mention about the non-implementation. But I would not allow a discussion on it. Please do not misuse the opportunity I have given to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Sir, issue related to condition of women should be discussed in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Karuna Shukla, you may please associate yourself.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make any speech, just associate on what she said.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support hon'ble Sumitra Taijee's opinion in her matter raised in the House. The Union Government should pay attention towards the condition of women prevailing in West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* Remain prepared to hear about the condition of women in West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* Atrocities are being perpetrated against women in West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* Atrocities against women are being perpetrated. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Sir, I have asked for a discussion on the report of the National Commission for Women. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please sit down. The Chair is on its legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The issue is non-implementation of the reports.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Khan, please listen.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you had given notice about the non-implementation of the reports of the National Commission on Women. Here, there is no State Government to defend itself. Unfortunately, you have chosen to make such allegations. I have only allowed you, and you should have said that these reports should be implemented. But here, you are making allegations against a State Government which cannot defend itself.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: I have not made these allegations. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: So, Shrimati Karuna Shukla associates herself with the statement made by Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are the custodian of the House. I would like to request you to ask the old Members to permit at least the new Members to speak up. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the 70 thousand bidi workers in the two districts of Jharkhand-Pakur and Sabibganj ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri Murmu. He wants to raise a very important issue. Please let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, your adjournment motion has been rejected, you know that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded except what Shri Murmu says.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, you are not allowing me to speak. ...(Interruptions) You are allowing other Members from that side. You promised to allow me in the very beginning. ...(Interruptions) I raised the point for suspension of Question Hour. You told me that you would give me the opportunity to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I did not say that. How many Members I have allowed on this side and how many Members have been allowed from that side? This is the way you are making allegations against the Chair! Senior Members are sitting.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the way you are making allegations against the Chair. I will not allow this. The senior Members are sitting here. Is this the way you want the House to be conducted?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already informed that the notices of Adjournment Motions have been disallowed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will call them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Under what rule, you tell me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): They have given notices of Adjournment Motions. Before disallowing them, kindly hear them. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no rule and there is no convention for doing that. I have called Shri Hemlal Murmu, and nothing else should go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, will you not allow another hon. Member to make a statement?

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me also. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly see the time now. Still, a lot of time is left. Please hold patience.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: I would like to draw your attention towards the economic conditions of the 70 thousand bidi workers in the two districts of the Jharkhand State—Pakur and Sahibganj. 70 thousand bidi workers eke out their living in these two districts by making bidis. While making bidis the dust of tobacco inhaled and circulate dirt he blood causes their premature death. As an assistance the amount of one rupee per thousand bidi provided by the Union Government is too meagre. It is my demand that a hospital should be set up in Pakur and Sahiganj districts where the bidi workers could be provided free medication.

*[English]*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: No allegations should be made.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I will not make any allegation. I am just trying to draw your attention to the situation prevailing in Gujarat—recent killing of four people in Ahmedabad, two of whom were Indian citizens, and the rime Branch in Ahmedabad claim that the other two were terrorists. In the last two years, there were four incidents. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is for sending Central team. You can mention only that.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am just mentioning the situation. The ex-Chief Minister and the Members of the Rajya Sabha have described the situation in Gujarat as a 'Mini-Emergency', where the elected representatives are not able to express their opinions. In that context, I request the Home Minister to send a team of officers to ascertain the real situation in Gujarat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can refer to the Centre; okay.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It should write to the President of India to seek Governor's report from Gujarat because it is a terrible situation.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not refer to the State Government. You can only refer to the Centre.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Fake encounters are taking place in Gujarat in the last two years. This has to be investigated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, he is referring to that and you are only allowing him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that. You should not impute motives to the Chair. You cannot do anything, as you like. I have said that. You will have to wait. You are not the super-Speaker here. I would not allow this, Mr. Swain. You can be rest assured. I would not allow you. Now, Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot dictate what the Chair will do. I have called another Member from your Party, Shri Punnu Lal Mohale. Nothing else will go on record, except what Shri Punnu Lal Mohale says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, you may please sit down. You have finished your statement. I have called another hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you think that anybody can hold this House to ransom? I will not allow this so long as I am here. Let that be understood. Nobody can show his right here.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Chhattisgarh Government, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. The Chhattisgarh Government have demanded assistance for the procurement of paddy. A new Government has been formed in Chhattisgarh and its economic condition is weak. Paddy production in Chhattisgarh is too much despite the weak economic situation there. The paddy production costs Rs. 1100 crores in that state. Due to this factor the state of Chhattisgarh is not developing as the Government have to spend Rs. 700 crores in procurement of paddy. The Government is forced to tackle with the economic situation there. The Government of that state has made a demand for Rs. 1100 crores so as to get paddy purchased through the FCI, procurement of paddy through the FCI will help improve the economic condition of that state and will help save its money. By doing so, the living standard of the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people of the state will get improved and they will prosper. It is my demand to the Union Government that it should provide Rs. 1100 crores to the Chhattisgarh Government for procurement of paddy so as to enable it to get paddy purchased through the F.C.I. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Except Shrimati Minati Sen, nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this privilege to raise an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief and to the point.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: I draw the attention of the Government to the hon. Supreme Court's order issued to the then NDA Government in October 2003 over the increased salaries of the general staff of the NTC mills. This order was issued in the absence of wage settlement during the last three decades. It is unfortunate that the previous Government failed to take any action till June 2004. Hon. Supreme Court's verdict remains unheeded to. I urge upon the Government, through you, to act immediately on the hon. Supreme Court's order.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

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\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also got a question.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you. I have committed to call you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have got a book sent to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not got it sent.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Your Secretary-General had got it sent. Today you are the Speaker but prior to it the convention you have set as a senior hon. Member and the role you have played has been witnessed by us.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not follow my bad examples.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: As per that convention we have moved this adjournment motion. When you used to sit on this Chair as a member. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please state the rule.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware of the rules and have raised a number of matters as a Member of this House from this side. I would also like to comply with the rules. Since you are a senior member, therefore, I would adhere to your instructions.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you after Shri Bhargava. I was trying to test your patience.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to request you on the basis of tradition which you have set up in the past. Please maintain that tradition. If you do not maintain that tradition, I will think that ...(*Interruptions*)

12.44 hrs.

**(II) Re: Need to Introduce Metro Rail Service in Jaipur**

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways is present here. Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan whereas Delhi is the capital of India. Population of Delhi is rising very fast thereby causing traffic problems. Similarly, due to nearby villages the traffic system of Jaipur city has been badly affected. Therefore, my submission to the hon. Minister of Railways is that if Metro Rail Project is within his jurisdiction, then whether keeping in view the 25 lakh population of Jaipur, he will sanction a Metro Rail Project for this city. The Metro Rail Project has started in Delhi and people are happy to see it. Will he issue instructions for a survey in this regard and also allocate fund for the implementation of Metro Rai Project in Jaipur City?

MR. SPEAKER: Bhargava ji, thank you very much.

*[English]*

You are to the point.

*[Translation]*

I am grateful to you.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respect his sentiments and also the people of Jaipur. I will look into this matter. But, when the hon. Member was Chairman of the House Committee, he did not allot a flat to me.

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SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I allotted a flat to him but he replied that he had got Bihar therefore, he did not require that accommodation.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have got the assurance on Metro Rail. That is more important.

Without creating a precedent, I am calling Shri Prabhunath Singh. This will not form a precedent. There is no such rule.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would be brief. Since the formation of this government, various militant outfits are engaged in the militant activities in various states like Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Tripura in the country. These incidents are rising day per day. I would like to inform you that at least 19 people were injured in two grenade attacks in Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir on 19 June, 2004. Out of them some people were seriously injured and some people had even died also. Two persons were killed in powerful bomb blasts in Srinagar and Anantnag on 3 July, 2003 and 58 people including three army men were seriously injured. An engineer working with the IRCON and his brother were killed in Pulwama district near Srinagar on 25 June 2004. Atleast seven people were killed and many injured in a bomb blast in a public bus by suspected Ulfa terrorists in Shivsagar district of Assam on 24 June, 2004. On 19th June, 22004, 12 people were injured in the crowded market in Tinsukia city of Assam. Out of these the condition of some persons is critical. On 23rd June, 2004 the terrorists have demanded Rs. 50 lakh as ransom for releasing 24 kidnapped civilians in Kanchanpur sub-division of North Tripura. The kidnapers have taken them to Bangladesh. due to administrative negligence. N.L.F.T. a terrorist outfit has kidnapped these 24 professionals and taken them to Bangladesh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the House that incidents of terrorism are rising in various states of the country since this Government have come into power. The news of such incidents are being telecast in the Media, T.V. Channels and are also being published in the newspapers. The people of the country are worried about them. I think that the House is also concerned about this issue. Sir, you are also concerned about these incidents. I would like to request that the government should clear its position in this regard. It is a very serious issue. The proceedings of the House be adjourned and a special discussion should be allowed on this issue. How much the government is concerned about the emerging scenario in the country and the steps likely to be taken by the government to check terrorist activities. The government should clear its position in this regard.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your cooperation. Now Shri Swain to Speak. But I am making it clear that this will not be repeated from tomorrow.

There is no provision in the rules for this elucidation of Adjournment Motion irrespective of whatever may have been done in the past.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: There is no question of debate on this point. We are not going to discuss on object to your ruling.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not be permitted. You have made a very good point but if you had followed the rule that would have been good.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what used to happen when you used to sit here, so please formulate a rule. Please take a decision keeping this in mind.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important issue. I am sure it will be discussed.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I raised this only because that was the practice in the last Lok Sabha. Otherwise, I would not have told you anything.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak now. I have given you the chance even though you have made accusations to the Chair which I reject.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Are we not the members of the House, don't we have any rights. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, even I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no other notice other than Shri D.P. Yadavji's and it is a fact.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only your notice is there. It cannot be admitted at this point of time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for my answer.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You need not take up his cause.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, four terrorists were killed by the police on 15th June in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. One of them was from Mumbai and she was a college girl, named Ishrat Jehan. It was most surprising that the leader of the Congress Legislature Party in Gujarat\* described it as a fake encounter.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not relate to Parliament at all. This matter concerns the State Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you may not like my statement. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow you to mention. You are mentioning the name of a gentleman who is not present here.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, there are people who have given financial assistance to the mother of this terrorist. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will decide about the admissibility of this matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I appeal to the Government that the people who have given financial assistance to the terrorists should be arrested and they should be put behind bars because they are anti-national people. ... (Interruptions) This is a terrorist-friendly Government who wants to repeal POTA. ... (Interruptions) Sir, I request that there should be a full-length discussion on this matter under Rule 193. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will decide about the admissibility of this matter and if anything objectionable has been said, it will be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. Please do not name anybody. If you name anybody, then it will be expunged. Please do not make any allegations.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise an issue of urgent public importance by your permission. It was published in the 'Hindustan Times' too. At the time of Kargil War, when the fighting was at its peak on Tiger Hill at that time the then Defence Minister of the Government of India, the accused of Telgi Stamp Scam which involves 30 thousand crore rupees, Telgi, Telgi's brother....\*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please see, I even have a photo copy of the paper....\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall delete it. I had asked Shri Yadav not to take any name.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Any name taken will be expunged. Why do you not hold your patience?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, I would not allow it any more.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I requested you not to take any name.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Special Mentions are over now.

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad to present the Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.52 hrs.

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### First Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I beg to present the First Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.53 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the chair*]

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 13, Matters under Rule 377.

(I) **Need to make sugar mills in Dindigul parliamentary constituency of Tamil Nadu operational and also register cane for the mills in the area earmarked for it.**

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Two sugar mills are located in my Dindigul Parliamentary constituency, Tamil Nadu. One in public sector named as Madura Sugars at Pandiyarajapuram and another at Alanganullur under National Cooperative Sugar Mills.

The National Cooperative Sugar Mills was established during the year 1966. The crushing capacity of the mills was expanded to 25000 MT in 1989. The crushing capacity of the mills is 4,30,000 MT at 2500 per day for 172 days. Nearly 500 employees are directly engaged in the mills and equal number of workers are indirectly involved. The crushing operation of the National

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\*Not recorded.

Cooperative Sugar Mills for 2002-03 season onwards was not permitted and hence operation of the mills is in stand still. I learn that no specific orders from the authorities was issued to that effect. Hence the registered cane for the mills for crushing was diverted unauthorisedly to nearby private sector sugar mills. Further, cane registration for subsequent period, i.e. from 2002-03 was not permitted and therefore stopped.

It is submitted that except these two sugar mills, there is no other mill in South Tamil Nadu under public or cooperative sector. It caters to the need of nearly 10,000 cane growers.

I request the hon. Agricultural Minister, Government of India to instruct the authority concerned to register cane for the mills itself in the area earmarked for it and also arranging necessary required funds for the same.

**(ii) Need to revive Prime Minister's Grant Project and release adequate funds to the 'Mumbai Repair and Reconstruction Board'**

SHRI MILIND DEORA (Mumbai-South): Sir, various cities in our country face growing housing problems. In Mumbai, a large majority of the population lives in old and dilapidated buildings and slums. Throughout the year, and especially during the monsoons, old buildings collapse resulting in the death of several residents. The Maharashtra Government had set up the Mumbai Repair and Reconstruction Board with the responsibility of repairing and reconstructing these old buildings.

Unfortunately, due to paucity of funds, the Board which was set up is unable to discharge its responsibilities effectively. Realising this, in December 1985, our then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi created the Prime Minister's Grant Project. At that time, the Union Government granted Rs. 100 crore towards an urban renewal programme in Mumbai city, as a result of which many of the old buildings were reconstructed and repaired.

There is an urgent need to revive the PMGP and additional funds need to be released to the Board. Considering the fact that Mumbai city contributes over Rs. 50,000 crore annually to the national exchequer, a sum of Rs. 250 crore *per annum* must be allocated towards the restoration of these buildings.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter that you have given in writing, will be read and anything extra would not go on record.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, Please tell him that he has to read it out and not give a speech. Hon. Member has been elected for the first time. Please guide him. We tend to give speech, this will not do. Hon. Deputy Speaker has given order from the chair so please tell him.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are only to read whatever you are given.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please listen to me. Whatever you are given and whatever has been approved, you are only to read that.

**(iii) Need to regulate the usage and disposal of plastic bags in the country**

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): Sir, indiscriminate usage and disposal of plastic bags all over the country is causing great ecological harm and threatening irreversible environmental damage and degradation. Since plastic bags are cheap and convenient, the usage has become rampant but the indiscriminate disposal of these bags is polluting our lands and rivers and water bodies.

As plastic is non-biodegradable, the ecological threat is great and needs to be addressed immediately. Urgent steps need to be taken to regulate the usage and proper disposal of plastic bags.

**(iv) Need to increase the capacity of existing low power Transmitters in Arunachal Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI KHIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the residents of my constituency are not getting benefits of Doordarshan as there are very low power Doordarshan transmitters in Arunachal Pradesh particularly in several areas of my constituency Arunachal West. If the capacity of these transmitters is enhanced then even the people of the nearby areas would be benefited where there is a demand for setting up new Doordarshan transmitters. Therefore, I request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to issue necessary instructions to enhance the capacity of the said low power Doordarshan transmitters.

**(v) Need to construct a rail under-bridge at Khariphatak road in Vidisha Town of Madhya Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a large number of vehicles pass through the railway crossing on Khariphatak road in my constituency Vidisha of Madhya Pradesh. Thousands of tractors and trollies too pass through this crossing as there is an agricultural produce market. Thousands of students also pass through this crossing as all the reputed colleges are situated here but the crossing remain closed most of the times due to arrival and departure of trains. Thousands of people face problems due to this.

If an under-bridge is constructed near Khariphatak road for which a survey had been conducted then the public can be saved from this inconvenience. This railway crossing can be closed down after the construction of the underbridge which would reduce the economic burden on the railways too. Therefore, I request the Minister of Railways to complete all the formalities for the construction of underbridge on the said location immediately.

**(vi) Need to provide relief to the people affected due to heavy rains and cloud burst in Uttaranchal**

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the state of Uttaranchal and particularly my Parliamentary Constituency is entirely a hilly and difficult area wherein after the drought of this year heavy rains and incidents of cloud burst have occurred in the month of June.

In addition to massive landslides hundreds of hectares of fertile land has been degraded due to cloud bursts and heavy rains and besides the loss of life and property, live stock, crops, residential houses cow sheds, public paths, drinking water facilities, power supply and schools etc. have also been damaged badly.

Dharchula Munsiri, Didihat development blocks of district Pithoragarh, Someshwar, Lod, Chonouda, Choukhtia, Tadagtal, Mahakaleswar, Masi areas of district Almora, Kapkot and Garur development blocks of Bageshwar district and Barakot, Pati, Lohaghat and Champawat development block of district Champawat have been the worst affected due to cloud bursts and heavy rains. No relief has so far been provided to the people of this area affected by natural calamity and no

rehabilitation and repair/reconstruction works are being undertaken in this area.

I, therefore, humbly request to normalise the situation by starting the calamity relief works at the earliest.

*[English]*

**(vii) Need to look into the hardships faced by the local inhabitants around the cashew plantations in Kasargod district of Kerala due to use of Endosulfan pesticide**

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to invite the kind attention of this House to the hardships faced by the local inhabitants around the cashew plantation owned by the State Government in the Kasargod district of Kerala as a result of the uncontrolled use of the deadly poisonous pesticide, Endosulfan by the plantation authorities. Due to this the local people are facing a serious threat to their survival. Most of them are suffering from serious lung and heart diseases. It also causes genetic disorders in newborn babies. The Central Government has agreed to send an investigation team to study this matter when it was brought to the notice by the MPs of Kerala. The Assistant Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research was sent to Kasargod to examine this matter. But he has submitted a report justifying the use of Endosulfan without considering the real facts or without a consultation with any of the suffering victims.

I request the Government to look into the matter.

**(viii) Need to release withheld portion of Non-Plan Gap Grant to the Government of Tripura**

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): I would like to draw the attention of the Government with regard to a serious financial problem being faced by the Government of Tripura due to non-release of withheld portion of Non-Plan gap grant by Rs. 74.36 crore. The State Government and the Ministry of Finance had exchanged a 'Letter of Agreement' on 26th March, 2003 under which targets were fixed for the year 2002-2003 for revenue collection by the State Government provision of funds by the Central Government on account of Central share of taxes and other Central transfers and revenue expenditure by the State. The State Government had not only fulfilled but also exceeded the targets fixed under MoU. It may also be mentioned that Mizoram and Nagaland had been sanctioned Central assistance in lieu of gap grant although they could not fulfil the target. In case of Tripura despite

the case being genuine the withheld gap grant has not been released. I would strongly urge the Government to release the gap grant or consider an equivalent amount at the earliest.

**(ix) Need to provide relief to the people affected due to severe cyclone in Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH (Gonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government to the severe cyclone struck on June 4 and 5, which affected Karnailganj and Tarabganj Tehsil areas in Gonda District of Uttar Pradesh. Several persons have died houses of thousands of people have been destroyed in this cyclone.

I therefore, request the Government to depute a Central study team for assessing the loss of life and property occurred in the cyclone affected areas and appropriate Central assistance be provided to the victims in consultation with the State Government.

**(x) Need to find a permanent solution to the recurrent floods in Bihar**

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir every year the State of Bihar faces devastating floods causing enormous losses to the life and property. Floods have been causing severe destruction to the life and property since 1953 in Bihar due to delay in construction of dams on Koshi, Bagmati, Gandak and Kamla rivers as a permanent solution to this problem. Sheohar, Motihari, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga and other districts are in the severe grip of floods this year also. Nearly 250 check dams are at dangerous level. The people of Bihar are fleeing in search of livelihood.

The Government are, therefore, requested to find out a permanent solution to this problem in order to save the State of Bihar from devastating floods.

**(xi) Need for repair and double-laning of road between Bidharghat and Karmaini in Khalilabad Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.**

SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV (Khalilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 50 kilometre long road passes through the district from Bidharghat to Karmaini under my Parliamentary Constituency of Khalilabad Sant Kabirnagar in Uttar Pradesh. It is the main road in my

Constituency. Tehsil Murtha Ghanghata, Police Station Ghanghata, development block headquarters Haisar Bazar and Nath Nagar, development block and Tehsil head quarter Khalilabad, district headquarter Sant Kabir Nagar, Police Station Khalilabad, tourist place Baba Tameshwar Nath Dham, death place of Kabir-Maghar, bird sanctuary Vakhira-Tehsil and Development block headquarter Mehadawal are situated on this road. This road leads upto Nepal Border while connecting my district to the districts of Gorakhpur, Maharajgunj, Siddharth Nagar etc. This road has been shattered due to severe floods in the years 1998 and 2000 as well as the excessive vehicular traffic pressure. I had raised twice this issue of double lining the above road in the previous Lok Sabha session also. But so far the above road has not been constructed. Therefore, the above road should be got double laned at the earlier.

**(xii) Need to take suitable measures in consultation with Government of Nepal to check recurrent floods in Bihar**

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this year also like every year floods have knocked at the door of Bihar. During the previous years Bihar has suffered losses to the tune of Rs. 1,48,863 crores on account of this and it will continue in future also unless a solution is found to this problem. During the previous years the Government had formulated 14 projects on the 14 rivers of Himalayan component through the 'Rashtriya Jal Board' for regulating the extra waters. Out of these six projects could have benefited Bihar, but these were not implemented. Other two projects were formulated for controlling floods in Bihar. Their cost of construction was fixed at Rs. 10.5 crores. Rs. 3.84 crores were allocated during the year 2001-2002, but thereafter neither the funds were allocated nor was there any further progress in the construction work.

I, therefore, urge upon you that the flood problem of Bihar is beyond control of the State Government. It has international dimension to it. So, the Union Government will have to be active. A solution to the problem of floods in Bihar will have to be found without any further delay in negotiations with the Government of Nepal.

**(xiii) Need to provide adequate amenities at Dimapur Railway Station and declare it as a sub-division**

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Sir, Dimapur Railway Station is the only Railway head serving

[Shri W. Wagyuh Konyak]

two States, namely, Nagaland and Manipur. Several trains stop over to leave and pick up passengers from these two States. Despite being an important rail link to two States, Dimapur Railway Station has only one platform. The ticket quotas in the trains are very inadequate. The trains also stop at the station for a very few minutes. The Railway booking offices in Nagaland are only at two places, namely, at Dimapur and Kohima. The road transport within Nagaland is not so well developed and the people cannot travel to these two booking centres for buying their tickets. The amenities for passengers and Railway employees, sanitary and telephone facilities at the Dimapur Railway Station are totally poor. There is not even a separate ticket counter for ladies. I request the hon. Railway Minister to urgently pay attention to these deficiencies and also request him to immediately declare Dimapur Railway Station as a Model Station.

14.20 hrs.

**RAILWAY BUDGET 2004-05—  
GENERAL DISCUSSION  
AND  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT  
(RAILWAYS)—2004-05**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now items 14 and 15 will be taken together. Time allotted by the Business Advisory Committee for both the items is only 10 hours, and I would request the hon. Members to be very brief in their speeches.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on Account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2005, in respect of the head of Demands shown in the second column thereof Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

*Demands for Grants (Railways) on Account for 2004-05 submitted to the Vote of the House*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account voted by the House on 3.2.2004 (Rs.)	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account submitted to the Vote of the House (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Railway Board	24,11,67,000	13,40,83,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	84,66,67,000	42,33,33,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	473,30,17,000	301,27,08,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Ways and Works	1121,41,98,000	505,06,99,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	5,76,56,22,000	258,03,61,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	1141,42,45,000	588,88,72,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	630,75,89,000	302,31,95,000
8.	Operating Expenses—Rolling Stock and Equipment	938,62,74,000	478,48,37,000

1	2	3	4
9.	Operating Expenses—Traffic	2953,83,79,000	2431,28,95,000
10.	Operating Expenses—Fuel	2760,66,58,000	1377,54,79,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	470,05,62,000	219,86,31,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	576,57,67,000	279,65,83,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and Other Retirement Benefits	2186,51,14,000	1043,25,57,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	3206,66,67,000	1863,33,33,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	24,45,22,000	12,22,60,500
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement Revenue	11,66,67,000	5,83,33,000
	<b>Other Expenditure:</b>		
	Capital	6514,64,28,000	3423,32,14,000
	Railway Funds	1084,76,67,000	674,88,33,000
	Railway Safety Fund	133,66,67,000	66,83,33,000
	Special Railway Safety Fund	1081,96,67,000	609,98,33,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26096,35,44,000</b>	<b>14497,83,72,500</b>

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Railway Budget. Yesterday, the Minister of Railways read out the Railway Budget for about two hours. Perhaps it was the lengthiest Railway Budget in the history of Parliament so far. I feel that the time which the hon. Railway Minister took in reading the Railway Budget perhaps that much time was contributed by him in preparation of the budget, just two hours. ...*(Interruptions)* had the Railway Minister devoted some more time and had put more effort in preparing the Railway Budget, perhaps better Budget could have been presented. There is no reason, vision or initiative in this Railway Budget. The Minister of Railways has said that Railways. ...*(Interruptions)* He has said that he would turn the Indian Railways into the best Railway service of the world. The people who have turned Bihar into the worst state of the country, I am afraid that they may also

not turn the Railways into Bihar like situation. ...*(Interruptions)* yesterday, the hon. Minister of Railways mentioned the name of Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji several times in his speech and said that he got inspiration from her and he thanked her for that. But actually thanks should have been given to Shri Nitish Kumarji and all those who were in Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government. The Railway Budget which they presented. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to request the hon. Members that the Members who are speaking from their seats and are disturbing the Member who is giving speech will themselves be disturbed when their turn comes.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am speaking for the first times. Therefore, please request them not to disturb me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is his maiden speech. So let him speak.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: My submission is that these people should maintain silence and not interrupt me and listen to me peacefully whatever I speak. ...*(Interruptions)* For the last six years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar is being called as the worst state. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying that he has taken Bihar to the lowest level in the country and he is saying that he would turn Indian railways into the world's best railways. I fear that entire Rail Department may not be turned like Bihar. I would like to express this apprehension only. Whatever work Ex-Minister of Railways Shri Nitish Kumarji had done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar is being termed as the worst state. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please first take your please seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His comments will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the Minister of Railways has praised NDA Government for its performance and he in his speech has acknowledged that the NDA Government have made very vital contribution in railway sector during the last six years. He has mentioned it in detail in his speech. I would therefore, like to thank him on behalf of the NDA for this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Railway Budget is being hailed across the country as no increase has been made in freight charges and passengers fares in it. But the credit for this should go to Shri Nitish Kumarji and the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji instead of the present Minister of Railways. As the performance of the previous Government had been outstanding during the last six years and the outcome of that performance is

that the present Government were not constrained to make any increase in the freight charges and passengers fares despite hike in the prices of diesel and petrol. The whole credit for this goes to the NDA Government and Shri Nitish Kumarji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him speak first.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Railways has himself admitted that the set freight target of 550 million tonnes for last year has exceeded and freight target of 557.39 million tonnes has been achieved, which means that he has enumerated it also as a achievement of the NDA Government. It was 38.65 million tonnes more than the previous year. This year a target of 580 million tonnes has been set. The Minister of Railways has also accepted that passenger traffic has increased by three percent. He has also admitted that there has been saving of Rs. 491 crores in operational cost of railways during the year 2003-04.

The Minister of Railways also said that operating ratio which was 94.1 per cent likely to be reduced to 92.1 per cent. The Minister of Railways has also admitted that there has been constant decrease in rail accidents during the last five years. He said that 473 rail accidents took place during the year 2001-2002, whereas during NDA regime i.e. during 2003-2004 it was reduced to 325. The Minister of Railways, himself has admitted it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been decline in rail accident, but these people used to say that the iron does not suit Shri Nitish Kumarji. They used to criticise him. Rail safety and security of passengers are two important aspects. The Minister of Railways has put on a picture of the God Vishvakarma in his room for the safety of Railways. He says that the Railway has been left at his mercy. If the God Vishvakarma will look after the safety of railway then why you are assuming its charge. He has left both the issues of rail safety and security of passengers at the mercy of the God Vishvakarma. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my maiden speech. If these people will interrupt me like this, likewise we will also interrupt them when they will speak tomorrow. We are in the opposition.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: The NDA Government had created special Railway safety fund to the tune of Rs. 17,000 crores. Work was going on under it. As to how old bridges should be repaired and new bridges should be constructed. But, I did not hear anything new about rail safety during the yesterday's budget speech of the Minister of Railways. Soon after he assumed the charge of the Minister of Railways, a rail accident took place, whatever be the reason therefor, rail accidents can take place in future too. But, the stringent steps which should be taken and the efforts, which should be made to avoid such accidents, are looking in this rail budget.

The other important issue is related to the security of the passengers. Now-a-days, the people of the state, to which I belong have started avoiding travel by train during night. Farakka Express originates from Bhagalpur, my parliamentary constituency. I have started traveling during the day time, as travel during night means that the passengers will be looted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether it is a matter of chance or a misfortune that the day on which this Government assumed the charge, since then till date i.e. within a period of one and a half month 24 incidents of train dacoity have taken place in Bihar. The Rail budget was presented yesterday. A day before yesterday the passengers traveling in the Poorva Express were robbed of between Diary—Bhaswan road and six passengers were injured. On 9th June, the passenger were robbed of and killed in AC Coach. On 3rd June, a passenger was gunned down in Doon Express. Similarly, on 27th May, a BSF Inspector was gunned down. Will you protect railway passengers like this? Hon. Shri Nitish Kumar ji had got the RPF Act amended with the cooperation of all parties. From 1st July, the RPF is going to take over rail safety arrangement. But, if the local Government would not cooperate with them, then how it can be possible?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Bihar has said that incidents of trained dacoity cannot be checked. If Chief Minister of a state say like this, then how the people of Bihar can be protected from such dacoities. How they will travel in the trains. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very serious matter. The incidents of train dacoity taking place particularly in Bihar and its nearby areas should be checked. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have decided to recruit eight thousand personnel under the RPF. But, it is not a new

decision. It is a decision taken by the previous Government. Today, there is a need for recruiting 24 thousand personnels under it. There is a need for recruiting 24 thousand personnel under it if at least, six personnels are deployed in each train. It is very pinching for me that the recruitment procedure has been changed in the RPF. The recruitment was used to be made through the Railway Recruitment Board before it. Earlier to that, there used to be departmental recruitment. When hon. Shri Nitish Kumar ji observed that lot of corruption is prevalent there in the recruitment, he introduced the system of making such recruitment through RRB. Now, power of recruitment has been withdrawn from the RRB and such recruitment are being made by the departmental committee so as to give encourage to corruption and persons are appointed on the basis of recommendations made by the politicians. I demand that recruitments in RPF should be made through the RRB. To district the attention of the public from the aspects of passengers and rail safety, the whole debate has been confined to 'Kulhad', 'Khadi', 'Sattu' and Mattha etc. The public of the whole country is discussing whether there should be Kulhad or Khadi and they are also engaged in discussing whether Sattu or Matha should be used or not. I am not against the use of Kulhad or Khadi, but I am in favour of these items. It is not a contribution of this Government. In 1997, when hon. Shri George Sahib ji had become the Minister of Railways, the Kulhad was used at that time. ...*(Interruptions)* The Members belonging to the Congress Party should explain as to why they got the use of Kulhad banned. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, use of Kulhad, Sattu, Khadi and Mattha is a welcoming step, but whether the rail network would be developed with these steps only. Today, the whole discussion has been confined to all such things. 'Kulhad' has been placed upside down on each and every table in the Central Hall of the Parliament, as show piece. Four days ago I had travelled from Mumbai to Patna but I wouldn't find a person selling tea in Kulhars.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): At which stations did you ask the tea in Kulhars?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Raghunathji, please listen to me. If you interrupt, these people will also disturb your speech. What will you get out of it. So please don't interrupt. All the interruptions should be expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Kulhar should honestly be used. In Bihar, Charwaha Schools were set up by the people close to the State Government.

\*Not recorded.

[Shri Sushil Kumar Modi]

They were also awarded by the UNESCO. However, the fact remains that, at present, there is not even a single Charwaha Vidyalaya functioning in Bihar. I am afraid this new practice may also meet the same end. Will they be able to introduce Khadi and Kulhar in the Railways. *...(Interruptions)* Khadi should be used. We welcome this move but those people who are responsible for ruining the business of weavers in Bihar. *...(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Is this the way to express one's views. Whether there is an element of civility in the House or not. He should speak up when his turn comes. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV: If he talks rubbish how will we allow him to proceed.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha): You are talking rubbish. *...(Interruptions)* Attempts are being made to lower the dignity of the House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Sir, an amount of Rs. 30 crore is to be paid to the people in Bihar and all the Khadi units are sick and on the verge of closure. Bihar is the only state where the subsidy on Khadi has been withdrawn. They are talking about Khadi. All this is being done just to deviate our attention from the issue of security in trains. I have already said that we welcome the use of Khadi. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please stick to the Railway-Budget only.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Yadav, please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Sir, Mattha (Butter-milk) used to be served intrains earlier also, he hasn't done anything new. I was expecting the introduction of 'Sattu', but I don't know for what reasons, whether under PM's pressure or for some other reasons, the announcement of introducing sattu in trains was withdrawn. I would like that Sattu should be introduced

and the passengers should be served on 'Pattals' instead of plates. This will generate employment to the lakhs of people. I would like to suggest hon'ble Minister of Railways to introduce the use of pattal, though with honesty. I am afraid lest this move should meet the same fate as has been in the case of the Children belonging to scheduled caste category admitted into Charwaha Vidyalaya, whose heads were washed with soaps by you and subsequently you forgot them. Let the same do not take place in case of Kulhar, Sattu and Mattha.

Sir, Honourable Minister of Railways has said in his budgetary-speech that arrangement will be made for the transportation of fruit and vegetables through refrigerated van. Through you, I want to make the House aware of the fact that on 20th of June Hon'ble Minister of Railways had flagged the Refrigerated Van from Patna for Delhi. 18 ton of fruits & vegetables was to be loaded in that van but only 7 or 7.5 ton was loaded. In such situation, the selling price of "Parval" continued to be Rs. 35 a kilo instead of Rs. 15. Shri Bawanram belong to his party. He hasn't been paid for 700 kg. Thereafter no rack reached Delhi till 27th July, vegetables continued to be sold at a throw away prices at Patna. This was the reason why there was no booking till 4th of July. *...(Interruptions)* These incidents. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Sir, there are serious charges of corruption against him and the NDA has decided not to allow Shri Laloo Prasad ji to speak up in House. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): What is this happening. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: The payment for Paravel hasn't been made so far. Same is the case with South India. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to request you all that whenever any hon'ble Member makes a speech, it may please be listened to with patience. It is not good if someone speaks from this side and there is a running commentary from the other side.

*...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow running commentary. There should be no running commentary.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): unparliamentary words should be expunged from the proceedings. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked to expunge that.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government have declared a new book stall policy. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): ...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ramkripal ji, the language you are using, should not be used.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That which has been spoken by him, will be expunged.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever unparliamentary words Shri Ramkripal Yadav has said will be expunged.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHOUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if it goes on, it will not be possible for him to speak. ...(*Interruptions*) You said there should be no running commentary but he is not listening to you despite your saying so. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will there be use of such language in the Parliament? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unparliamentary words will not be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is using unparliamentary language. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is my request that you all are honourable and responsible members. You have come here by election. The whole world is watching you at present. So don't try to do a drama. Whenever an hon'ble Member speaks from this side, there's no need to make running commentary from the other side. You will also be given time to speak. At that time you speak whatever you want to speak.

[*English*]

I will not allow any unparliamentary language.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Has he come to the Parliament for using unparliamentary language here? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow neither him nor you to use unparliamentary language.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There should be no running commentary either from this side or from that side.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There should be no running commentary at all.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If an hon'ble Member speaks from this side and anyone makes running commentary from that side, I shall then do favour this side.

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\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Honourable Railway Minister has announced a new book stall policy. He said that A.H. Wheeler, who is still running book stall in the country, is an Englishman. Perhaps he does not know that though the name A. Wheeler is of an Englishman. But the man who is running the book stall is a Bengali who hails from Allahabad since last 70 years. I am not in favour of A.H. Wheeler. I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister of Railways that on the completion of the 150th year of the railways a felicitation message was sent to H. Wheeler in which it was written.

*[English]*

"I hope the company will make available reading materials in the interiors".

*[Translation]*

The former Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao had also released a book of H. Wheeler titled 'Rajiv Gandhi—Tributes and Memories' in the presence of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. We welcome the new book-stall policy on the railway stations of the country by the hon'ble Minister of Railways. But only 370 railway stations out of the eight thousand railway stations of the country have the bookstalls of H. Wheeler. If you wish to remove them it is O.K., but from the statement of the hon'ble Minister it appears that the biggest problem for him is of the book-stall and the issues of the safety and security of railways and the passengers is of no importance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Railways has mentioned about the disposal of scraps of the railways to the tune of ten lakh metric ton. What is its background? Scraps are lying from Gorakhpur to Barauni. A virtual loot takes place by the Mafia at the time of auction. This is a matter of law and order and the State Government should handle it. There is bungling in the sale of the scraps but scraps. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order. Previous Government in order to give this work to the elements involved in bungs. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a point of order.

*[Translation]*

Under which rule is your point of order?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I meant to say that. ...*(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*[Translation]*

Your speech will not go on record.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have no objections if the auction of scraps is stopped. But the reason is that the States in which the scraps are auctioned out are having law and order problem, therefore the sale of scraps could not take place.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to state that the Minister of Railways had foul-spoken about the physically challenged people and the deaf and dumb people have also been offended by it. You must have read in today newspapers that the dumb and deaf institutions have given a statement that the Minister of Railways should tender an apology to them. Appropriate words should be used for them. Ramps should be made available for the physically challenged people in the trains. Such rail bogies should be made available in which they can sit comfortably and can move easily. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Railways in the previous government had announced a national Railway Development Scheme wherein rupees fifteen thousand crores had been allocated for this golden quadrangle and rail conductivity and also mentioned about the four mega bridges. I do not know how the officers under him have forgotten this aspect and there is no mention about it. In the budget of the hon'ble Minister of Railways there is no mention of the National Railways Development Scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the interim railway budget there was a proposal to set up a power plant of 7000 megawatt capacity in Nabi Nagar with the assistance of the NTPC, the survey work in this regard has been completed and the permission of the State Pollution Control Board was to be taken. I do not know why the thermal power plant of Nabi Nagar has not been included whereas the setting up of a wheel factory in Chhapra has been announced. The existing wheel factory at Bangalore is already running in losses. In this rail budget survey has been incorporated in the budget whereas at

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\*Not recorded.

the time of the NDA government survey had not been mentioned in the budget. The reason is that since 1974 one lac fifty thousand crore rupees have been spent on all the surveys that have been conducted so far. But now a new convention has been started and in this budget speech five pages had been covered to tempt the people by stating that surveys are going to be conducted in such and such areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the railways budget speech, a reference has been made to 'village-on-wheel'. I welcome this step. But I would like to know the details of lodging arrangement being made for the hundreds of pilgrims at Varanasi or Allahabad and how will they visit the places of pilgrimage from the railway station? I would like that a package may be given to these passengers also. There should be package for the poor people in the railway on wheel and arrangements for food and boardings should be made. It would have been much better if the railway passengers had been provided security. What I mean to say is that the passengers will not be benefited as much as they should have been.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nearly 230 projects worth Rs. 43,000 crores are pending. You did not mention anywhere in the entire Railway Budget from where this amount of Rs. 43,000 crores will come. I am in favour of zero-increase in passenger fares and freight rates but you did not make any provision and nor did you mention as to ultimately, where this amount will come from.  
*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked you a number of times as to why you are doing running commentary.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, only those new trains which were announced by the former Minister of Railways Shri Nitish Kumar ji, have been repeated in this budget. It contains mostly those announcements by which the previous NDA Government had already made. The announcement for the introduction of 18 pairs of 'Sampooma Kranti Express Trains made by Shri Nitish Kumarji has just been repeated in this budget. But you have not told when they will commence and how many days a week they will run. It does not find any mention in the Railway Budget. I would like to point out that the Minister of Railways needs to be more serious. If he does not become serious, the faulty system of Railways particularly in Bihar will continue. Following the example of Shri Nitish Kumar ji you talk of unreserved 'Jan Sampark Express' trains for the poor people and introduce fifties of trains and say that there would be no

A.C.-II compartment, nor any A.C.-I compartment. Only there would be unreserved compartments. Thousands of labourers go outside to earn their livelihood. Where are the trains for them? You have announced only two trains for them. You would have made novel announcements for them had you been well wisher of the poor.

Mr. Deputy, Sir, we have been throughly disappointed by the Railway Budget. We had expected big announcements from the new Government. But there is no such commendable announcement in the entire budget. Therefore, I oppose this budget.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important point like the Railways Budget. The House runs in accordance with rules and regulations, it is not governed by emotions and animosity, when I was a Member of hon'ble Legislative Assembly, I used to hear that it was the most important House of the World. But when I came here and observed myself. Sir, I wish decorum here. Sir, the Railways is the department which is related to people in public life in one way or the other. The Railway Budget presented by the hon'ble Minister of Railways has been appreciated by the cross-sections of people throughout the country as it is the first budget wherein passenger fares and freight rates have not been increased for the common people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now hon'ble Member Shri Modi ji was speaking. Yesterday, we heard two hour long speech delivered by hon'ble Lalu ji. The hon. Minister of Railways has very aptly mentioned in brief the decisions taken by the NDA Government during their three tenures. The way the hon'ble Railway Minister has demonstrated in his Budget speech his thought, policy, programme and accountability of the Government to the people in accordance with the Common Minimum Programme of the Government in just two hours, has been welcomed by the common men thoroughout the country. I would like to congratulate hon'ble Soniaji, the Prime Minister and Shri Laluji, one feels the pain and pulse of the environment in which one is born and brought up. Born as a son of the soil of rural region, Lalu ji has presented his first budget in which issues related to the life of common men have been taken up in novel ways. I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Railway Minister for giving 10% concession in freight rates which will enhance income and volume of freights of Railways as the private freights rates were not increasing and the freight were being diverted to trucks. The announcement of free travel for

[Chaudhary Bijendra Singh]

technical and Railway Staff, the dumb, the handicapped and Senior Citizens is a historic one. I would like to tell that this country is declining due to the unemployment. The Prime Minister of the outgoing Government had himself admitted its failure in providing employment to the youth.

Sir, several unemployed youth are not able to attend the interviews as they do not have money for traveling. Several youths do not have enough money. For the first time, the Minister of Railways has announced this measure in his budget that people going to attend in interview for govt. job can travel without paying the fare *i.e.* they can travel free.

Sir, the budget of any Government or a department reflects the thinking of that Government. Declarations of use of Khadi and 'Kulhars' in railways and making "Matha" available on railway stations deserve to be applauded. All these steps indicate that it would promote the pottery industry and provide jobs to lakhs of people in the rural areas. It will give a boost to their lifestyle and they would get a source of income.

Sir, alongwith these steps, Gandhian thoughts have been promoted in the budget. Gandhiji, the Father of the Nation always advocated the use of khadi and it played a major role in attaining the independence of our country. The Minister of Railways has endorsed his ideals, thoughts and principles by promoting the use of khadi in railways. Today we are not giving so much importance to the ideals of Gandhiji. Therefore he has promoted the policies and principles of Gandhiji by adopting them. His declarations would definitely promote Gandhiji's principles. The use of khadi in railways would provide livelihood to those weavers who used to weave khadi manually and were out of jobs and without any source of income. The Minister of Railways decision of use of khadi would prove to be a historical one.

Sir, Hon. Minister of Railways has done the job of linking all the States and historical sites from Jammu and Kashmir to Kanyakumari in the country. He has not ignored any part. He has endeavoured to include each and every issue in his speech.

Sir, I want to say that Aligarh is a historical city. It has a Muslim University. Thousands of students from country and abroad come to study there. It is situated on the main route of railways. Aligarh station faces many problems which need to be revolved. Several trains do

not have stoppage there. Therefore, I request that the points which have not been included in the budget, should be added now. There are 8-10 trains which do not stop at Aligarh. I request the hon. Minister of Railways to give them stoppage there. The main trains are Lichhavi Express, Sadkranti, Sampurna Kranti, Shiv Ganga, Gorakhdham Express, Swatantrata Sainani Express and Purushottam Express which need to be allowed a stoppage there.

Sir, Aligarh is nearby the birth place of Lord Krishna—Mathura, but even after such a long time there is no direct rail route to link Mathura and Aligarh. A survey had been conducted in this regard but it was not mentioned among the surveys in the Rail budget. Therefore I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to include it among the schemes of survey.

Sir, Aligarh is a highly dense city and despite the increase in the number of passengers, technical action plan of the department and other pressures, the hon. Minister of Railways has not increased the fare and had also declared concession in freight. It shows the attitude of the Government. The rail budget shows that the inclination of the Government and the Minister of Railways is towards the public and not inspired by political ill will.

Sir, with these words, I want to submit that there is a need to construct two over-bridges in Aligarh. One is needed at a railway crossing gate where several accidents have taken place and many people have been killed. That is why its construction should be included in the action plan of the railways. Secondly, Bhumia in Aligarh is a pilgrimage place where lakhs of devotees visit every year but due to lack of overbridge, several accidents have taken place there causing many deaths. I request to include the construction of this rail overbridge also in the action plan for the benefit of the public.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Railway department is very important. The public of the country analyses any budget in a social and democratic set up. I want to say it with confidence that the general public is appreciating and applauding the rail budget that has been presented and it seems this is the first budget that has taken great care of the interest of the public. Sir, today every department and ministry is surging ahead. Today every department and ministry is trying to mobilise resources and working for the progress. Several departments are bringing in new action plans and new taxes are being levied.

15.00 hrs.

This is the first time a budget has been presented in which a latest action plan has been announced which includes a declaration of setting up of 1507 kilometre railway line, despite the traffic pressure. In spite of this fares have not been increased. It is a part of the Hon. Minister and the Government's action plan. I want to congratulate hon. Minister, Soniaji and the Prime Minister as this action plan would definitely prove to be great step and and it would be applauded by the public and would benefit the public too.

Sir, I support the budget presented by the hon. Minister of Railways. I once again congratulate the Minister of Railways and conclude my speech.

*(English)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Railway Budget presented by the Railway Minister Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav.

For the first time, certain innovative steps have been taken to address the problems being faced by the Indian Railways. This has been indicated by the Railway Minister in his speech. In para 117, what he has stated is:

"It will be my endeavour to lessen the burden on the economically weaker sections of the society who are dependent upon the Railways for providing them a relatively inexpensive mode of transport from one end of the country to the other."

Sir, the aim, the purpose and the endeavour reflects what is there in the Common Minimum Programme. The Railways is not only for the Railways; unless it reaches out to the people—the poorer sections of our society—the social responsibility of the Railways cannot be discharged. For the first time, an attempt has been made to discharge this social responsibility of the Railways. For the first time, the Railway Minister has taken care of the common people, the poorer sections and, that is why, neither the fare nor the freight charges has been increased.

Sir, there are thousands and thousands of people who are connected with the Railways, in the sense the though they do not travel by the Railways, they do contribute to the Railways. In the past, I have not seen anybody who had ever thought of those people like the

porters, vendors and thousands and thousands of workers who are engaged in the construction of railway lines or in civil work. He has proposed for the social security for these people, who are mostly exploited. While proposing to do something for these people, he has forgotten about 45,000 hawkers. We had a meeting when he was in Kolkata last month. He, then, instructed the General Managers of the Eastern and South-Eastern Railways not to harass the hawkers. They are hawkers selling their wares in trains for several years. It is by selling their ware to the passengers and by catering to the needs of the passengers that they earn something with which they maintain their lives. However, in spite of clear instructions from the Railway Minister to the General Managers of both the Railways, harassment of hawkers has not yet stopped. The Railway Minister instructed that some system should be evolved like issuing identity cards, or levying some licence fee, etc. The Minister said that pending this evolution of a system, there should not be any harassment to the hawkers.

I would urge upon the Minister to take it up immediately with the General Managers who failed to comply with the specific instructions given by the Railway Minister. As the Railway Minister has announced something should be done for social security of the unorganised workers, these 45000 hawkers should not be subjected to the harassment of the Railway Police and the railway authorities.

The Railway Minister spoke about the welfare of the railway employees. There is a system of permanent negotiating machinery in the Railways. I met the Minister only a few days back. In 1980-81, there was a strike by loco running staff during which hundreds of workers were dismissed from the service. They went to the court and all of them were reinstated except 13. Out of those 13, one had already died. The Railway Minister also instructed the Member (Staff) to see that these 12 railway workers—who were dismissed from service and in respect of whom the Calcutta High Court ordered reinstatement—be reinstated. In spite of that, these 12 workers are yet to be reinstated. Most of them would have retired from service by this time. I would request the Railway Minister to see that these 12 workers are reinstated and they get their pensionary benefits as ordered by the court.

We know that Railways is not in a sound financial condition. The Railway Minister is trying to adopt innovative methods. I congratulate him that he has made a proposal for better utilisation of the existing wagon fleet. He has announced a new system called 'Engine on

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Load'. This scheme will definitely help the Railways to increase its capacity. This is with regard to the engine during loading and unloading operations. The problem with the freight traffic is that the turn around time is too much.

Sir, because of that there is a shortage of availability of wagons. Sometimes, we receive the complaints from the power plants that they are not getting rakes. But if the system is materialised, I hope, to some extent, the problem of availability of wagons and rakes can be resolved.

There is one more problem which the Railways is facing. We have 63,000 kilometers of railway track now. Our achievement during these 57 years of Independence is only 10,000 kilometres. Fifty-three thousand kilometres of track were constructed before Independence. The capacity which we have today is also not being properly utilised. The average speed of our freight train is only 27 kilometres per hour whereas in the case of a passenger train, it is 52 kilometres per hour. So, if we can increase the speed of our freight trains as well as passenger trains by 10 kilometres, I am sure, the Indian Railways will be able to increase its capacity whereby the carrying capacity of the Indian Railways—freight as well as passenger—can be increased. So, if we can increase our carrying capacity, the earning of the Railways will also be increased.

Sir, what is the financial situation in the Railways today? The working group has prepared a report. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, the internal resources of the Railways were to the tune of Rs. 14,000 and odd crore. But the market borrowing was 34 per cent. The internal resources were to the tune of 35 per cent whereas its market borrowing was 34 per cent, and the budgetary support during the Ninth Five Year Plan was also about 35 per cent. So, if the market borrowing goes to 34 per cent, in future, the Indian Railways will be in a debt trap. In order to resolve this situation what should the Indian Railways do? It should increase its internal resources. In the past, we have seen, the Railway Ministers used to resort to increase the fare and freights in order to increase the internal resources. But it is for the first time that some attempt has been made to increase the internal resources by reducing its expenditure.

Sir, last year, the operating ratio was 92.6 per cent. In the past, the operating ratio went up to 96 per cent. If you spend 96 paise, you will earn only Rupee one. Today, the Railways is spending 92 paise to earn Rupee one.

So, this operating ratio should be further reduced. The operating ratio recommended by the Railway Reforms Committee is that this should not be more than 90 per cent so that the Railways can have surplus funds, to be able to spend for the Railways' own projects. For the last several years, we have been demanding that the Central Government should invest on development of Railways. Today, the Government of India is spending Rs. 56,000 crore for the construction of national highways or roads. How much does the Government of India spend on the expansion of the Railway network?

Railways are not only meant for Railways' purposes. Unless there is a railway connection, unless a railway line is constructed, unless a railway service is provided in an area, there cannot be any industrial and economic development. Industrial and economic development is related to the development of Railways. So, the responsibility for the development of Railways or the expansion of the Railway network is not the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Railways. It should also be the responsibility of the Government of India.

Hundreds of years back, a line has been constructed. Railways had to pay dividend for that line also. So, the Central Government should invest on the expansion of railway network. The Railway Minister has stated that there are certain backward areas. One of the objects of expansion of railway network is social obligation. Economically that line may be non-remunerative, but that line may be socially desirable. If we connect those areas where people have not seen the Railways or where people have not got the opportunity to travel by the Railways, it would be helpful.

I know that the hon. Minister is updating the survey. I do not know how long this updating of survey will take place and thereafter, again another updating may also take place. But some priority should be given to certain areas which are deprived of railway service. People living in certain isolated areas are the tribal people. If we connect those areas which are backward economically and industrially and where there is poverty and unemployment, the railway network can help develop that area industrially as well as economically. While sanctioning a project this should be kept in mind, that a project may not be remunerative, but that project should be sanctioned because it is socially desirable. I hope that the present Railway Minister will definitely keep this in mind, when he gets the report of the survey of those projects and he will clear those projects too.

Another problem is this. I have not seen anywhere, any measures or any steps for the redressal of this problem. We have projected certain targets. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, what I have seen is that we have never achieved whatever we had projected. I do not know why those projections are made, when we cannot even achieve 50 per cent of the projection. I am talking about acquisition of rolling stock. In the 9th Five Year Plan during the tenure of previous Government what was the target for the new lines? The target was 819 kms. What did the Government achieve? The achievement was only 662 kms. Gauge conversion is very important. We have multi-gauge system in which we have narrow gauge, broad gauge and meter gauge. Project uniguage was announced in the nineties according to which we would have only one system of gauge, that is broadgauge and we would not have metergauge or narrowgauge. What was the target for gauge conversion? The target was 3710 kms. and we could achieve only 2103 kms.

Doubling of lines is very important. Why is it necessary? It is necessary because when a single line is constructed, say 25-30 or 50 years back, there was only one pair of train. Today, we have reached the saturation point by having about 110-115 types of trains. Without constructing new lines, if a single line is converted to double line by spending less amount, we can increase the capacity.

Previous Railway Minister produced three White Papers. One White Paper on pending projects, another on safety problem and a third one on general problems of railways. Moreover, National Transport Committee in 1980 recommended long back, 24 years back, that we should have a multi model transport system and that all the ports and airports should be connected with the Railways.

*Rail Vikas Nigam* was created for Golden Quadrilateral because Howrah-Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Howrah route is over saturated. In order to increase the capacity double lines should be converted to triple lines and alternate route should be created. In the objects of *Rail Vikas Nigam* it was also stated that all the ports should be connected with the Railways. Haldia is connected with the railway line. It is single line for the last 25-30 years, that is since when the railway line was laid in that area. Haldia port has developed its capacity. Doubling of Panskura-Haldia was sanctioned long back but in this Railway Budget only a small portion of 10 kms. has been proposed to be completed and for that only Rs. 10 crore has been sanctioned. These are the

strategic lines. For the strategic lines sufficient funds should be provided so that the entire stretch can be converted to double lines. Sir, this problem has not been addressed properly in the Railway Budget. We have a number of pending projects. When the White Paper was submitted to this House, we were told by the previous Railways Minister that his priority would be to complete all the pending projects and for that Rs. 38,000 crore will be required. I do not know what he did after announcing this to materialise his promise. I did not find anything in his Interim Budget. During the year 2002-03, he announced that a special fund of Rs. 20,000 crore would be created. We do not know from where the money would be generated for this special fund for completing all the viable—the word 'viable' was added—projects. It was stated that all the viable projects would be completed in a time-bound manner. I do not find anything about this in the Budget. I think the hon. Railway Minister did not find time to study as to how much fund will be required to complete these projects. I hope he will definitely touch this vital point in his next Budget or in the Supplementary Demands.

As he has stated, I do not feel that there is any problem of availability of wheel and axle. Today, we are in a position to manufacture the entire requirement of Indian Railways. The Railways has its own wheel and axle plant and the main item of production of Durgapore Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India is wheel and axle. Previously, we used to import locomotive wheels. Today it is manufactured at Durgapore Steel Plant. I do not know whether there is a need for a new wheel and axle plant for the future requirement. Maybe, after 10 years, we will need more steel and axle plants. For that, a new plant is proposed to be set up.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): That's going to be setup at Chhapra.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Chhapra does belong to us. I did my intermediate from there. We too are having connections with Chhapra.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address to the Chair.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am not making it Bihar Assembly. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. Your party has only 42 minutes and you have taken 30 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I will take another 10 minutes. We know the time would be extended. Even earlier we used to sit late.

[Translation]

A time period of ten hours is scheduled but the debate is continued for twenty hours. Those days Shri Raghuvansh Ji used to sit in the opposition benches. His party would be allowed for five minutes time but he used to speak for 20 minutes.

[English]

Sir, the hon. Railway Minister has come up with an innovative idea in his Budget and that is of introducing *kullhad* in place of synthetic glasses and usage of *khadi* and handloom in the Railways. I congratulate him for this. It is because the handloom workers are in great crisis. Thousands of handloom weavers have burnt their looms. This attempt of the Railway Minister to help the people of the weaker sections of the society is praiseworthy.

Sir, there are certain measures which relate directly to the efficiency of the Railway operations. One of them is Railway Signalling System. Today there are about 4000 token-less signalling system. How could one expect to increase the speed with such a signalling system? How much time would it take to replace the entire token-less signalling system with a modern signalling system? Sufficient funds should be provided for this.

15.32 hours

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

Similar is the case with Tract Circuiting. Safety in the Railways is a problem. Incidence of railway accidents are gradually decreasing and if we compare our position with that of the developed countries like Japan, then we would find that our position is not bad. If railway safety is not a problem, then how come our previous Railway Minister felt the necessity of producing a voluminous White Paper on This? When an accident of the Rajdhani Express took place near Gaya a few years back, I went there. The Khanna Committee recommended that the railway bridges that were more than 100 years old should be inspected by an Expert Committee. This

recommendation was made six months before that accident took place. Enough care was not taken to implement this recommendation. Around 22,000 km tracks today are over-aged and 30 per cent of the passenger coaches in the Indian Railways are still over-aged. We need funds to replace them. That is why, there has been a small increase in the DRF.

Sir, the Railway Reforms Committee in 1982 recommended that depreciation should not be less than Rs. 2500 crores. At that time it should not have been less than Rs. 5000 crores. The hon. Railway Minister has increased it from Rs. 1900 crore, in the Interim Budget, to Rs. 2200 crore now. More funds are required to replace the entire backlog of over-aged tracks.

Sir, I was mentioning about the Ninth Five Year Plan. I was on the specific subject of electrification projects. Those have almost reached their targets. But on the question of acquisition of electric loco and diesel loco coaches, the Railways are lagging behind. For electric loco, the target was 851, achievement is 676; for diesel loco, the target was 785, whereas the achievement is 647. As far as wagons, the four wheeler units, are concerned, the target was 1,36,000 units, but the achievement is only 1,04,316. The target for the Tenth Five Year Plan has also been fixed. The problem really is with the supply of wagons, by the manufacturing units of both private as well as public. The problem faced by the wagon manufacturer is this. They used to get certain items as free supply from the Railways. It has been stopped three or four years back.

Earlier, there used to be an umbrella organisation called Wagon India. The Railways used to give orders to Wagon India and Wagon India used to distribute orders among the private as well as public sector units. That system was abolished long back, in 1996, when Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Railway Minister. This is a problem of not only the public sector, this is the problem of private sector also. Private sector units are also not in a position to supply the entire order for the wagons. This is happening even in the State to which the present Railway Minister belongs to. It is happening in Muzzafarpur and Mukamma. I know about Muzzafarpur unit. I went there twice. Muzzafarpur unit could not produce even a single wagon. But the Mukamma unit was helped by Shri Nitish Kumar. It is because the unit is in his constituency, the Barh constituency. He used to help.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The Steel Authority of India.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It's Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam but not Steel Authority of India Ltd. that supplies Iron. Further, the base of the Railway bogies was supplied by it. You all are in the know of it. ...(*Interruptions*) A meeting has been held with you in this regard. We want the Government to move a concrete proposal in this regard. We have all the three good units set up at Mokama, Muzaffarpur and Burnpur and maximum number of wagons were supplied by those units....(*Interruptions*) Mr. Prabhunath Singh ji, you are not aware of it. You don't keep yourself informed. When I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Railways, I had visited Jamalpur to take stock of the state of affairs there. During our visit, the people complained that nobody had come there till today and tried to redress their grievances. I had written a letter in this regard. I had demanded the CBI probe into the import of trains from the other countries. You make esquires in the regard. ...(*Interruptions*) In so far as the issue of Rs. 800 crore goes, I had demanded an enquiry into it. You all are aware of it.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Everything will be clear.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please make a probe into this state of affairs.

[*English*]

My suggestion is that these three units should be made captive units of Indian Railways. All the three units established at Mokama, Muzaffarpur and Bumpur are good ones and the problems which the Railway is faced with will be solved through these units. Wagons are manufactured at Samastipur also. They are also manufacturing wagons. That suggestion was made by me when I was the Chairman, Standing Committee on Railways. I recommended it and they started producing or manufacturing wagons. He has made an announcement regarding Jamalpur. There are a number of good and big workshops in Indian Railways and these workshops can produce wagon. They can produce coaches. The Hon'ble Minister should pay attention towards it. He has made an announcement of filling up of 800 vacancies. Security is the problem. This is really a problem. There are certain dacoity-prone areas in our country. How can such incidents be checked, in the areas where such cases are reported from. It can be done with a joint force of the

State Government and the Central Government *i.e.* RPF, GRP and State Police. RPF's only responsibility was the protection of Railways property. Now, in addition to protection of railway property, RPF has been entrusted with the protection of railway passengers also. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Uttar Pradesh is not faced with any problem. Problems exist in Bihar.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Problems do exist in UP also. Why are you talking of Bihar only? Which area unit faced with problems? Why do you emphasise on Bihar only? The problem begins right from Gorakhpur. Does the problem not exist in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh? We have aggressively put forward our demand. For fertilizer unit at Gorakhpur the number of times you have spoken on this topic was much more than the times we have demanded for revival of the fertilizer factory. Today, there is the question of security also. There should be a joint force. Recently, you have made amendments to the RPF and Indian Railways Act. The strength of RPF has been increased under this act. Facties it was not so. It will definitely have an impact, however a joint force is urgently needed. Now, the security concern has come up as more intensive issue than safety. ...(*Interruptions*) Right now the TV personnels were telling me that the Hon'ble Minister has placed a photograph of Lord Vishwakarma in his Chamber. Now everything will be taken care of by him only. I told them that I was unaware of the venue or place where Hon'ble Minister expressed such views. I told them that Hon'ble Minister receives inspiration from there to execute his work, that is why he has placed his photo over there.

[*English*]

Sir, he has announced introduction of 15 new trains, but he has forgotten about the State of West Bengal.

[*Translation*]

Introduction of new trains in West Bengal was assured but not even a train is going to be introduced. We requested to give us trains for Mumbai, whether it may be once in a week. We don't go to Mumbai daily. You are quite familiar with Bankura. This is my constituency.

[*English*]

Bankura Terrakota horse is the symbol of handicrafts of India.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The process of introduction of trains has just begun. Just see what happens further.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Let it be 16 instead M/o Railways had announced the introduction of 56 new trains.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): These were announced date wise.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He would have told you. An announcement to this effect was made after one and a half-year. However, these are yet to be introduced. You are not aware of it. This was not announced in the House. He would have made an entry of these dates in his diary and let you know everything. While we remained unaware of the same.

*[English]*

Introduction of 56 new trains were announced by the former Railway Minister within a year, but only 26 trains were introduced.

*[Translation]*

You increase the number of trains to 16 from 15, by adding one more train and announce it in your reply. Schedule it to run from Howrah to Mumbai via Bankura, Purulia and Tata Nagar. Purulia is adjacent to Bihar. I have been born in Bihar. At that time this part of Bihar was in Manbhoom District. I have completed my study from intermediate to post-graduate in Bihar. We are close to Bihar. Please announce at least one train for there. You have asked suggestions from the hon'ble members. Many members wrote to you. You had written a letter to all the members. The members thought that their suggestions would be included in the budget. I have a copy of letter that our party had written to you. You have allocated Rs. 42 crores for Kolkata, but there are some projects which needed extra allocation in the previous year's budget. I hoped that the allocation would be 12-13 crores this year as it was Rs. 10 crores last year but it has been reduced to Rs. 5 crores from 10 crores. I am hurt by this fact. If your can't increased it by two crores rupees, let the allocation be kept at Rs. 10 crores. We have the list showing allocation for West Bengal's

projects. There are some allocation for them Rs. 8 crores have been allocated for our area which has been earmarked for Bankura-Damodar area. As far as announcement made by Kum. Mamta Banerjee is concerned, that declaration existed on paper only. As we have been demanding rail line in Sunderban area but the work has not been started, thereon, so far. Azad Hind Fouz train was started from Panskura but stopped later on, after two years. We suggested to start a local train if the express train is not possible.

*[English]*

Shalimar Coaching Terminal was sanctioned by late Scindiaji. He had the dream and plan to have 12 platforms exclusively for the South-Eastern Railway. You will be surprised to know that after 15 years only two platforms have been constructed. Today, only one train starts from that station and that too goes to my constituency.

*[Translation]*

Sir, please note that we had asked for an Aranya Express Train.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: My state Minister and Officers are taking note of it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It would have been better, if you also note this point.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Please state.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Aranya Express starts from Shalimar. Aadra Division is its headquarters and I belong to that area. Please extend it upto Howrah.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am talking about the State and will now speak about the zone. There is one problem being faced by the passengers of long distance EMU-MEMU passengers. You must have read in the newspapers that people will not be allowed to defecate in open in villages. Please install the same system in trains which is existed in the plane areas. RDSO can implement this system.

[English]

If you are forcing a passenger to travel in an EMU-MEMU train for more than six hours without toilets, what will happen to him? From Asansol to Tata Nagar, it takes about four to four-and-a-half hours. From Adra to Howrah, there is an MEMU train but there is not toilet in that train. It takes about five hours thirty minutes to reach Howrah from Adra. It starts early morning at 4.30 and reaches Howrah at 10.30 a.m.

[Translation]

How can one travel without toilet. I had mentioned an incident here. A train was halted at a station, and a girl could not control her desire to defecate, she got down at the station and meanwhile the train started. When she tried to board the train, her father, who was inside the train, caught her hand but the girl went under the train and was killed there. Now, you have taken the charge of this Ministry and have taken innovative steps, we congratulate you. This would also be an innovative step.

[English]

You go to UK. You will find two types of MEMUs in British Railways, namely, one is long distance and the other is short distance. Short distance MEMUs/EMUs do not have toilets. But, if you are going to travel for more than two hours, there will be toilet.

You please get the toilets provided in the long distance MEMUs here. For long distance trains, you should provide toilet. How can lady passengers travel for more than five hours without toilet?

[Translation]

You please issue instructions in this regard at the earliest. Its design will be provided by RDSO/ICF, Perambur.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: We can start a traditional train till then.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I know that you will definitely do it. But you kindly get attached conventional racks for time being. The name of this train could be written as Rani Shiromani First Passenger. You at least get arranged conventional rack in this train. You will get esteemed recognition that the honourable Minister of

Railways Shri Lalu Prasad has done it and he has arranged toilet facilities in MENU trains.

[English]

Sir there is a local train from Sodhpur to Sealdah running during office hours.

[Translation]

You quoted Mumbai but you slipped Sealdah and Howrah. You did not refer to Howrah. You allocated two and half crores of rupees for parcel only. This is wasteful expenditure. What facilities will you develop through this allocation. But Howrah Station has a real problem.

[English]

I studied it when I was Chairman of the Standing Committee. A plan was prepared for Rs. 30 crore. Sir, it has its disbursement problem. Last time, when I spoke on Railway Budget, I suggested short-term and long-term solutions. Short-term solution is this. Railways have abundant land, abundant goods shed in Howrah, which is not being utilised for storing goods. That land can be utilised. You can have four or five platforms, and those platforms should be exclusively meant for the South-Eastern Railway.

[Translation]

Howrah falls under the jurisdiction of Eastern Railway and our trains runs in south-Eastern Railway. Sometimes step motherly treatment is meted out to it. You can get the work completed within one year as far as four new platforms with abandoned goods sheds in Howrah is concerned. You have done a lot, could you not do such a little job for Howrah? Our honourable Chief Minister had written a letter to you before 10-15 days.

[English]

Another terminal should be set up in Majherhat.

How many coaching terminals has your city, Mumbai got?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Delhi has five terminals whereas Kolkata today has only two terminals, namely, Sealdah and Howrah. Chitpur has been proposed. I do not know how much fund you have provided.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sir, last year, Railway Minister announced to have another terminal at Paddapukur and Shalimar. I do not know how much fund he has provided to develop Paddapukur and Shalimar as coaching terminals. In addition to having Paddapukur, Shalimar and Howrah as coaching terminals, our Chief Minister has written to you to set up a coaching terminal at Majherhat. He has sent a copy of that letter to me. I have forwarded that letter to you. A coaching terminal at Majherhat will facilitate South-Eastern Railway trains to go directly to Kolkata.

[Translation]

Now you are completing the circular rail connecting it to airport. You are also connecting my new town, Majherhat to rail line. The survey has been conducted estimates have been prepared and a report in this regard has also been received from the South Eastern Railway. Now you may take further action.

[English]

Sir, I will not take much time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken more than an hour. Kindly conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am concluding now.

[Translation]

I am concluding. As I said about labourers, whether they are in construction works or in unorganised sector, provision of social security has been made for them. But he had said in Kolkata that they may be apprehended whenever they will go from one station to another station for railway job. Some arrangement as issuing them pass should be done for that propose, You had also said that something should be done in this regard. So kindly do something for them. Please put a check on harassment of hawkers.

[English]

Sir, there are thousands of apprentices. Orders have been issued by the Railway Board to engage them as substitute *Kalashi* but most of the General Managers are not complying with the Orders of the Railway Board and are sitting on the file.

[Translation]

They are sitting idle inspite of getting 3-4 years training in Railway. They are skilled ones. When orders

have been issued, it must be implemented and their engagement must be ensured.

There are homeopathic doctors in Railways.

[English]

Why is Railway hostile to homeopathic and Ayurvedic doctors?

[Translation]

You believe in Ayurved, but you do not know that there are 142 doctors of Homeopathic and Ayurvedic system of medicine and they get only 2500-3000 rupees as salary. On the other hand allopathic doctors get salary to the tune of 15000-25000 rupees. Why such discrimination is being done? It will also be innovative as you promoted khadi similarly there Ayurvedic and Homeopathic system of medicine should be merged.

[English]

Why will they get only Rs. 2,500 or Rs. 3,500? Why should their pay scale be not commensurate with the Allopathic doctors?

[Translation]

Their pay scales are commensurate with the pay scales of allopathic doctors in State Governments, in CGHS but we see that in railway they get a salary of Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3000 only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may send your suggestion in writing the hon. Minister.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: They would be part-time doctors. They would also be earning from other sources.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, they earn nothing. I will bring all of them to you.

With these words, I support the budget presented by the hon. Minister of Railways. A new initiative has been taken, the Government have thought about the common man but I will say that upto some extent Kerala is also deprived of its due share. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will request the hon. Member to mention about Orissa also.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Orissa is also deprived of its due share.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: All the trains in Orissa have stopped. The whole State of Orissa is paralyzed. There is no railway movement because the Railway Minister has neglected Orissa totally. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The hon. Minister will also think about Orissa. With these words I thank you.

[English]

Sir, I thank you very much for giving so much of time to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Orissa is a most backward State. Amount has not been allocated for Orissa.

[English]

Therefore, I request the Railway Minister to make a statement so that the rail in Orissa starts moving. The rail in Orissa should start moving. Mr. Railway Minister, you please give a favourable statement. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Lalu Prasadji presented Railway Budget yesterday. I, on behalf of the Samajwadi Party. ...(*Interruptions*) Laluji says that you do not praise me. We would like to praise you but you are not listening to. I, on behalf of Samajwadi Party, thank Shri Lalu Prasadji for presenting Railway Budget yesterday.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, hon. Lalu Prasad Yadavji presented Railway Budget yesterday. From it the common people has realized that this budget is in accordance with their aspirations.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the Bharatiya Janata Party Shri Sushil Kumar Modi was expressing his views just before some time. I heard him with rapt attention and after expressing his views he left the House immediately. I would not like to go into details. I will request Laluji that the question is not of data, the question is that earlier the people belonging to that side were in the treasury benches and now a new Government has been formed. We are political persons. The reaction of a common man is more important than what we people say. I think that feelings and sentiments of a common man are more important than that of political persons. Therefore, after formation of new Government, a comparative difference should be seen in the conduct of the Government. This is my submission.

Sir, it is not important that what type of budget Shri Laluji presented yesterday and what type of budget was presented by his predecessor *i.e.* Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, Shri Prabhunath Singhji and Shri Nitish Kumarji. The important question is that does a common-man travelling in rail has such a feeling which he should have after formation of the new Government. Today, common man thinks that whether he is safe while travelling in the trains after formation of the new Government or not. The real point of question is that whether the Government have kept in mind the safety and security of the common man in the trains. I would like to say this only.

Sir, however, there are some personal problems before us. Just now some of my friends were saying that time should be extended, new Government has been formed, it is a good thing. But it pains me when I see the new Ministers. Laluji you have done very good work. But, you have not done good by inducting Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji as a Minister. He would have been more beneficial for us than being a Minister. I would not like to go in much detail. I am aware that quite a number of new Members of our party have made their first entry and all of them have got the desire to speak on the railway budget. So, I do not want to usurp their right.

Sir, when the railway budget was introduced yesterday, Laluji contended that the economic base of the budget was strong. But I would like to make a humble submission in this regard that some meaningful efforts are required to make the railways self-reliant and if such efforts are not made, I do not think any good results are likely to yield.

Sir, many of our political friends are sitting here. It is my request to them that they need not take it otherwise.

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

I do not intend to personally criticize anyone, but I do intend to submit that when this Government got constituted on the 22nd of May and Laluji became a Minister, from that day till the 25th of June there have been seven incidents of loot and dacoity in the trains in Bihar alone. It does not matter whether the number of such incidents are eight, seven or five. The number is not important. But when such incidents are reported in the newspapers the common passenger gets a feeling of fear that he is not secured. Hence, it is my request to you that every traveller of the railways—be he or she a resident of any State or of any part of the country—should be convinced that he would be safe and out of any sort of danger while travelling in trains. It is my submission that this aspect needs to be taken into consideration. All know that all these incidents have taken place in Bihar and your wife is the Chief Minister there. She has expressed her inability in curbing the incidents of loot and dacoity in the trains. It is my submission that the incidents of loot and dacoity that occur in the trains and are reported in the newspapers subsequently cause fear complex among the common people. The common people think themselves unsafe and so attention needs to be paid towards it. You have announced an allocation of Rs. 2015 crore for the convenience of the passengers and mentioned about the railway yards, cleanliness, canteens, maintenance and the likes for the 8000 railway stations. I think that the funds allocated is not adequate keeping in view the number of railway stations.

16.06 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

Hon'ble Minister, I would like that you paid attention towards the most worrisome aspect in the budget you have introduced. This has been stated in it that an aggregate sum of Rs. 45,000 crores will accrue to the railways from transportation, fare and freight. The estimated expenditure from the accruals is Rs. 41,000 crores for the running expenses and Rs. 11,000 crores is the planned expenditure. On a whole, I mean to say that Rs. 45,000 crores will be the income of the railways and the expenditure will be to the tune of Rs. 52,000 crores. It is obvious that the railways will now run in loss. To bridge this gap, you will have to approach the market, raise loans and the instances thereof are already before us. The results of the tendency to take loans for running the expenses is already before you. We have been taking loans for running this country also and the result is that for repaying the instalments of the loans that we have along with its interests thereupon we have to spend 80

per cent money of the revenue we generate. Therefore, it is my submission to you that unless you increase the economic resources of the railways and make it self-reliant, it could not be run in a smooth way. Today the railways need to be made remunerative and savings will have to be made by raising its efficiency.

In your yesterday's speech you said that a profit of Rs. 100 crores will accrue after an expense of Rs. 33,000 crores. This amount of profit is negligible. Therefore, it is my suggestion that you should evolve a mechanism which could identify the sources where more income could be generated in the railways. The resources need to be identified with which the railways could make profit. Please excuse me, unless and until you evolve such a mechanism, the railways can not be run in a smooth way.

For instance, I would like to submit before you that there are many routes in which railways is suffering loss, these need to be made profitable and if they are made so the railways will get Rs. 200 crores per annum from them. You may talk to the experts in this regard and get some knowledge from others. You may constitute some group or task force and involve some people—attention needs to be paid to this aspect. There are some paradoxes as well—at one side you talked about centralization and on the other you talked about decentralization of governance. You have taken back the power of purchases from the regional manager. The recruitment job, earlier done by the Railway Recruitment Board, will now be taken up by the local officers. This also needs to be taken care of. These two things are contradictory to each other. In a nut-shell, on the basis of the railway budget you introduced yesterday, I can say that your intentions are right. ... (*Interruptions*) Why are you saying so, you will praise it daily as you belong to the party of Laluji. Let us also tell something. You make the Members of your party understand.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: At present he is in our party but in the past he was not.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Please, let me speak.

I am making only this submission to you that we must consider that how all the unprofitable routes can be made profitable. Secondly, I would like to request you to state whether the old pending projects will ever be completed? It is ok as far as new announcements are concerned. Also take care of all the projects announced by the previous Ministers of Railways. It is not applied to the Railways alone. The irrigation projects which had been

approved in the First Five Year Plan during the tenure of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru have not been completed so far, *i.e.* in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The announcements, the speeches you make, the projects you announce are not of so much importance. It is also important to ensure that whether the projects already announced are being completed as per schedule. It is, therefore, my humble request to you to get work completed on the pending projects also on priority basis.

My friend Shri Chandrapalji is an M.P. from Jhansi. He has demanded that the train from Bhopal to Lucknow which runs twice a week should be made daily. Jhansi to Kanpur sector should have a double track. A new Agra division has been set up recently. The previous Government had sanctioned a Railway line from Madai in Agra to Itawa. Madai has Bateshwar the famous place of worship and is also the birth place of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji.

This project was inaugurated by Shri Atal ji. Considering the speed at which the construction work is going on, I do not think that work of laying the line will be completed in the next ten years. You have not allocated any funds for this line in the Budget.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: How much fund was allocated earlier?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I shall discuss it with you in the office. We shall inform you how much money was provided earlier.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Why the work has now been stopped?

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: We shall inform you why the work was stopped. To sum up, speedy work is required on this project also. As I have said earlier, you have done some good things. Your effort is appreciable. As I have told you earlier that you deserve congratulations for introducing Khadi in the Railways. Khadi has been associated with our freedom fighters and Khadi is not just a cloth, it will provide employment to the handloom weavers. Potters will get employment. We are thankful to you for your decision to fill up the reservation quota for the weaker sections in third and fourth categories. We express our thanks to you for providing 75% concession in the fares of second class to the war widows. You have also taken care of coolies. In overall, one can say that the Budget is good.

In the end, I would like to say that after the presentation of the budget you have to make more efforts to increase the financial resources of the Railways, to make the Railways self reliant and how to send a message across the country that Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav is a better Railway Minister.

I think that the speeches and the arguments that will be made here will not be of much consequence as these will be full of criticism and praise. Your way of functioning will have more weightage. I have to say just this that after the formation of new Government if the common man of the country says that the trains during the tenure of Lalu Prasad Yadav are running better, then in my view, it will definitely be a good Budget.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Rail Budget 2004-2005 presented by the Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav ji. Not only I but more than 81 per cent population of the country have praised this rail budget. There are some people who have their habit of criticising even commendable work. There are no two opinions about it. My friend Shri Sushil Modi has left the House. I think that this budget aims at providing relief to the common man of Hindustan and also aims at eradicating unemployment. It is poor and village-oriented budget.

It is the first budget during the last 20 years in which neither the freight charge nor the rail fare has been increased. People of the whole country have praised this budget. We acknowledge the perception and attention of the hon. Minister of Railways that he has dared to take such important steps. He has put an end to the monopoly in allotment of book-stalls at railway stations and provided reservation of 25 per cent for the unemployed, widows of the soldiers, widows of the railway personnel, the most backward classes or dalits. Perhaps, Shri Sushil Modi did not like this provision for reservation because he serves the interests of the capitalists. Naturally, there may be sympathy in his mind that the monopoly is being done away with today. The book stalls are being allotted to the poor. By doing so the poor are being helped. Not only the House will reject his objection but the people of the whole country will also deny it.

My friend Shri Ramji Lal Suman was expressing his views, he was rightly saying that there is need to increase economic resources in the railway and also to strengthen them. Earlier, the scrap was being sold at throw away

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

prices and it was under the influence of big land lords. These people used to get a contract of more than Rs. Five thousand crores. Now, the scrap is recycled and it is converted into iron and utilised in the railway. Earlier, the iron was imported but now that amount is saved. But doing so the hon. Minister of Railways is mobilising resources. It is a welcome step. I congratulate him for doing so.

Sir, I am elected from that very constituency from where the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi initiated Satya, Ahimsa, Khadi Gramodyog and small scale industry. Today, that Charkha (the spinning wheel) is still available at Bheetiharna and Vindavan Gandhi Ashram on which the father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba Gandhi used to spin the yarn. I would like to say to Shri Sushil Modi that he should go to the Bheetiharna Gandhi Ashram and see that Charkha. He cannot experience their pain in this regard. Hundreds of those loom workers were in Bhagalpur when riots took place. These people set on fire the looms of the weavers. By burning the looms these have deprived the weavers and the villagers from earning their livelihood. Through this budget Shri Lalu Prasad has made an effort to provide employment opportunities to these people. I congratulate him for taking this commendable step to restore khadi and make them self-dependent.

Sir, when Mr. Deputy Speaker was in the Chair, at that time I also raised this issue. A person travelling by the Rajdhani Express does not know about 'Kulhad' because after a gap of five hours the train stops at another station. Where will he get 'Kulhad'? Kulhad is available at all railway stations, restaurants and trains. Earlier in cabinet's meeting tea was served in silver plate now, but it is served in the 'Kulhad'. It is also being made a subject of criticism. Lakhs of most backward and poor potters have got employment through it. Their displeasure is natural. ...*(Interruptions)* Prabhunath Singh ji, please be silent. I will express my views on your topic later on. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Lalu Prasad has provided facility regarding the rail journey to the weaker sections of the society, poor people working in the railway, coolies, porters, vendors and their wives in this budget. I congratulate him for doing so. Announcements were also made earlier that if an unemployed youth goes to another city to appear in examination he will get concession in second class ticket by showing the certificate. Till today, he had not got any such concession in this regard. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to implement his own announcement. Justice has not been done with those thousand of poor youth who used to

appear in the interview in another city away from their own one. Discussion was held that recruitment process was fair one. Earlier recruitment of class IV employees who used to lay sleeper or do another work was made at the level of GM or DRM. Nowadays the recruitment is made at higher level. The people of Bihar recruited in Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, your goodself belong to Orissa. The youths of our area were kicked out of Assam and Maharashtra and their own people were got adjusted there very cunningly. They were transferred to Bihar and by boasting of honesty it has been tried to earn credit of being honest. I myself had written to the Hon. Prime Minister to get an enquiry conducted into it. I regret to say that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji did not do so. Whereas on one side, I very much praise the Rail Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Railways, at the same time I would like to say that our State *i.e.* Bihar is the most backward and we are being deprived of our share in the railway. The programmes announced by the former Minister of Railways and also those which you have announced, should be implemented quickly. Those should be completed. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, we take up the issue related to Navinagar. We have not begun work on Navinagar as yet. I would like to urge upon you that the Jamalpur rail factory was used to be pride of the country. We would like to thank you for announcement which you had made yesterday. Please extend it further and get its modernisation work started. Similarly, there are factories at Muzaffarpur and Mokama in Bihar. Those should also be revived. Shri Nitish ji is not here, but Shri Prabhunath ji is very much present here. All old A.C. compartments have been attached to the trains operating in Bihar. All the old and condemnable compartments have been provided to Bihar and those in good condition have been provided to Kolkata and Mumbai. It has been directly tried to neglect Bihar. We want that this work should also be done. ...*(Interruptions)* Single line passing through Chhapra, Hazipur, Muzaffarpur, Narkatia-Ganj, Bettiah, Motihari which is the life line of North Bihar, is not sufficient. Doubling of this line is must. Gorakhpur-Lucknow line should be converted into the double line. You are not taking a note of what I am saying. The Hon. Minister of Railways is, therefore, kindly requested to take a note of it also. All get their points noted. My point may please also be noted. So, convert this single line into the double line. It is the life line of our Bihar.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, this may kindly be got done. Until these works are not completed, the areas will not be linked properly.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: The Ganga Bridge is being constructed in Munger in our area. The construction of Nirmali-Bhavtiyahi Rail line-cum-bridge was got done by the then Prime Minister. The work of gauge conversion of Narkatiagunj-Jainagar rail line has been going on for the last ten years. On the other hand, you can go to any part of the country through the broad-gauge line from Darbhanga, but there is missing line between Darbhanga to Raksaul. If this 60-70 K.M. missing line is converted into broad-gauge line. It would be possible to reach any part of the country. New rail line between Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur is being constructed for last ten years. Earthwork has already been completed and the construction work of culverts is yet to be completed. Therefore, we would urge upon you to pay special attention towards it. The national highway passing through our area is closed from that side. The inhabitants of Sitamarhi & Shivhar have to come by travelling 250 Kms. We would like to congratulate you that you have carried out the survey work of new railway line from Shivhar to Sitamarhi via Siwan, but it should be given practical shape and this work should be completed at the earliest. Similarly, the gauge conversion of Sakri-Nirmali rail line also be carried out. The Minister of Rural Development is sitting behind you and is busy talking. Please get the foundation stone of Hazipur-Vaishali-Sugolli-Gaya-Areraj rail line be laid by inviting and fixing the programme with the Prime Minister and the work of extending the rail line should be started. Similarly, the gauge conversion work of metre gauge line passing through Kaptanganj-Thave-Siwan-Gopalganj via Chhapra, the Parliamentary Constituency of Shri Prabhunath Singh ji, into broad gauge line has been started and the same should be completed by providing the funds if there is shortage of funds. There are 35 R.O.B.'s in Bihar, which are located on the national highway of because of this only whenever you go to Chhapra you have to pass through eight level crossings. Anyone have to cross eight level crossings from Patna. We have to travel fifty Kms. more. Similarly, you have ordered to construct all the ROB's located in Bihar. We want that work to be done. Like wise the Jhhanjharpur railway bridge which was constructed during the tenure of Late Lalit Narayan Mishra ji on the river Kamla a road bridge was constructed there on by diverting the traffic. There is no use thereof in the absence of ROB. I, therefore would like to request you to get this work done. You have mentioned about converging all the unmanned level crossings into the manned level crossings and that too with proper level crossings, which is really a commendable step. In this regard, I would like to request you that manned level crossing should be constructed soon at Sheetalpur & Dharminia under the Sugoli Raksol

Section. A few days ago, twenty-six people were killed there, because there was no level crossing or guard there. I had been to your Chamber and discussed with you about it. You had ordered the Chairman of the Railway Board. Therefore, I undersatnd that there should be a manned level crossing at Sheetalpur & Dharminia.

I want to make one more submission to the Hon'ble Minister of Railways. Raksaul, Sugouli, Bettiah Railway Stations should be modernized. Computerised Reservation Centre may please be set up at Sugouli Station at the earliest. In my Constituency, Bettiah and Raksaul are located along the border of Nepal. A foot over bridge connection platform is built there. This causes lots of problems for the people coming from outside. It needs to be expanded. The foot over bridge should be built up at some other place. We praise you for the Railway Budget presented by you and take an opportunity to congratulate you for the pro-poor Budget. Therefore, the entire House should pass it unanimously.

In the end, I would like to add one more thing. A foundation stone for Mega Thermal Power Station has been laid at Navinagar in Bihar and the power to be generated here was to be supplied to the Railways. But no formality was completed in this regard. Neither cabinet approval was sought nor formal approval was taken and an announcement to this effect was made and immediately thereafter foundation stone was laid. Similarly foundation stones were laid at the other places also and the people of Bihar were misled. So therefore, I would like to request Hon'ble Minister of Railways to implement all these schemes and get it completed within a stipulated time frame.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I on behalf of the BSP rise to support the Railway Budget presented by Hon. Minister of Railways. The Railway Budget has been proposed keeping in view the needs of every section of society. At the time of presentation of Railway Budget every year, people are emotionally excited about it and are apprehended about the likely increase in passenger fare and freight charges. But the Minister of Railways presented this year's Railway Budget, keeping in view the interest of all the sections of society and no increase, whatsoever was made either in fare of freight. It was widely acclaimed in the country. I too, on behalf of my party appreciate this good Railway Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a few special provision have been made in the Railway Budget which are appreciable. For instance, a concession has been given to the unemployed

[Shri Rajesh Verma]

youth for attending the interviews. This has encouraged the spirit of the unemployed youth and will help them in seeking employment. I offer my thanks to the Hon'ble Minister of Railways for making this concession. A provision of 25 per cent reservation in allocation of bookstalls at the Railway Stations has been made for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Minorities and the War-Widows. This will facilitate the weaker section of society to get employment to some extent.

I take this opportunity to offer my thanks to the Hon'ble Minister of Railways for one more thing. In this Budget he has made provisions of fill-up the backlog of vacancies in respect of the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Categories. I, on behalf of my party offer him thanks for this step. He has contributed in completing the backlog in services in respect of the candidates belonging to the SC, ST and Backward categories.

Secondly, 50 per cent concession in Railway fare has been given to the attendant travelling along with the deaf and the dumb people. It will help the deaf and dumb to travel in trains. These are such section of our society that feels neglected. They will be benefited by this step.

Thirdly, the Hon. Minister of Railways has tried to check mafia in railway scrap. By recycling this scrap we would be able to manufacture wheels, used to be imported from other countries, in the country itself. Manufacturing of wheels by recycling of scrap will also help us in saving our foreign exchange.

Fourthly, a provision of eco-friendly toilet system has been made in the Budget. It has been provided in this Budget that as per the policy of Ministry of Rural Development eco-friendly toilet discharge system in railway compartments will be evolved. My submission is that some big stations may be taken under this system for sample purpose and the trains with eco-friendly toilet discharge system should pass through. These stations and the people could feel that abovesaid system is being launched quickly and the platforms are looking neat and clean.

Now I would like to draw your attention towards some problems of my parliamentary constituency. My parliamentary constituency is Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh. I have been trying to convert metre gauge line of Lucknow, Bareilly via Sitapur, Lakhimpur, Pilibhit into broad gauge line for the last three years in view of necessity of those

areas. The Hon. Minister of Railways has made a provision in the Budget to convert this metre gauge line into broad gauge one. I would like to give thanks to the Hon. Minister on behalf of the people of my constituency. Simultaneously broad gauge rail lines of Bareilly, Sitapur via Burwal, Gounda stations pass through my constituency. Most of the goods trains pass through these rail lines. There are only two passengers and express trains which pass through my constituency, Sitapur. A new train should be introduced so that the people of Sitapur could avail more railways facilities. Due to frequent movement of goods-trains a jam-like situation prevails in my constituency, Sitapur. Therefore, an over bridge should be constructed there so that the people of that region could cross the rail line without facing any problem.

Secondly the survey for a new rail line between Sitapur and Bahraich has been conducted, but it has been shelved in cold storage. It is my submission that you may kindly take up that proposal. There is an urgent need of this line. Bahraich district is situated on Nepal Border and if it is connected by this line, the schedule caste and schedule tribe people will get benefited and they could also avail of the railway services.

At last I would like to express my heartiest thanks again to the Hon. Minister of Railways to present a good Budget and hope that whatever announcements have been made by him for future, he will take steps to fulfil them within prescribed time limit.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: There will be a Bharat Darshan for rural people too.

SHRI RAJESH VERMA: At last I conclude my speech expressing thanks to you.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Hon. Chairman, Sir, the first budget of the new Government is quite populist. The public is very much appreciating this budget, but it seems to be that this budget has been presented keeping in view the forthcoming assembly elections. While going through the budget it seems that perhaps we are seeing a dream. I am presenting my views on behalf of the Shivsena Party and other honourable Members from my party would also like to speak, so I would express my views in short.

Sir, the passengers travelling by train expect certain amenities. We can see the condition of Indian Railways wherever we go to the stations. The hon. Minister of Railways in his rail budget has promised to provide minimum basic essential passenger amenities at all the

stations by March, 2005 under this head Rs. 522 crores have been spent on various stations during the last three years and this year too an amount of Rs. 215 crores are proposed to be spent in our region. We can see lack of facilities at the stations even after spending so much money. I belong to Maharashtra. Rs. 252 crores have been spent for providing facilities on Mumbai Central Terminus, Lokmanya Terminus, Bhusawal, Nagpur and Bandra Stations during the last three years. Passengers from all parts of the country come to these stations. Nagpur is one such station from which all the trains pass through. Lakhs of people arrive and depart daily from Mumbai Central Terminus and Lokmanya Terminus. But they neither get drinking water nor toilet facilities there. The station does not even have proper seating arrangement. There is no sitting arrangement if any passenger faints or falls sick. The platform of CST is a big one. A whole train rake can be placed there. But there is no facility there. Except Bisleri water there is no available there. I fail to understand where we have spent an amount of Rs. 252 crores? During visit of the standing committee, I have visited several times, a number of railway stations, I was a Member of Petition Committee during the last Lok Sabha, which was chaired by Shri Basu Deb Acharia. We received complaints at several stations. We observed the condition of all the local trains operating in Mumbai. It takes 15 minutes to reach Borivali from Churchgate. But for buying a ticket at Borivali one has to stand in a queue for about half an hour. Two out of the four booking counters remain closed. Under the situation how you are talking about passenger amenities? There is shortage of eight thousand employees all over the country. The information about arrival/departure of trains is not made available at the stations. If we ask information about arrival/late departure of train, we get a reply that announcement could not be made about it as the staff is not there. If anybody rings up at the station, no one picks up the phone. On being inquired, the reason given is shortage of staff. Stations are not cleaned and again on being asked the same reason of shortage of staff is given. I do not know why there is shortage of 8 thousand employees? I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Railways what steps are being taken by him to fill up the 8 thousand vacant posts? The recruitment of staff is necessary for providing facilities to the passengers. How is he going to recruit the employees? Last year, the Railway Board had told that it takes full one year to complete this process. The result has not so far been declared to the interviews held in May 2003.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You do not rest in peace.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: I am a peace loving man. Local people should be recruited. The posting is to be made in Mumbai. I want this much only.

Even now there are several trains which are hundred years old. They are still being run. 8029/8030 Kurla-Howrah which runs from Howrah to Kolkata and Kuria to Howrah used to run earlier upto CST. It is a very old train. 2089/2910 CST-Kolkata is a hundred year old train. It is in a very bad condition. The urinals of this train are full of foul smell. Even the passengers prefer to use urinals built up on the platforms, when the train stops at any station. They do not use the urinals provided in the train.

Some of the trains are in such bad condition that people think whether it is right to go by them or walk down. 1040 Gondia-Pune-Kolhapur train is one such train. Trains are neither cleaned nor repaired and even the seats are lying broken. When there is no maintenance how are we talking about providing amenities. If passengers do not get amenities in trains, then the fact that fares have not been hiked would not keep them happy for long.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tamilnadu Express, AP Express originate from New Delhi. The conditions of these trains is also very bad. The coaches of these trains are very old. I request the hon. Minister of Railways it is necessary to replace the coaches of 50-100 years old trains. These coaches need to be repaired and maintained, so that passengers can get better facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways has announced introduction of several new trains. Every Minister of Railways makes such announcements in his speech. It is our misfortune that there has not been a single Minister of Railways from Maharashtra while there have been several from Bihar. The people of Vidarbha area have, since years, been demanding that the railway line be laid between Amravati-Narkhede, the survey for which was conducted in 1905 and its foundation stone was laid in 1995. When I first time became a Member of Parliament in 1996, I tried for it, then only the work had been started because there was no other means of transport. Therefore, the demand for Amravati-Narkhede railway route was raised. It reduces a distance of 100 kms and the people can avail of this facility. But I fail to understand as to why the Hon'ble Railway Minister has taken a decision to complete upto Amravati-Chandurbazar instead of Amravati-Narkhede. This is 138 kms line, it should have been completed. If it is not completed, the

[Shri Anant Gudhe]

purpose will be defeated. I hope that the Minister of Railway in his reply will clarify it as to why it to be completed upto Chandurbazar only?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of Vidarbha area have been demanding for laying some new rail lines. The Railways Minister has stated in his budget speech that the places of pilgrimage will be linked with trains. In Maharashtra, many pilgrims go to Tirupati from Saigaon and to visit the Gajanan Maharaj Temple which is the big temple in Maharashtra, pilgrims come to Shirdi gaon from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh but they have to face so many difficulties as there is no direct train for Akola-Saigaon. A large number of travellers have to get down at Renigunta, while going to Tirupati, therefore, I request you to start a direct train from Saigaon to Tirupati.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Amravati is the next big city to Nagpur in Maharashtra wherefrom thousands of Govt. employees travel. Besides, non-government servants are also daily commuters and many people come for business purpose also.

I request the hon'ble Minister to take all these demands into consideration. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall conclude after saying last point. There is acute shortage of staff at all the stations of Bhusawal division, you please make up this shortfall soon. With these words, I conclude.

*[English]*

SHRI S.P.Y REDDY (Nandyal): Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on the Railway Budget, 2004-05. I am glad that despite several limitations, the hon. Railway Minister has presented a soft Budget without taking recourse to hike in passenger and freight fares. It is really a customer-friendly Budget. The hon. Minister has proposed to provide free travel facilities to unemployed youth who are coming to appear for interviews and also proposed to extend concessions to widows of defence personnel killed in action and to deaf and dumb persons. The hon. Minister has taken good care to protect the interests of the needy people and thereby has served a noble cause. Even after making such concessions, he has been able to present an improvement in the operating ratio at 92.6 per cent. After meeting the Railway dividend of Rs. 3500 crore and meeting the deferred dividend liability of Rs. 300 crore payable to the general revenue, the hon. Minister has shown a surplus of Rs. 873 crore in his Budget. This shows a reasonably satisfactory performance in the Railway revenues. The hon. Minister has done well in improving the catering system in the

Railways and also cleanliness in the Railway stations and on trains and also for introducing environment-friendly toilet systems. Thus, on the whole, the Budget would have a good impact on the public in general.

Sir, having said that, I would like to refer to some of the chronic problems in the Indian Railways. During the past some years, some of the major railway accidents took place and the Administration, unfortunately was unresponsive to the sufferings of the people who met with accidents. Every time an accident took place, the Government was ready with an explanation, convincing or otherwise. Sometimes the blame was on systemic failure and at other times the blame was on sabotage, poor signalling system, unmanned railway crossing or over-aged rolling stock. The reports of the various Committees and agencies set up to inquire into the cause of the accidents to fix responsibilities continued to gather dust without being examined and implemented. None of the recommendations of the Rakesh Mohan Committee or Justice Khanna Committee has so far been implemented. The result is that the work of track renewal, technical upgradation, acquisition of new rolling stock and updating of outmoded signalling system has not been attended to. Each of these has been a contributory factor for the railway accidents at one time or the other. I expect that the hon. Railway Minister would make a serious effort to implement some of the recommendations on a large scale in order to make railway journey more safe.

Sir, taking into account the constraint of time, I would like, in brief, to make some suggestions for improving the efficiency of the Railways. The first and the foremost suggestion is that the Railway Administration should draw up a scheme so that more and more goods and persons could be transported from one part of the country to the other through the railway network instead of through the road network. For example, a lorry with a load of ten tonnes consumes 400 litres of diesel to travel from Hyderabad to Delhi, whereas a train with a similar load consumes 40 litres of diesel to cover the same distance. The nation could save precious diesel and in that process a lot of foreign exchange. Again, the wear and tear in case of the Railways is less and so also are accidents. Even time taken for a train to travel from Hyderabad to Delhi, if the track is doubled, would be much less than that of a lorry.

17.00 hrs.

Then the number of accidents would be less. There are so many advantages. Unfortunately, the previous

Government gave preference to road transport and spent huge amounts of money on four way lanes, six way lanes and so on. I think it is a grave mistake committed by the NDA.

In order to attract freight from road transport to rail, one should double the track. Doubling of the track should be taken up as an urgent measure and on a war footing. Last year, we have done 300 kilometres of it. Shri Lalu Prasad should at least do 10,000 kilometres of doubling every year. If you want funds, I will give you ideas.

Coming to electrification, I need not travel by air from Hyderabad to Delhi spending about Rs. 8000. If I can travel by Rajdhani Express in 21 hours time, I would happily and comfortably sleep in the train spending Rs. 2000. The Railways earn money and I save money by that. Doubling of the track should be done as an urgent measure and it should be done on a war footing. Electrification of railway track should be done.

I have one more suggestion to make to the hon. Railway Minister. You would have seen military trucks being moved on the trains. Why not the loaded lorry also be moved on the train? You are only putting a railway siding at the railway station to enable the lorry to come and sit on the goods wagon. The goods train carries to the destination. There the lorry gets it down the train goes to the unloading point, unloads the goods and picks any other goods to new point. After the lorry getting loaded with new goods to the new destination, it will again go to the nearest railway station for onward journey. Tremendous traffic can be generated by this way and the Railways can make not Rs. 800 crore but Rs. 80,000 crores of profit. I am telling you this point. Yes, we need money for this. You may issue Railway bonds. I would be your Advisor. Please issue Railway bonds. The public is eager to finance the Railways. Definitely, you will be the major earner to the exchequer. In your tenure of five years—I bless you that you will be here for five years—you should make the Indian Railways the biggest earner to the exchequer.

Thank you Mr. Railway Minister for listening to me. I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to make my maiden speech as I am a first time Member.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, long time ago, we used to hear a joke which said:

[*Translation*]

"Jab tak rahega samose mein aaloo, tab tak rahega Bihar mein Lalu".

Now Oriya people are saying from yesterday:—

Manyavar, Rall Matriji Lalu, pakdaen hain Orissa ko Bhaloo.

We salute the Minister first. TV channels are saying generous Lalu.

[*English*]

So, we are sure that Laluji coming from the eastern part of the country, and the honourable Chairman also coming from the Eastern part of the country, will not do anything that would affect the Eastern part. The States of Orissa, Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh which have been consistently neglected by the Central Government of the Congress Party will not continue to feel so. The time has come when the people of these States should feel comfortable thinking that there is somebody who is looking after their interests. It is said that there are three ways in life. They are the good way, the bad way and the railway. Shri Lalu Prasad has chosen the railway. So, we have nothing to say about it. We can only do *nepathya kolahala*, that is, sit at the back and clap.

Shri Lalu Prasad has read out his Budget speech in Hindi. But the election of two 'oo's from his name—I do not know whether the credit should go to *vaastu* or not—has deleted the woes from the hearts and minds of the people of his constituency and his State. But Orissa has been burdened with more woes. Let the Minister prosper. We will be happy about it. We have no problems. But let him look after Orissa also as part of this country which is not evident in the present Budget which the hon. Minister has presented to this House. He has, in his Budget, given a lot of importance to passenger security. I, as Editor of one of the Oriya newspapers, have written many editorials about this. This issue concerns all of us in this House. Passenger security, till date, has been the least important subject for the Indian Railways.®

There is a lot of improvement in today's modern vehicles. If we see an automobile or an aircraft, you will see there are constant developments. In an automobile, you have what they call air bags. If there is an impact, the driver gets an air bag in front of his face. There are passenger cages. If there is an impact and even if the vehicle is crashed, the passengers are saved because they are inside a cage. Similarly, in aircraft you have seats, linen and *chadhars* which are fire retardant. So, if there is a fire in an aircraft, quite often you will see the airhostess lifts a pillow or lifts a seat and puts it on the fire and the fire dies out. But unfortunately, the Indian Railways have not consulted any foreign agency or they have not bothered to have an R&D Department which will update the coaches. Today we might have a few more air-conditioned coaches than normal, but then the quality of the coaches is exactly the same that we saw, may be thirty or forty or fifty years ago.

[Shri Tathagate Satpathy]

So, if the Minister is genuinely interested in passenger security, he should look into these basic things. It should not be difficult for him. In the Budget it is mentioned that in 2003-04, all accidents, big and small, put together were something like 325 in number. So, 325 mishaps per year average to about one accident per day.

17.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In that situation the Railway Ministry, the Railway Board and the authorities can easily do a survey, can easily do a study and find out what can be done to safeguard the passengers. Nothing has been mentioned in the Budget.

So, it seems the Budget is a haphazard one and a lifeless one without the hon. Minister putting his heart into it. It has been prepared by the bureaucrats and he has read it out. So, the idea of passenger security in coaches that do not tolerate impact seems improbable.

We are also happy that the hon. Minister has tried to make the Railways more environment friendly. He has tried to cut out plastics, thermocol and such items. Whenever we come by trains from Orissa to Delhi, on both sides what we see is all dirty, filled with plastic and thermocol. So, it is a good thing. But we have to see what the former Minister, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi mentioned about this. She has a point. She said that when you use the earth from the surface you are damaging the soil. Moreover, the earthen pots are not bio-degradable. That is a debatable point. I am not so knowledgeable about this. That should also be studied. It is a point that should not be neglected.

We all are aware that in the development of the Railways, pensions are a big drain on the resources. In reality, to modernise the Railways and to bring about a change, we have to do something about it, thereby making an impact on the passenger and freight traffic. Something has to be done by which the Railways can unburden their pension weight and thereby improve their performance by investing more money which is saved from this sector into development of tracks, coaches, engines and the general traction system.

These are a few points that I wish to suggest to the Minister.

Sir, we are happy—I have mentioned happiness thrice already and this is the fourth time—that in his speech the hon. Minister has specifically mentioned Orissa, Punjab

and West Bengal as States which, he feels, have been neglected in the past. It is a good thing that he takes cognisance of this fact and he is concerned about it. We welcome his concern, but I will not defocus. Let me focus on Orissa specifically. If you see Orissa, it is a mineral-rich State and surprisingly,—it is a fact which can be verified by anybody—the freight originating from Orissa gives the Indian Railways an annual income of Rs. 3,500 crore. This figure has been consistently growing for the past seven years. During the year 2003-04, it was Rs. 3,500 crore. It is not a small sum. No other State only in the sector of freight traffic originating from it gives the Indian Railways Rs. 3,500 crore as far as my knowledge goes.

So, Orissa's contribution to the Railway kitty is massive. But in comparison, when you see the investment in Orissa, it is really pitiable that we are badly neglected. For example, let us take the density of railway route length per thousand square kilometres. In the State of West Bengal, it works out to 43.10 km. per thousand square kilometres. In the State of Bihar, it is 30.40 km. The all India figure is 19.11 km. The State of Punjab is below the all India figure and Orissa is below Punjab. In Orissa it is only 15.03 km. So, your density of railway route length per thousand square kilometres is so low that you are not able to reach people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude soon.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I am representing BJD. You are representing a great party which fights for the country. You cannot cut me short. Please give me more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have got one more Member to speak from your party.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I represent so many Members. I am the only speaker from my party and I am speaking for the entire State of Orissa.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. You may continue.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, thank you for your kindness. I am grateful.

The NDA Government did start some very outstanding projects in Orissa, but the support that was to come would have taken a little more time which the NDA Government did not get. But prior to the NDA Government, if you see consistently, Orissa, for a very prolonged time, has had to face utter neglect and

discrimination by consecutive Central Governments specifically in the field of railways and this has damaged us so much that till date we are not able to raise our head and equate ourselves with the rest of the country.

Sir, we were offered the East Coast Railway. Earlier, we had the South Eastern Railway which was headquartered at Kolkata and it used to look after Orissa and areas right from Kolkata to Visakhapatnam. Then the East Coast Railway was formed and it was headquartered at Bhubaneswar. But the East Coast Railway has not received any support from the Union Government for the past so many years due to which the development has not been up to the mark. This year, we have got Rs. 8 crore, but this amount is pittance when you are trying to set up an independent railway zonal system. So, I would request the hon. Minister to specifically look into the East Coast Railway and build it up so that Bhubaneswar also becomes an economically independent railway headquarter which can support the Indian Railways on a larger scale.

Let me come down to a few specific trains, which need much attention. There is an 82-kms. long Haridaspur-Paradip line which was sanctioned in 1996-97. Paradip is an economic centre. It is a port and development in Paradip will not be limited only to Paradip town but it will affect the complete hinterland which will cover most of the coastal districts of Orissa right up to the central part of Orissa, which I represent—my constituency Dhenkenal—which is banked in the middle of Orissa. This line was sanctioned in 1996-97. It has only received a few lakhs of rupees each year, by which the line has not developed.

Similarly, we have a train which is called the Inter-City Train, which is from Sambalpur to Bhubaneswar. The hon. Minister has extended it up to Puri. The capital of the State is Bhubaneswar. Sambalpur is an important city of Western Orissa. So, the connection between the two cities is the prime target of an Inter-city Express and extending it up to Puri is a technically very wrong thing, which I vehemently oppose and I hope the hon. Minister would reconsider it.

Khurda-Bolangir was supposed to be a new line and we expected, at least, Rs. 100 crore to be sanctioned this year to be spent there. I would also like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that money in the past has been given to the Railways in Orissa for development, but what is happening. Suppose a project gets Rs. 15 crore, they only spend Rs. 5 crore or Rs. 6 crore and at

the end of the year Rs. 9 crore to Rs. 10 crore are reverted back to the Central kitty. Again, the next year another Rs. 10 crore is given, which again decreases, and thereby no development is taking place.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude shortly.

[*English*]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I will quickly read it out because you are not giving me time. The extension of Sambalpur-Bhubaneswar Inter-city Express should not be done up to Puri. It should stop at Bhubaneswar. There is a need to connect Puri to Panaji, which could be named Vaishali Express. It would attract tourists from Goa to Orissa. We need a train from Puri to Jaipur in Rajasthan *via* Sambalpur, which would help traffic from North India. A major part of Southern Orissa, namely the districts of Ganjam, Gajapathy, Rayagada, Koraput, Nowrangpur, Malkangiri, Boudh and Kondaman and Srikakulum district of Andhra Pradesh do not have a straight train connection to Delhi. There are five Members representing these areas. I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to have a train which should emanate from Behrampur to New Delhi.

East Coast Railway has sent in a suggestion to start Hirakud Express from Behrampur. Now, it is from Bhubaneswar to Hazrat Nizamuddin, but it could start from Behrampur. It would connect Behrampur, that is, Southern Orissa to New Delhi. Similarly, the Prasanti Maidan Express, which is presently plying between Vaizag and Bangalore, could be extended up to Bhubaneswar or to Cuttack and that would connect Behrampur and Southern parts of Orissa again to South India in a large way. One train Puri-Jaipur, Rajasthan *via* Sambalpur, which could be twice a week and one Express train from Behrampur to Tatanagar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. It is not possible for me to give you more time.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: On Rourkela, Raiganj, Paradip, Sambalpur, New Delhi line we need a train through Sambalpur. The Ministry has given us three Rajdhani starting from Bhubaneswar to Delhi thrice a week. Now these trains come through Kharakpur, but what I would suggest is that there are three more trains which should come through Dhenkenal, Angul, Sambalpur and Delhi starting from Bhubaneswar, that would make six Rajdhani per week and they would cover different parts of Orissa.

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

Tapaswini Express starts from Bhubaneswar to Sambalpur and it has been extended up to Hatia. I would suggest that it does not exceed the boundaries of Orissa. Tapaswini Express, which earlier used to ply between Bhubaneswar and Sambalpur, should stop at Rourkela and should not go beyond Rourkela.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views on the Railway budget presented by the hon. Minister of Railways yesterday. There is mixed reaction on the rail budget in the country, so, I would also like to express mixed feelings. I would like to apprise the House of the sentiments of the country. However, I congratulate Laluji for reading a written speech for one and a half hour to one hour and forty five minutes. It seems to me that he has read out a written speech for the first time. It has become a memorable day in his life. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): It is also his compulsion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Yes, it is also his compulsion. However, the people of the country did not prefer to listen to a written speech from him. They liked that he should speak in his style. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: While giving reply, I will speak in my style. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sometimes he was speaking in that style during his budget speech. We were listening to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: He was not present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have listened to each and every word of his speech. I was listening to his speech on T.V. In that speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: All these are my neighbours. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: He is also a Minister, my neighbour is also an MP. Therefore, he may say in this way also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will create problem. Now, what should be done?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: When Lalu ji was delivering his speech in his own style, then, he had said that when the Members entered the House they should greet Sonia Ji and while leaving it they should greet her and then go outside the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen. ...*(Interruptions)* Why do you become restless. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that the intention of Laluji to say like this is that Sonia ji is an embodiment of sacrifice. Failure to salute to that embodiment of sacrifice would amount to dishonour to the Nation. It seems to us that such development has taken place for the first time in the country. All the Government facilities are being availed of by the Chairperson of the coalition Government as formed in our country. Not just that, the office she is holding belongs to the government. ...*(Interruptions)* Which is tantamount of the rank of Cabinet Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singhji, please try to focus on the Railway Budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member (Smt. Sonia Gandhi) is not present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I can speak more than you. You confine yourself to listening. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, It's not fair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Prabhunath Singh ji, please come to Railway Budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am speaking on the issue already discussed in the House. I am not telling anything new. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member in question is not present at the moment. So, her name should not come here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir, I have already communicated to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Did this issue figure in the Railway Budget yesterday? ...*(Interruptions)* When this issue figure in the Railway Budget, it would be raised today too. ...*(Interruptions)* That formed the part of the Railway Budget. ...*(Interruptions)* When it forms the part of the Railway Budget, it would be discussed, today also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: What is wrong in his statement? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary, please. Shri Prabhunath Singhji, please focus on the budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked the Honourable Members to speak on the Budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: What sort of Railway Budget is this? After going through the Railway Budget it appears that the Railway Budget has turned out to be a deficit deal. I would like to tell you one thing—Whether be it any institution, out of all the institutions, Railway is the biggest commercial public sector undertaking. An exclusive significance is attached to it that it links every village of the country. When the Railway Budget is presented, people belonging to the villages look at it with a sense of expectation as what it is going to contribute to their State and their region. As many as 80 percent pages of the Railway Budget is exactly the same (carbon copy) as has been in the Interim Budget presented earlier. I do not think there was any need for such a lengthy and detailed document. In the Railway Budget such new things would have been introduced which could be propagated among the people of the country so that they could advance their reaction as to what they have got from the Railway Budget. However, one thing is very appreciable that he did not hike passenger fare and

freightage. I do take an opportunity to congratulate him on this count as this move has sent the wave of happiness amongst the people belonging to the Middle Class Community. Nevertheless, where on one hand, people are happy over making no increase in fare or freightage, at the same time, if the Railway would turn out to be a loss-incurring industry, the disastrous impact born out of such developments will have to be contemplated seriously. ...*(Interruptions)* Devendrajee, I offer my congratulations on this count. I have said that it has evoked mixed reactions and we shall not advance unalloyed facts. But you do not hear us patiently rather turn restless. ...*(Interruptions)*

Railway is the basic transport facility available in the country. Right from carrying goods to passengers from one place to the other, there emerges two transport concerns—one is of security and the other one is of safety. In the Railway Budget presented by Hon'ble Minister of Railways it has been mentioned that the accidents in Railways have sharply declined post 2001-2002. He has stated that the no. of accidents has lowered from 414 in the year 2001-2002 to 351 in 2002-2003 while it has been more lowered to 325 in the year 2003-04. This figure is of the duration of 2003-2004 when the new Govt., had not come into existence. Since when the new Govt. has been formed *i.e.* since 22nd of May, 2004, let's have a glance at the No. of accidents occurred after 22nd May, 2004. On 23rd May—a Collision between train and Van at the Subhana village Road Railway Crossing near Urban Estate took place in Jalandhar, on 25th May—Dhanbad-Firojpur Kisan Express was run by a vacuume brakeless Engine and an accident was narrowly escaped on 27th May, armed robbers robbed the passengers and a sub-Inspector Police was shot dead in the Farakka Express near Patna on 29th May—a passenger was thrown out of the running train *i.e.* from the Rourkela—Sambhalpur D.M.U. by a T.T. at Sambhalpur in Orissa. On 31st May, Passengers of Patna—Palamu Express were physically assaulted and lakhs of Rupees were looted from them by the armed robbers at Sonanagar—Barwadih area in the East Central Railway. On 3rd June, the armed robbers in collusion with the Cabin Man looted over Rs. 1 lakh from the passengers of the Patna—Puri Express near Jhajha Railway Station in Jamuhi (Bihar). On 7th June, 15 bogies of the Delhi bound Goods Train carrying wheat from Kaithal derailed near Gharonda Railway Station. As a result trains were late by many hours on Delhi-Ambala route. On the same day a number of passengers jumped out of the running Mathura-Bhiwani passengers train after seeing smoke due to Short-circuit in one of the compartment. On 9th June, two persons

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

travelling in an air conditioned sleeper coach of Howrah-Donapur Express were shot down by the murderers. On 11th June, property worth lakhs of rupees was lost due to fire in break Coach in Delhi bound Kerala Express. On the same day two passengers were thrown out of the Sialdah Express near Bareilly. One passenger was injured and another was untraceable.

When Shri Nitish Kumar ji was the Minister of Railways, Lalaji used to say that iron was not propitious to Shri Nitish Kumar. That is why he has intalled an idol of Lord Vishwakarma and worshiped him so as to seek his blessings. One who trades in iron, worships lord Vishwakarma. It occurs to me that Lalaji does jot worship Lord Vishwakarma properly. Had he done so, the number of Railway accidents would have come down. We would like you to worship properly so that iron is propitious to you. We extend our good wishes to you. At least the number of such incidents should come down. People of the country are very much concerned about these incidents. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Everything will be O.K. if you extend your cooperation.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to say that there are numerous problems in the Railway. Many a times inquiries were held into the Railway accidents, but it had been said that these accidents occurred due to human errors. But, a lot of injustice is done while fixing responsibilities for the human error. The sub-staff are punished while the higher one's are rewarded. I would like to request you to identify the persons responsible for these accidents while fixing the responsibilities. Such incidents can never be checked by punishing the sub-staff and rewarding the higher ups.

As far as the question of safety and security is concerned, I have dealt with these incidents and these people say that the problem of Law and Order comes under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. It is true. But the fact remains that the State Governments and the Union Government both jointly look after the set up of law and order. There was a statement by the Chief Minister of Bihar that it was not possible for the State Government to check the robberies in trains. It was there in the newspapers. I would submit to the hon'ble Railway Minister that he had evaded responsibility as the State Government was expressing its inability to check the robberies and other crimes in trains. You are the Minister of Railways. You have not spoken even a word in your

budget on the separate safety mechanism, to be adopted for the safety and security of the passengers. You should be clear in your mind as to what action and measures you are going to take for the passengers travelling in the trains?

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Please, give your suggestion as to what can be done.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would say that the R.P.F. personnels. ...*(Interruptions)* We give our advice and suggestions if you ask for them but it is not certain that you will act upon them. If Raghuvansh Babu whispers in your ear to accept them, you will do so and if he says otherwise, you will not accept.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: It is your duty to give suggestions. I am telling this to you.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I want to tell you that many incidents occur due to unmanned level crossing. There are 1280 incidents wherein there were no gatemen at the level. You have stated that sensitive places will be given priority in the posting of these gatemen. I would like to know what is the criteria for identifying sensitive places? We have gone through the papers but no formula has been given. It means that the crossings where 10-20 people will be killed in the accidents will be considered sensitive. Please clarify in your reply what would be the formula. We are eager to hear. But I would like to say that wherever the level crossings are unmanned, they should be manned. There are several places where level crossings have not been made. Surveys should be conducted to make level crossings at such places. You made a statement during your budget speech that excel counter blocks are being installed in the trains which would give a forewarning and if the technician is not available and there is any apprehension of danger, this system would provide the driver a prior information. That also includes the system that if the driver fails to take steps at the right time, automatic breaks will apply in the train. And this work is going to be completed in the year 2004-2005. If this work is completed in the year 2004-05, then Lalujee, we would congratulate you. The ongoing work that has not been completed as yet and if you are determined to complete it, let it get completed. We would like to have it completed lest your budget should remain reverie and your budget speech barely an announcement.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You speak about the steps.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is getting over.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Do not do so. I am coming to that very point. My speech will be over in ten or fifteen minutes. Listen, I would like to submit that for safeguarding trains from fire. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He belongs to your State.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Not from the State but from the neighbourhood. ...(*Interruptions*) Incidents of fire take place in the trains. It has been mentioned therein that explosives and inflammatory materials would not be allowed to be carried in the trains. But already such things are written on all the trains and on all the stations. In spite of that such materials are carried in trains. The police personnel concerned also have their hands in this regard. With their convenience such materials are transported through the trains. When you give training to them, training for morality should also be imparted to them. The laws you enact should also be got implemented.

You are going to adopt the old system after dismantling the Railway Recruitment Boards. I have no objection to it. But I would like to make you understand the fact that there have been a number of Ministers of the Railways from Bihar earlier also and I do not want to blame anyone but at the time of recruitments appointment letters used to be delivered from the big hotels of Delhi after the receipt of a bribe of two lacs to four lacs. So, the potential of bunglings will be high in that system. You should look into this. If you fail to check it, you will fail to save yourself from disrepute. Therefore, let the extant recruitment procedure continue and also the people who are indulged in such activities cannot be checked instantly because it is my conviction that bunglings can hardly be checked. Now, I am coming to the point of scrap. You have done a good job in that regard. I congratulate you for that.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: There is also the point of contract.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: While introducing the railway budget yesterday, you are speaking in your inimitable style with that you had stopped the outside sale of scraps so as to check the people with the A.K. 47. But I think that this system of A.K. 47 is not going to be checked so easily. What happens is that if a good contractor comes forward to take up a contract, he is threatened with a call from a mobile phone that if he

bids for this tender, his son would be abducted. Such incidents take place mostly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. If such people are not checked, then I would like to say that you may make any sort of law, this can not be checked without its strict enforcement.

Lastly, I would conclude after explaining one or two points. Lajuje! You have announced in your railway budget speech that an improvement in the catering facility will be brought about. You have announced for the use of Mattha and Lassi. This is very good. But we have an apprehension in this regard. I am not raising any accusing finger against any one but I would like to submit that mostly the Yadav community is involved in the business of milk and curd. You declared that milk and curd would be procured through the cooperatives. I think that by such an act you would mete out injustice to those people of the Yadav community who produce these items. You let the mattha and curd produced by them be used in the railways. The co-operative milk is being sold in the whole country and there is a shortage of that as well. Therefore, if you let the use of curd and its likes in the railways produced in the villages from the milk of the cows and buffaloes, we would think that you are doing justice to their manufacturers. Similarly, you have talked about the earthen pots, that Kulhars will be used in the railways. I have seen in the T.V. in the "Aaj Tak" news channel that the earthen Kulhars are being made through the machines in Gujarat. It appears that its total supply to the railways is being made from there itself. You need to ensure that only hand-made pots of the potters are supplied to the railways. When you give your reply, please submit the fact as to how much supply of the Kulhars have been made by the Railway officials from the potters in rural areas. If they have not done so, it is an injustice to these people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one day I was travelling by Vikramshila Express. During the journey I had tea but as the vendor was pouring tea into Kulhad, it was falling over my clothes. On raising objection to it, he said that it was Lalu brand and if we preferred Nitish brand he could serve in the plastic glasses. Now, Lalu brand and Nitish brand mode of service is in practice in the Railways. However, all these things should be standardized keeping passenger facility in prime view rather than facilitating the concepts like Lalu brand or Nitish brand.

The second issue is that of the reservation in the allocation of bookstalls at the Railway station. It has been in the practice right from the days of British Administration. I had requested former Minister of Railway, Shri Nitish

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Kumar jee also but he couldn't get it implemented. A provision of 25 percent reservation in case of people belonging to the scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, Backward classes and to those covered in the bracket of BPL. It may be increased to 30 per cent but who will share what amount of cake should be ear-marked or else those scheme will be hijacked. I suggest the hon. Minister to fix the percentage of every class lest this scheme should be hijacked. It should fixed as to how much share of the cake will go the minorities.

The third point relates to fruit and vegetables. The Government should take such steps as may prove beneficial to the poor. Divisional Railway Manager and the other higher officials are also on the round and people are unwilling to carry vegetables by train, a fool proof arrangement should be made on this front.

The fourth point, one should not be allowed to take undue advantage of the facility of second class ticket offered to the unemployed youth travelling to take the interviews or else, the announcement would be like putting stamp of aproval on the errant conduct of those people who are already accustomed to travel without ticket. Therefore, it should be ensured that only those people are allowed to avail of this concession who are going to take the interview. With these words, I take an opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to Lalu ji and at the same time thank Mr. Deputy Speaker, who allowed me to speak.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khagen Das has requested to lay his speak on the Table of the House. I have permitted him to lay his speech.

\*SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): Sir, while participating in the discussion on Railway Budget for the year 2004-2005 at the outset I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Railway Minister that I have come from a region which is most backward in respect of communication even after 56 years of Independence.

While making observation, I appreciate the bold announcement of the Railway Minister with regard to forward looking steps like modernisation, e-procurement, transparency in disposal of scraps and other things and enhancing safety, amenities etc. But the Railway Budget has not assessed key issues like structural reforms and financial management of its resources. Further, I hope the promises made by the Minister will be implemented in due course.

Coming to the North-Eastern Region and Tripura in particular, announcement of the Minister in the budget, certain specific demands of Tripura have been duly addressed.

The people of Tripura and the State Government have been demanding completion of Railway line for Kumarghat to Agartala in a time-bound manner. The progress of the work is slow and the work needs to be expedited. I understand that about 85% of the formation work in this sector is complete barring the tunnels. The Minister of the earlier Government openly announced in December 2002 that the construction of tunnelling work (which is a critical one) between Manu-Agartala would be completed within 37 months. But it is unfortunate that the progress is not upto the mark. Special care should be taken to start the work in full swing so that it can be completed within the scheduled time.

Work of ballasting and procurement of other materials like concrete sleepers and track materials should be commenced immediately. All such materials are to be brought from outside the State by road only. The road remains intermitantly closed during the monsoon. So action may be taken immediately to commence such works so that the Project is completed in time. Railway Minister's announcement to make a specific time-frame for completion of the work is highly appreciated.

There has been a long standing demand from the State Govt. as well as the people of the State of Tripura for further extension of Railway line from Agartala to Subroom—which will bring in economic development of the region. This line will also have international importance as the Belonia Station of Bangladesh is less than two kilometres from the proposed Indian Belonia Station.

Similarly, 'Dhun' Railway Station of Bangladesh will be less than 15 kms. from our proposed Subroom Railway Station. The entire North-East Region can be accessed to Chittagong Port which is only 75 kms. from Subroom through Subroom and Belonia. This will have a tremendous impact on the economy of the region.

The hon'ble Minister announced in his budget that the survey work relating to Agartala Subroom Railway line will be updated. I strongly urge that the work should be expedited. I also request the Railway Minister to lay the foundation stone of the Project during this financial year.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

The other Project relating to connect Agartala with Bangladesh at Akhaura (12 kms. only) may also be followed up by the Ministry of External Affairs. The preliminary engineering cum traffic survey of the 5.4 km. on the Indian side has been completed. This is an important Project for increasing trade and commerce between the two sides. Other than this, the people of the State and lower Assam region are now required to move through circuitous route via North Bengal to go to Kolkata, the gateway of Eastern India or other places of the country taking at least 48 hours times. Once these lines are made through the distance between Agartala and Kolkata can be covered within less than 15 hours. I request the Railway Minister to take up this issue with his counterpart in Bangladesh through the Ministry of External Affairs.

There has also been a long demand for introduction of a pair of well maintained express train between Manu and Lumding. At present, the express train which is in operation regularly makes abnormal delay and in the way the passengers are being suffered a lot for availing of connecting train from Lumding.

Passenger amenities are also seriously lacking in this train. The seats of the train are damaged, windows are broken, toilets are without any light and water. I request the Minister to direct the N.F. Railway authorities to immediately remove all the problems faced by the passengers.

Another important issue I want to raise is that, Tripura being situated at the farthest corner of N-E region and all the essential commodities and construction materials which are to be brought from outside the State, is facing serious shortage of wagons for transportation of all these materials. The Members of Parliament as well as the State Government have brought it to the notice of the Railway Minister but without any result. It is also demanded to provide better quality of rolling stocks for goods trains. I request the Railway Minister to personally intervene in the matter to sort out the problems.

I hope that the United Progressive Alliance Government will fulfil its commitments in regard to completion of Projects and programmes announced in the budget to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of the State.

With these words I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK (Kolhapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the maiden Railway Budget of the UPA Government for the financial year 2004-2005 was presented yesterday. I take this opportunity to thank Hon'ble Minister of Railways Shri Lalu Prasad jee for presenting a balanced Railway Budget for all sections of society.

In this Railway Budget, on one hand, giving priority to upgradation of Railway stations alongwith laying of view Railway tracks, conducting survey electrification, taking security measures, taking care of cleanliness, providing the unemployed youth with concessions in Railway tickets while going to take interviews, concessions to the widows of the Military personnel killed in the war, relief to the serious patients of Hamophillia alongwith the dumb and the deaf—all these are reflective of the humane aspect of this Railway Budget.

To my mind, the concession for the wives of coolies can be provided in the UPA Budget only. All the more important point is that our Hon'ble Minister of Railways has first of all sought suggestions from the MPs of the treasury benches. This is a very good way of incorporating the suggestions and demands in the national interest. The previous Government didn't have a good experience on this count.

I made utmost efforts that nomenclature of Kolhapur Station was undertaken, however, every time, it was refused by giving it a political clouse and ultimately, when it was scheduled to re-name the station in the name of Rajrishi Chhatrapati Sahu Maharaj by the former Deputy Prime Minister, we were deliberately kept away from making appearance in the programme not to mention sending invitation to the representatives belonging to all the parties.

Sir, I don't want to take more time, but I held the conviction that till date justice has not been done in case of the proposals for Railway Projects in Maharashtra. These schemes have been neglected. The schemes proposed by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, I believe, will be positively considered on priority basis. Being an MP of Kolhapur constituency for the last six years, I have been taking an opportunity to raise the issue of modernisation of Kolhapur Railway Station. I hope it will be considered on priority basis and these work will be accomplished by providing financial assistance. The hon. Minister in his announcement has assured the doubling

[Shri S.D. Mandik]

of Pune Miraj-Kolhapur line. On that count, I express our gratitude to you on behalf of all the people. This demand had not been fulfilled for several years in the past. He will soon expedite it by providing financial assistance. This is the last destination of Maharashtra. I hope, traffic facility will be made available. I have to make an important demand for linking Kolhapur to Konkan Railways through a new track. The survey of this track has also been completed, by linking Mumbai-Kanyakumari through a bypass will prove to be a boon. The Government should seriously think over it and take action immediately.

Sir, being a member of Kolhapur constituency, I have a few demands to make. I would like to present them before the Hon'ble Minister of Railways:—

- To make available more reserved births in Mahalakshmi Express.
- To modify the timings of Mahalakshmi Express in public interest.
- Addition of one Coach to each 1st, 2nd AC and II tier AC.
- Introduction of Ahimsa Express from Kolhapur to Pune-Surat-Rajkot.
- Introduction of a new train between Kolhapur-Mumbai keeping in view the rising number of passengers in this route.

Consideration and fulfilment of these demands will provide relief to thousand of passengers—this is my only submission.

Finally, the emphasis exercised upon the modernization of various issues alongwith the introduction of Khadi and Kulhad, I hope, will change the face of the Indian Railways in future and all my demands will soon be fulfilled by taking appropriate action. With this hope, I conclude.

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday the honourable Minister of Railways presented the Railway Budget for the year 2004-2005 in the House. The Indian Railways is the largest transport system of the world in traffic movement and we are proud of it. Railways is the base of unity and integrity of entire India. We have accepted railways as the best means to restore social harmony and to create a better environment. It would not be exaggeration to say that the Indian Railway is life line of the nation. Sir, as I have said that Indian Railway is life line of the nation but at

the same time I would like to submit that Railway budget presented by the hon. Minister of Railways yesterday depicts regional imbalance and narrow political vision. Therefore I stand to oppose the Railway Budget presented here by the hon. Minister of Railways.

Two budgets are presented in country. The General Budget is one of them and the Railway Budget is presented by the Minister of Railways before General Budget. Indian railways was considered as the backbone of the life and the country. However, those great persons who had made separate provisions for that purpose must have realised the need to spread the railway network in a systematic manner all over the country so that there is a balanced development but unfortunately it did not happen so after independence. The schemes were implemented only in the constituencies and States to which the Minister of Railways belonged and the other regions were neglected. The Government of the National Democratic Alliance was first formed in the Centre under the leadership of hon. Atalji in the year of 1998. We were present here on the occasion of the Railway Budget at that time too. These issues were also raised at that time as to what should be done to remove imbalanced development not only in railways sector but also in other fields of the country. Determination was required at that time. We decided that a uniform policy should be framed for the whole nation. We implemented the Golden quadrilateral scheme for the entire nation. There was a single resolution for east-west and north-south corridor. From where money will come? It was a resolution for the good. Due to this work was initiated across the country. Fifty six thousands crores of rupees were mobilised and work was started. The Indian Railways had been deviated from the path of development and there had been a strong demand for its privatisation but coming to strong determination taken initiatives by the then Minister of Railways under the direction of hon. Prime Minister were evidence of the confidence the Government had. However, I feel that the political declarations being made at this time will once again definitely deviate the Railways from the path of development and the demand of its privatisation being raised during year of 1998, will be raised again. I fail to understand for how long we will be sacrificing our national and social interests for our political benefits. If the situation continues to be the same our objective of fulfilling the social commitments through Railways would fail. We may also deviate from our objective of fulfilling social commitments. So the budget presented by the Minister of Railways is directionless. Would he be able to give a new direction to the nation and the Ministry of Railways? I doubt and feel that Indian

Railways will meet the same fate as the Charwaha schools announced shortly after Laluji became Chief Minister of Bihar. I apprehend that the Indian Railways would be directionless and it will meet the same end as the Charwaha schools did.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to that region of Uttar Pradesh which is most densely populated of the country. That region has been utterly neglected after independence and no development works have been done in this area after independence. This is border area of India and Nepal. One side is Bihar and other side is Nepal. Every year there are floods in this area and no attention has been paid towards development. No Government have paid attention towards this area except erstwhile NDA Government. Unfortunately this year's Railway Budget has been similar. Gorakhpur is the headquarters of Eastern Railways but no facilities have been provided to Gorakhpur and the Eastern Railway in this Railway Budget. I feel very depressed seeing like that. The decision are being taken repeatedly with motive of fulfilling narrow political objectives and selfishness. The man becomes so helpless, after all to what direction this political compulsion and narrow political vision will take the country and society. There are so many works which should have done, but nothing happened. If Eastern Uttar Pradesh is not developed then how the hon. Minister of Railways will develop Bihar because whichever train goes Bihar, it passes through Eastern Uttar Pradesh. We do not know the reasons why the Minister of Railways has neglected it and no development works have been done. First of all we had given proposal of electrification of Lucknow-Gorakhpur rail line. Now it takes 5-6 hours to go from Lucknow to Gorakhpur. If this rail line is electrified it will save not only 17% revenue but also time. But unfortunately proposal have been given from other regions and this region has been neglected.

Hon. Nitish Kumar laid foundation stone of gauge conversion Gorakhpur-Godna loop line. This rail line passes through Nootanva and Indo-Nepal border area. We people are aware of the Maoist violence in Nepal presently. 11 States of our country are affected by naxalite violence. The hon. Minister of Railways has not made any provision in this budget for starting the gauge conversion work of this line speedily. ...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Yogi Aditya Nath, please wait for a minute. If the hon. Members of the House agree, then I will extend the time of the House till Shri Yogi Aditya Nath finishes his speech.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Yes, Sir. Let the time of the House be extended till his speech is over.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, let him continue and conclude his speech today itself.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir. Let him continue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The rest of the speeches will be delivered tomorrow.

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a proposal was submitted for doubling of rail-track between Gorakhpur-Gonda. In 1996, a fatal accident took place in Domingarh in which hundreds of people were killed. Since then, it is being demanded repeatedly that this railway line be doubled. The previous Government sanctioned the doubling work of 15 KM rail track from Gorakhpur to Sahajhara and also allocated funds for a stretch of 6 km. But any provision has not been made about this rail track in this budget.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Headquarters of North-East Railway in Gorakhpur. A part of the Headquarters has already been transferred to another Headquarters, Hazipur. The post of Deputy General Manager at Gorakhpur has been abolished. I request the hon. Minister of Railways that arrangement should be made for restoring the post of Deputy General Manager in Gorakhpur. The previous government introduced a new train Gorakhpur Express from Gorakhpur to Delhi. This train runs three days a week. Keeping in view the traffic load I requested the hon. Minister of Railways that the frequency of this train should be increased and it should run all seven days a week. But, there is no mention about it in the budget proposal. A demand was raised for starting a new Express train from Gokrahpur to Shri Ram Janambhoomi, Ayodhya and from Ayodhya to New Delhi. In this budget proposal mention has been made to start a train from Delhi to Faizabad. But, in this budget there is no mention about introducing train service from Faizabad to Gorakhpur about which demand was raised at local as well as national level. A demand was raised during the regime of the previous Government for starting an Intercity Express from Gorakhpur to Allahabad via Ayodhya and Sultanpur and the then hon. Minister of Railways also accepted the demand. But, in this rail budget, mention has not been made about it. A demand

[Yogi Aditya Nath]

for laying railway line upto Dohrighat via Bansaon, located in the south of Gorakhpur has been raised for the years. The survey of the said line was conducted in the year 1996-97. But, even after survey work, sanction has not been granted to start work. I request the hon. Minister of Railways for starting the work relating to laying of railway line from Gorakhpur to Dohrighat via Bansaon. Besides, the work relating to construct a new rail line from Anandnagar of district Maharajganj to Ghughli station via Maharajganj district headquarters should also be commenced.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year the hon. Minister of Railways announced that if a Member of Parliament would like to provide funds under MPLAD Scheme to convert unmanned railway crossings into manned railway crossing and to construct railway crossing at such places, where those crossings do not exist, he will have to submit a proposal to this effect and then a sum of rupees eight to ten lakh would be released for this purpose under the said scheme. I also provided funds for making manned level crossing in my constituency that was unmanned. But, the Ministry of Railways did not take any interest in it. According to the hon. Minister of Railways, there are more than 1200 unmanned level crossings and from time to time accidents take place there. Since, safety and security is the major challenge for the railways today, MPLAD funds can be utilized for making manned level crossings that are unmanned. I request the hon. Minister of Railways that Member of Parliament Local Area Development funds should be utilized for this purpose and if such works are taken up on priority basis as per their proposal, I think that it will help in carry forwarding the Members of Parliament would also be able to contribute in the field of safety and security.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in addition, there was another issue related to the commercial use of unused railway land, last time there was also a provision in the budget of the Ministry of Railways for this purpose. At that time the hon'ble Minister of Railways made announcement for all the people. But no provision has been made in the Budget for the people engaged in the various business outside the railway stations viz-hawkers, cart-pullers, cobblers. If the Ministry of Railways construct shopping complexes at the unused railway land outside the railway stations then I understand that this would be a better use of that land. This would also add to its beautification and all such people would also get employment who are in search of employment. They do not have any source of income. With the construction of these shopping complexes. They would get shops and pay rent to the railways for that. If such arrangements

are made, I understand that the unused railway land would be used for commercial purposes.

Besides, I have only two proposals. Firstly, if a new train between Gorakhpur and Kolkata via Bihar is sanctioned, it would be beneficial to the people of Bihar. Inter-alia, I would like to request that the hon'ble Minister of Railways has not made any announcements about the players. I would also like to request to provide employment to the national and international players in group C and group D. Another important issue is related to the safety and the situation prevailing in Bihar is the cause of concern regarding safety. Generally, it has been heard and when I had visited Kolkata, many people from Uttar Pradesh and here met me. All of them had the same concern that how they would have safe journey when such incidents are occurring in Bihar. I would request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that when they are in power in Bihar and his wife is the Chief Minister there, he may please make two arrangements. Firstly, safety be provided in the trains. Secondly, the practice of ticketless travel in Bihar should be checked. The passengers and the Ministry would then be very grateful to him. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Ticketless travel in Bihar is talked about, whether these people travel with tickets? *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, please, let him finish his speech.

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: With these words, I once again oppose the railway budget presented by the hon'ble Minister of Railways and would request him that such arrangements as he wants to make under the Ministry of Railways would not make any development in railways nor strengthen it. Rather, it would be a repetition of the Bihar Charvaha Vishwavidyalaya. He may please save this ministry, especially from this kind of institutions. With these words, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock  
on Thursday, July 8, 2004/Asadha 17, 1926 (Saka)*

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