

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 18, 2001/Chaitra 28, 1923 (Saka)

Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 441. Shri Vivekananda Reddy.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL):
Our Jawans sacrificed their lives during the war for
Independence of Bangladesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not Zero Hour, please resume your
seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, you can raise it during Zero
Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha, please take your
seat. I am on my legs.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that nothing should
go on record. Shri Vivekananda Reddy.

*(Interruptions)**

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Visit of UN Secretary General

+

*441. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Not recorded.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations Secretary General
during his recent visit to both India and Pakistan had ruled
out UN intervention in Kashmir;

(b) If so, the details thereof including the reaction
of Pakistan Government thereof;

(c) the details of the issues discussed with him by
Indian leaders; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to
(d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

'Regarding Visit of UN Secretary General'

The UN Secretary General, in a statement to the press
in Islamabad on 10 March 2001, in response to question
referring to Jammu and Kashmir and the intent of the UN to
implement relevant resolutions, stated, inter alia, that as these
resolutions were not under Chapter VII they were thus not
self enforcing. "And, therefore, the cooperation of the two
parties, the two parties discussing these issues and finding a
peaceful way out, is the route I recommend".

The Pakistan Government reiterated its known position.

During the UNSG's visit to India on 15-18 March 2001,
a wide range of issues were discussed with Indian leaders.
These included the forthcoming global conference on financing
for development, terrorism, CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban
Treaty), reform and restructuring of the UNSC and Indian
candidature for permanent membership, implementation of
UN Security Council sanctions against the Taliban, democracy,
and the World Conference against Racism.

The UNSG's visit provided an opportunity to emphasize
priorities and objectives. We laid stress on the core objectives
of the UN - namely peace, collective security and development
as also the need for greater UN activism in the areas of
international terrorism, nuclear disarmament and develop-
ment.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Sir, in the
statement, it is mentioned that the Secretary-General, United
Nations has categorically said that "As these resolutions were
not under Chapter VII, they are not self enforcing. And,
therefore, the co-operation of the two parties discussing these

issues and finding a peaceful way out, is the route I recommend". In this connection I would like to know whether in view of this, the Government of India proposes to make a view strongly to the United Nation urging them to nullify or withdraw the Resolutions passed by the United Nations in 1948 to delete Pakistan as a party to the dispute.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, you can come nearer.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has quite rightly pointed out the statement made by the U.N. Secretary-General during the recent visit to Pakistan, Nepal and also to India. So far as the U.N. Resolutions on the subject are concerned, it is the Government's view, and the country's view that they have been overtaken by time and events. Their implementability, as they are not mandatory Resolutions under Chapter VII, has been commented upon by the Secretary-General himself. Besides, and most importantly, these Resolutions have been overtaken also by the Simla Agreement of 1972 as also the Lahore Declaration of 1999, which form the basis of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan.

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Sir, the Resolution passed in 1948 by the United Nation did include Pakistan as a party to the dispute. So, I urge upon the Government sincerely, through you, to press upon the United Nations to withdraw the Resolution of 1948 or to nullify the same so that we can have the people of Kashmir and the Government of India as the parties to the dispute but not Pakistan.

MR. SPEAKER : It is the same question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I do appreciate the hon. Member's views in this regard. But as I explained in response to his first question, the Resolution was as far back as 1948 and has now been overtaken by events. Principally there now exist, as Treaty document, the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration of 1972 and 1999 respectively which form the basis of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan.

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Sir, in view of the United Nations Secretary-General's statement making it clear that the U.N. has no role to play in J&K, I want to know whether the hon. Prime Minister will give another chance to Pakistan and start direct talks either at the ministerial level or he can directly contact the present ruler of Pakistan so that the relations between the two countries could be started afresh forgetting the past.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the question relates to the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General. What the hon. Member has enquired about are aspects of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. It would be preferable

if that is dealt with separately.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have anything to say about the visit of the Secretary-General but I would like to say something about the Shimla Agreement. Recently, hon. K.C. Pant Saheb has assumed the responsibility of running friendly ties with Pakistan. It is an appreciable gesture. I would certainly welcome resumption of ties for the cordial relationship between the two neighbouring countries is in the interests of both country's. This should be made amply clear to the people of the country as to what message the Government wants to convey to Pakistan through the dialogue between the militants and Shri K.C. Pant.

MR. SPEAKER : Mulayam Singhji, the question is related to the visit of the U.N. Secretary General Shri Kofi Annan, you should pose questions about that only.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : With reference to the Statement of the hon. Minister that the Government abides by the Shimla Agreement, I would like to know from him whether any message is being sent to Pakistan by way of holding talks with the militants. Is there any proposal for holding tripartite talks? It is better if the negotiations are directly held with the militants.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though his question is not directly related with the visit of the Secretary General yet I will try to give reply to the question of the hon. Member for it is also a very important question. As has been announced, the talks will be held with all the groups on the humanitarian grounds.

The hon. Member wants to know whether there is any proposal of tripartite talks. I would like to tell him that there is no such proposal. The hon. Member also wants to know as to what message the Government would like to convey to Pakistan? I would like to say that the only message which is being conveyed that of humanity and peace which is reflected through the efforts made and initiatives taken by the hon. Prime Minister in this direction. All the factions have been invited to join the process of dialogue set in motion and the same message of humanity and peace is inherent in it. We expect that our neighbouring country Pakistan will take the message in its true spirit and march forward on the path of peace.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government deliberated upon the issue of terrorism with Shri Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations between March 15-18, 2001 several persons were killed in terrorist violence during the visit of the then President of USA, Shri Bill Clinton to India. But even then we could not succeed in

declaring Pakistan as a terrorist state. A few days back it was reported in the newspaper that a Pakistani Minister was involved in the hijacking of IC814 he was arrested in Nepal. What policy have the Government formulated/ propose to formulate to check the everyday killing of our army personnel including captains like the recent killing of five soldiers in the valley? Does the Government intend to pursue the policy of the Government of Israel in dealing with terrorism. ...*(Interruptions)* whether the same concrete steps will be taken by the Indian Government? Pakistan sponsored terrorists are killing a large number of Indian soldiers everyday. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What supplementary are you asking? This question is about the visit of United Nation Secretary General to India and Pakistan, but you are asking about Israel and other things. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Have the Government of India formulated any scheme for getting Pakistan declared as a terrorist state? Yesterday, an attack on Bangladesh has also taken place. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no supplementary, please.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have to ask correct supplementary. How can I allow you.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? We have to go through the question fast.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two highlights of the visit of United Nations Secretary General's visit to India and Pakistan. One is his statement on the old U.N. resolution regarding Jammu and Kashmir and he has given this statement in Pakistan. Second is concerned with his remarks about international terrorism. I would like to ask the hon. Minister questions about both these issues. While the Pakistan Government reacted sharply to the statement of the Secretary General and made their stand clear in strong words besides interpreting the resolution to their advantage, the Government of India kept mum. During the past 50 years, Pakistan has launched many armed offensives against India and promoted terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government of India should have made public its response to the visit of the Secretary General but it did not do so. What clarification would the Government of India like to give in this regard? Two days ago the former Director of ISI who presently is the chairperson of Gurudwara Prabhand Committee in Pakistan has openly declared through the newspapers and the Television that ISI and Pakistan will provide all out support to the Khalistani terrorists for carving out a separate State of Khalistan in India. Probably, in pursuance of that, many known Khalistani international supporters terrorists are continuously surrendering in Punjab. Whether the Government of India are aware of this development? If so, what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must ensure that all the questions are related to the visit of the Secretary General, Shri Kofi Annan. It is quite understandable if the questions though not directly related his visit, are associated one way or the other to the visit of the Secretary General. Hon. Buta Singh wanted to know whether any discussion was held with the hon. Secretary General on the issue of terrorism? I would like to tell him that a detailed discussion was held with him. The issue of Pakistan and its sponsoring of the terrorist movements in India were taken up during the discussion. The issue of Afghanistan was also taken up. On the whole an open discussion was held over the increasing problem of international terrorism and the pivotal role played by Afghanistan and Pakistan in abetting and spreading it and also how these two countries have emerged as the foundation head of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his second part of the question the hon. Member has referred to some alleged statement of a former officer of Pakistan but I do not want to comment on it because I do not have the authenticated version of the information. As far the question of Eastern Punjab is concerned, the hon. Member is well aware of the role Pakistan has played there. The hon. Member was holding a very important office these days and he has full knowledge about this. I would like to assure him that the Government is fully concerned and is taking right steps in this direction.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any discussion was held with the Secretary General regarding the forthcoming global conference on financing for development and also about the ill treatment of WTO meted with the developing countries? Besides, I would also like to mention the statement of the Chief Executive Officer of Pakistan General Pravez Musharraf saying that

[English]

He would like to have a cup of tea and that he would like to meet the Prime Minister Atalji.

[Translation]

I would like to know as to what is the response of the Government in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : There are two aspects of the question asked by the hon. Member. First is as to whether any discussion was held with Secretary General Kofi Annan in this regard as this is concerned with the development of United Nations? If the hon. Member looks at the statement, it will be completely clear to him that India has been subscribing to this line from the every beginning. The hon. Prime Minister has reiterated this point several times in the United Nations and I have also got the opportunity to dwell in this point at the U.N. We opine that the responsibility to look after the developmental aspects in the foremost one among the various responsibilities being borne by the U.N. We have also held discussions over the various issues related to the development like the WTO, Globalisation and the situation and problems emerging therefrom.

The hon. Member has asked about the statement given by the Chief Executive of Pakistan in which he has expressed his desire to have a cup of tea with the hon. Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We have never discouraged him from having tea. We have only said that a right and conducive atmosphere should exist for the friendly tea party to take place and Pakistan should certainly take initiative in that direction.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : There was a recent Press statement by the former Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto that during the discussions Pakistan had never accepted the actual Line of Control (LoC), and even in Simla Agreement such a situation was not discussed and approved of. That is the position taken by the former Prime Minister. Now, the present military rulers also do not accept the actual Line of Control. What exactly is the position? Are we trying to internationalise the border situation or is that dispute about actual Line of Control being discussed?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Here again, inevitably, the hon. Member's question has drifted away from the U.N. Secretary-General's visit, but because the question is of importance and because that relates to the Line of Control, I must respond to the hon. Member. I will not refer to the statements attributed to the former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mohatarma Benazir Bhutto. I do not have the original text of it in my presence. I must inform the hon. Member and, through you, Sir, the House that the Line of Control is actually a Treaty Document. It is part of the Simla Agreement. It is not open to

anybody to question the validity of the Line of Control.

The Line of Control is a document that was defined after prolonged negotiations. Every ridge, spur, small *nullah* and river has been delineated on the maps. I am not going into the number of maps and these maps have been signed by the authorised representatives of both India and Pakistan. The Line of Control, in our view, is a Confidence-Building Measure. Questioning the Line of Control is to question the Confidence Building Measures between the two countries, which is not a step that we advocate or accept. The Line of Control as a Treaty Document of 1972, in our mind, continues to have the confidence building relevance and India stands by it. If the hon. Member would recollect, during the Pakistan aggression in 1999 on Kargil, one of the early demands of the Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister was that Pakistan must re-affirm the validity of the Line of Control. The Government clearly and unambiguously stand by that.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Sir, the UN Secretary General has a good deal of discussion with the hon. Minister for External Affairs and the hon. Minister, in his statement, has mentioned the areas in which discussion had taken place. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the point of cross-border terrorism was discussed with him, and what was his reaction to it? It is because cross-border terrorism has created tension in this area. India, on its part, has tried to have talks with them, dialogues with them, provided they stop cross-border terrorism. I would like to know whether any suggestion was mooted to him in this regard to break this impasse.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, there are two aspects to this question by the hon. Member. I will deal with the second part first which is implicit that as if we wanted the UN Secretary General to play any kind of a role as a facilitator for resumption of talks between India and Pakistan. My answer is, no. We do not see that role for the UN Secretary-General. I did not raise this issue and did not propose such a role for him. There is no question of either the UN Secretary-General or the UNO or any one for that matter to play a facilitational role between India and Pakistan. The two documents—the Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration—are the foundations on which our relations are based.

Sir, so far as cross-border terrorism is concerned, I would like to say, yes, it was discussed. The larger aspect of terrorism as is manifest by what is happening in Afghanistan and Pakistan was discussed in considerable detail both at the delegational level as also on one to one basis.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : My question never was that the Secretary-General should play a role in this. My question was that cross-border terrorism has created a tension in this area and whether he was serious in this regard and whether any

suggestion was made by the hon. Minister to him and whether the UN Secretary-General appreciated that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the Secretary-General takes this development seriously and is seized of the matter fully.

Destruction of Buddhist Statues in Afghanistan

+

*442. YOGI ADITYA NATH :

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Taliban militia in Afghanistan has destroyed the Buddhist statues at Bamiyan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Government have taken up this issue with various countries including UNO; and

(d) if so, the response thereof.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

Statement

Following the issue of a decree on 26th February, 2001 ordering the destruction of all statues in Afghanistan, appeals were addressed internationally to the Taliban not to destroy historical works of art, being the heritage of all mankind. The Buddha Statues at Bamiyan were specially mentioned. The Taliban militia completely disregarded international opinion and appeals and carried out this act of cultural vandalism over a period of time.

In a statement issued on 27th February, 2001, the Government condemned the Taliban decree and called upon them to ensure full protection of Bamiyan Buddhas and all other relics. On 2nd March, 2001, the External Affairs Minister made a statement in both Houses of Parliament in which he, inter-alia offered to bring these artifacts to India for safe keeping for the Afghan people. On the same day both Houses of Parliament adopted unanimous resolutions condemning this barbarism.

The Government also raised this issue internationally. Prime Minister wrote to several Heads of Governments, including the permanent members of the UN Security Council,

the UN Secretary General and to Heads of Governments of countries with Buddhist populations like Bhutan, Japan, Sri Lanka, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia amongst others urging that the collective voice of humanity be raised against this outrage and that the Taliban be made to see reason.

India co-sponsored a UNGA resolution adopted on 9th March, 2001 on the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas and other manifestations of Afghanistan's pre-Islamic art. The Resolution called upon the Taliban to abide by their previous commitments to protect Afghanistan's cultural heritage from all acts of vandalism, damage and theft.

There was widespread international condemnation of the Taliban militia's actions. The UN Secretary General, Director General of UNESCO, European Union and several Muslim countries were severely critical of the Taliban militia. During Prime Minister's recent visit to Iran, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemning the Taliban actions said that they had brought a bad name to Islam.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way Taliban militant has demolished ancient statues of Budha in Bamiyan Province of Afghanistan, has not only hurt Budhists but it has hurt Hindus as well who regard Budha as reincarnation (Avtar) of Vishnu and Buddhists as the ultimate Nirvana God. Sir, though we may blame Taliban militia for this incident but in fact Hindu religion, Hindu community and India (Hindustan) are every time grossly ridiculed in Afghanistan, be it the tomb (Samadhi) of Prithviraj Chauhan or Hindukush Mountain linked to dastardly killing of Hindu. The Hon'ble Minister, in the reply, has stated that the Government of India have requested the Taliban Government to protect ancient artifacts. I would like to know the efforts made in this regard and to bring back the remnants of these relics to India?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The Hon'ble Member has tried to widen the scope of the original question, but in fact its main point is that there was a proposal from the Government to protect Budhas' statues. I had mentioned in the statement that if Taliban officials are not prepared to keep these statues and artifacts in Afghanistan, we are ready to bring these to India and protect them since these statues and artifacts are heritage of the whole mankind. But, despite efforts at international level and our request perhaps the hon'ble Member knows that these statues no more exist. The countries old statues of Budha in Bamiyan may not see the light again.

YOGI ADITYA NATH : Sir, several statues of Budha and other relics associated with Hindu culture are still kept in a museum in Kabul.

Second part of my question is that the United Nations' Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has demanded enactment of a penal law prescribing stringent punishment for destruction of relics. Are the Government of India aware of it? If so, the reaction of this Government in this regard?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : As far as UNESCO is concerned, these are not laws but agreements. Already many agreements are in force and would remain in force. India support all such agreements. As far as statues kept in the Museum at Kabul are concerned, as per our knowledge, Taliban authorities have issued edict that all the statues, idols or relics existing in Afghanistan whether these are kept in Museums or elsewhere would be demolished. The hon'ble Member is aware that India do not recognise Taliban. The Indian Government considers the Government of Burhanuddin Rabbani Satab as the rightful Government. India has no embassy in Kabul. Therefore, I cannot say authoritatively how many statues are still left there.

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I see from the answers given that the Government did try their best. They raised this issue internationally. The Prime Minister wrote to several Heads of Governments and the Permanent Members of the UN. But all our efforts were in vain. We could not stop Taliban from this vandalism.

Now, my question is: what happen afterwards? Has the Government done anything even after the demolition? What I mean is this. Have they kept up the pressure on the International Community so that the fundamentalists in Afghanistan and even in other countries are not encouraged? Though the whole International Community condemned them yet they did what they wanted to.

Was there any other step taken afterwards so that this does not happen because we have still many more artefacts of cultural heritage in Afghanistan as well as in other neighbouring countries like Pakistan? Lahore has a very rich museum there. So, we should have to have a pressure kept on the International Community. Have they done that or have they given it up as a hopeless case, now that the statues have been demolished altogether?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, as the hon. Member is aware that India is a co-sponsor of UN Security Council Resolution 1333 about Afghanistan which deals with the question of imposition of sanctions against Afghanistan, the Taliban and supporters of Taliban. That is one part of UN Effort. That is only one part of what the Government of India has been endeavouring to do.

In this regard, I cannot say that falls in the category of after the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhist statues, that is one part of it. I would like to assure the hon. Member and I wish to place it on record that Pakistan certainly stood up and did say that the destruction of these Buddhist statues at Bamiyan would not be a step that they would advocate, and they endeavoured to advise the Taliban regime to that effect, but again without any success.

Therefore, for the hon. Member to suggest that we create civilisational reminiscence of the Sub-Continent that are in Pakistan, whether it be Mohanjodaro or also in Lahore Museum....

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Taxila Museum is there.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I think, the hon. Members, apprehensions are not with any justification at the moment. There is an aspect of our continued effort to highlight the total destruction and negative nature of the Taliban regime which was emphasised, Sir, during the recent visit by the Prime Minister on a State visit to Iran. He had the occasion to discuss this both with President Khatami as also the Rehbar of Islamic Republic of Iran. And, I have no difficulty in saying that the President Khatami in unequivocal terms, in a Press Conference, along with the Prime Minister, condemned the action that was taken by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Sir, on the demolition of Buddhist statues at Bamiyan, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not true that we had reacted late on this issue though some of the countries had reacted to it earlier. I will not dwell on it. But I think, the immediate provocation for the Taliban of taking this action of destroying the Buddhist statues at Bamiyan was for getting an international publicity. That is one angle of it.

Secondly, there was a statement issued by the one of the Ministers of the Taliban that this was in retaliation to the demolition of the Babri Masjid. Is there any link with it?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, so far as the second part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, I am not aware of any such statement or Taliban made such a statement. Moreover, as the hon. Member knows, we do not recognise Taliban as the Government of Afghanistan. Therefore, for him to refer to somebody as the Minister, is inaccurate to start with.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : We might refer to it. We might recognise or not recognise them but what was stated in the Press was that it was a Minister's statement. That is why I am referring to that statement 'as a Minister's statement'.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I have not authorised statement in that regard.

So far as the Government and the international community is concerned, there is no linkage whatsoever in these two incidents. So far as the first part, that the Government had delayed initiation of action, is concerned I would like to disabuse the hon. Member because in the initial phase the Government was encouraging some of the other countries that were predominantly or entirely Buddhist to take the initiative because we did not wish it to appear as in any other sense than cultural and civilizational senses.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : There is a cultural war going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while speaking on vote of thanks on Presidential address, I had made a submission that the Government had the prior information regarding the destruction of statues in Bamiyan. The whole world was aware of it. We have a permanent Mission in U.N.O. Not only this, all the nations have Missions in the UN. I have not got a reply as to whether we tried to put pressure on Taliban by interacting with various Foreign Missions. It would have been better if you had tried to mobilise all the Islamic countries on this issue in February itself. I would like to know, why the Government did not try to do it earlier since we have Permanent Mission in UNO? Though we co-sponsored a resolution but only in March. Please tell, whether the Government made any effort prior to that or not?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform that we not only acted through Permanent Mission, but we also sent emissaries to all the Missions asking them to raise this issue internationally. India took this important issue very seriously and all the countries were apprised of our stand. As far as Permanent Mission and OIC is concerned, there also we had discussed it with other countries. The statement by the Government of Iran in this regard is the testimony of our efforts. Though OIC had not made any official statement so far, but no doubt, they sent a delegation to Ulemas to Afghanistan so as to convince Taliban to not go ahead with such act. Ulemas declared the act of Taliban as anti Islamic. It is very sad that despite visit of delegation of Ulemas to Afghanistan, the Taliban thought it appropriate to demolish the statues.

[English]

Indians Languishing in Foreign Jails

*443. **SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Indian soldiers and citizens are languishing in foreign jails since long;

(b) if so, number thereof, country-wise;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to get them released; and

(d) the number of Indian soldiers and citizens released from foreign jails during the last five years as a result of efforts made by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

According to Government's information, at present, there are 54 Indian soldiers and 6472 other Indian citizens imprisoned in various foreign countries. A country-wise break-up of these imprisoned Indian nationals is given in the Annexure.

As soon as an Indian diplomatic Mission/Post is informed of the arrest of an Indian national, a request is made to the host Government for seeking consular access. An official of the Mission/Post visits the detainee to ascertain the circumstances leading to the arrest. Where necessary, the Mission/Post takes up the matter with the host Government for speedy and fair trial and also for review of the sentence. The prisoners are normally released on completion of their sentences. In deserving cases, our Missions/Posts approach the local authorities for remission of sentences.

Information regarding the number of Indian soldiers and citizens released from foreign jails during the last five years is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Annexure

Indian Nationals in Foreign Jails

Country	Indian nationals currently in foreign jails	
	Soldiers	Civilians
1	2	3
Australia	Nil	02
Austria	Nil	62
Azerbaijan	Nil	02
Bahrain	Nil	131
Bangladesh	Nil	620

1	2	3
Belarus	Nil	02
Bhutan	Nil	30
Brunei	Nil	03
Canada	Nil	03
China	Nil	01
Hong Kong (China)	Nil	25
Czech. Rep.	Nil	02
Denmark	Nil	02
Egypt	Nil	12
Georgia	Nil	01
Germany	Nil	224
Greece	Nil	97
Indonesia	Nil	02
Iran	Nil	10
Iraq	Nil	01
Israel	Nil	03
Italy	Nil	06
Japan	Nil	05
Jordan	Nil	01
Kazakhstan	Nil	03
Rep. of Korea	Nil	04
Kuwait	Nil	107
Lebanon	Nil	03
Libya	Nil	03
Malaysia	Nil	1000
		(in detention Camps)
Maldives	Nil	15
Mauritius	Nil	45
Mexico	Nil	13

1	2	3
Myanmar	Nil	21
Nepal	Nil	207
New Zealand	Nil	02
Sultanate of Oman	Nil	14
Pakistan	54	1121
Panama	Nil	02
Philippines	Nil	03
Qatar	Nil	56
Romania	Nil	01
Russian Federation	Nil	12
Saudi Arabia	Nil	1677
Seychelles	Nil	01
Singapore	Nil	350
Spain	Nil	02
Sri Lanka	Nil	36
Syrian Arab Rep.	Nil	18
Thailand	Nil	24
Ukraine	Nil	02
United Arab Emirates	Nil	120
United States of America	Nil	358
Uzbekistan	Nil	01
Vietnam	Nil	01
Rep. of Yemen	Nil	02
Zimbabwe	Nil	01
Total	54	6,472

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of my question seems to be totally unsatisfactory. It is stated

in the reply that as on date, 54 Indian soldiers are languishing in Pakistani jails and nearly 6472 citizens, fishermen and drug traffickers are languishing in jails in various countries. Recently three Indian prisoners namely Mansur Hussain of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Bansi Lal of Gurdaspur and Shri Ram Vilas of Bihar have come to India after being freed from Pakistani jail. There is a news item in the newspaper dated 17 August, 2000, which I am holding, wherein it is mentioned that Indian prisoners are maltreated in Pakistani jails. 53 prisoners are accommodated in the space meant for 15 prisoners. Prisoners are served sub-standard food and several prisoners have fallen sick. They are unable to narrate their intolerable pain to the journalists. Their only fault was that they crossed the border by mistake. One person went to Lahore by mistake on board the Samjhauta Express. I would like to know why our citizens numbering 6472 are languishing in various jails and are so badly being treated, especially in Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to ask supplementary? This information is already available.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government would hold talks with the Pakistan Counsel asking them to treat Indian nationals properly and if the talks have already been held then what is the outcome thereof?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the hon'ble Member has two aspects—first, wherein he has stated that nearly six and a half thousand people of Indian origin or Indian nationals are in jails abroad. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that if we look at the ratio, today nearly 60 lakh Indian citizens work abroad and thus the figure of six and a half thousand is not that high. But this ratio clearly indicates one thing, that, wherever Indian work abroad they are respected and welcomed a lot in comparison to nationals of other countries. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : I have especially asked about Pakistan.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am coming to that Indians are peace loving and wherever they work, those countries respect the Indian. As far as countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan are concerned, the figure automatically increases. The reason is that sometimes people cross over to Bangladesh by mistake as the hon'ble Member has himself stated that one person went to Lahore by mistake on board the Samjhauta Express. It is true. During the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to Lahore, a separate agreement was entered into regarding Indian prisoners in Pakistan, be it Soldiers or fishermen. Unfortunately, that could not be implemented. Under that agreement it was decided that Shrimati Vasundhara Raje

accompanied by a special team and along with her Pakistani counterpart would herself inspect Pakistani jails and if any Indian citizen or ex-soldier is found languishing, a decision would be taken on the spot. We had even prepared ourselves in that regard. But, I do not need to go into History as to what happened after Lahore Declaration?

Third aspect was relating to maltreatment of Indian citizens in jails abroad and in such cases what our Consular Offices do? I would like to assure you that whenever our Mission gets information regarding detention of any Indian citizen in jail or awarding of sentence, we straight away demand for Consular access and arranging for medicines etc. for such prisoner if the need arises. We make all possible efforts for remission of the sentence.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : I wanted to know especially about Pakistan which the hon'ble Minister has just evaded. As per the document 6,472 Indians citizens are languishing in jails in 54 countries and in some of the countries the number of prisoners, be it fishermen, drug traffickers or innocent persons who did not return to India, is high. In Bangladesh it is 620, Germany 224, Malaysia 1,000 Nepal 2007, Pakistan 1,121 and Saudi Arabia 1,677. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You need not read the entire information. It is already there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : The number of prisoners is 5878 who are jailed in certain countries. It includes America, Emirates, Saudia Arabia. Most of the people go to Saudi Arabia for employment. Indians on the pretext of providing employment take people abroad. One the one hand the Government is unable to nab them and secondly it do not accept its failure. Indians are taken abroad and sold there. Several Indian citizens are working in Saudia Arabia and America. I would like to know whether the Government would hold talks with Consul of States of a particular country where Indian are staying in large number and find out the solution for the problems being faced by the Indian abroad?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The Hon'ble Memeber, through this question, wants to submit that some self-styled labour agents take people abroad on the pretext of arranging jobs for them, but later on these people have to face lot of miseries. The Hon'ble Member wanted to convey that the Government are not cautious in this regard. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member that the Government is fully cautious in this regard. There is a Department of Emmigration in the Ministry of Labour which endeavours to ensure that Indian

are not befooled. Now, as far as the countries whose names you have mentioned are concerned, I would like to tell you that the Government would take all possible steps. For example, you read out the name of Malaysia, where 1000 Indians are said to be in jails. Well, we know that these people were arrested recently travelling without proper Visa. Actually, people go in search of employment. I would like to assure you that our Mission are very careful about it and wherever many Indian citizens visit, be it for employment or for any other purpose, our officers working in the Mission in that particular country take special precautions.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, the Minister in course of his reply has intimated that information regarding the number of Indian soldiers and citizens released from foreign jails during the last five years is being collected.

I would like to know the steps that are being taken to rehabilitate the soldiers after they are being released from the foreign jails.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, when the question comes up the time available to the Ministry is limited. But we must send our response within that time. I have, however, been able to collect the figures relating to the number of persons released from the foreign jails from 1st January, 1998 to June, 2000. It is about 2100. It takes time for us to collect all these figures. In these two and half years the number of persons released is about 2100.

So far as rehabilitation is concerned, wherever it is estimated that a soldier or former soldier is finally released from jails, particularly in regard to Pakistan, the Government makes every endeavour to see to it that his pay, pension and other dues are all paid to him without undue delay.

MR. SPEAKER : Since next question is an important question, I am passing on to that.

Utilisation of MPLADS Funds

* 444. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are a number of incongruities in the guidelines of the MPLADS which come in the way of implementing the proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether places used for community purpose but falling under a registered society or religious institutions are ineligible to receive MPLADS funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether ponds, tanks, library, rest sheds, etc. can be constructed on lands other than Government land;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether unregistered societies are entitled to receive MPLADS funds; and

(h) if so, the guidelines laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) From time to time Hon'ble MPs have drawn attention to specific Guidelines and pointed out how they are coming in the way of their sanctioning works that would be of benefit to the people. Suggestion for changes in the Guidelines are considered by the Committees on MPLADS Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Specific incongruities in the Guidelines, if any as and when pointed out by the MPs, are referred to the two Committees for their considerations and recommendations. Changes in the Guidelines are brought out on the basis of recommendations of the two Committees.

(c) and (d) The works belonging to registered societies and trusts have been included under the purview of the scheme subject to certain conditions, which were circulated to all the MPs on 23.1.01. Works relating to places of religious worship are not permissible vide Sl. No. 9 of Appendix-2 of the Guidelines.

(e) and (f) Ponds, tanks, libraries, rest sheds can be constructed on land belonging to Governments. These can also be constructed for registered societies/trusts on the land belonging to them subject to fulfilment of conditions specified in the Guidelines. Buildings for educational institutions, including buildings for library can be constructed under the scheme on land belonging to them subject to conditions stipulated in para 2.6 of the Guidelines.

(g) and (h) Buildings for educational institutions can be constructed even if the institution is run by an unregistered society provided the educational institution is recognised and has been in existence for not less than 2 years.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : My first supplementary is this. It is mentioned that 'the works relating to places of religious worship are not permissible vide SI.No.9 of Appendix-2 of the guidelines'. I am not interested to know whether the Government money is being spent to protect or reconstruct the sanctum sanctorum, but I would submit that, irrespective of any religion, large properties have been donated to the Lord by the Indian society so that it can be used by all. For instance, a pond or a tank, which is the property of any religious institution or endowment is used by all communities. A hall near the sanctum sanctorum is also used for a meeting or a marriage purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Many Members want to put supplementaries. Please keep this in mind.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : I should be allowed to put two supplementaries.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I am requesting you to ask your supplementary straightaway.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Why MPLADS fund is not allowed to be used for protection, utilisation or enhancement of these areas? It may be a pond, a tank or a building, which may not actually be the sanctum sanctorum but may be under a church, a temple or a mosque.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : In the Ministry, we are bound by the guidelines which have been formulated by the Members of Parliament and its two Committees. There is an Annexure giving, as the hon. Member has pointed out, a list of works not permissible under MPLADS and in that, one of items that has been mentioned is "places of religious worship". Some Members have pointed out that many of the ancillary facilities that are available in such complexes are not "places of worship". For instance, there may be a guest-house. Just now a nominated Member was pointing out that there may be a community hall which is in that "place of worship" but it is available to persons from all communities. This matter has been considered by the Committees and they have said, thus far we should not allow this rule to be interpreted in a loose manner because doing so will lead to many complications. If the two committees decide that facilities which are other than the sanctum sanctorum can be rehabilitated, we would be only too willing to abide by the decision.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : My second supplementary is, this. The role of Members of Parliament relating to giving proposal is only limited. We are not concerned with the implementation of MPLADS fund but it is the responsibility of the concerned District Magistrate. What steps have been taken by the Government to monitor proper implementation of the proposals, of MPs and where the implementing agency

is delaying the project or projects, what corrective steps the Government contemplates to take in this regard to protect the privileges of hon. Members from being misunderstood in the eye of the public?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Monitoring is a very important aspect. To expedite the implementation of the works, you yourself Mr. Speaker, Sir have taken meetings of Collectors in Khujarahao as well as in Hyderabad. I myself had been to West Bengal twice. Meetings have been. ...

KUNWARAKHILESH SINGH : But, what is the outcome. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I will just mention to you what has been done. Sir, meetings have been held in different places also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Please let me answer. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, these guidelines are interrupted differently in different places. Sir, I have a suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : He is replying.

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Fifty percent funds are utilised and rest 50 percent is misappropriated.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, are you not interested in the reply. Let him complete his reply.

[Translation]

First listen to the reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, the effects of these meetings are there. But the hon. Members are right when they say that they have not been yielded as much results as we all wanted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, what is this? First of all, you hear the reply.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, with 790 MPs, if you take the average size of the work, at Rs. 1 lakh it comes to about 1.6 lakh works which are going on per year. If you add take the backlog of just the last two years, this comes to about 3.5 lakh to 4 lakh works in execution at a particular time. For them to be monitored from Delhi by a Department in which five officers have been assigned to deal with the matter, it is just impossible. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the hon. Member's supplementary is that the District Magistrates' monitoring power is not proper. So, what steps are going to be taken?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Various circulars both for execution and for monitoring have been sent and whenever, specific complaints are brought up, we have taken action. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is the problem every day. What is this? You are not hearing anything from the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, there are several Members here who can testify to the fact that whenever they have brought complaints to us, we have immediately acted. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev was just now complimenting our Department and saying that whenever he brought such complaints to our attention, we immediately took action. That is all, we can do. We contact the Collector personally over telephone and get them to work on those matters.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, MPLADS funds amounting to Rs. Three and a half crore pertaining to my constituency has not been released for the last one year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is not a question, it is a suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : Shrimati Phoolan Devi is stating that funds for her constituency are not being released for the last one year. The Hon'ble Minister may please solve the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would later on give an opportunity to Madam.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It is my suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : She would get the opportunity.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, the Government has issued guidelines to implement MPLAD Scheme both for the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. The area of operation for Lok Sabha Members is only limited to their constituencies. However, in some important matters, we are allowing some 10 per cent or 20 per cent to be spent outside. May I request the Government to allow Lok Sabha Members to spend 50 per cent of their funds outside their constituencies in important situations like drought and such other things?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : Sir, the guidelines are not issued by the Government. They are issued by the Committees of the hon. Members themselves. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : How about having a Half-an-Hour Discussion on this Question, Mr. Minister?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE : I am agreeable for it, whenever Members want it, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : You can have a Half-an-Hour discussion.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Merger of Poverty Alleviation Programmes

*445. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to merge the Poverty Alleviation Programmes with employment oriented schemes and to enhance financial allocation therefor;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the revised programme is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether the Government have made any

appraisal in regard to the factors responsible for the failure of the Poverty Alleviation Programmes and employment oriented schemes so as to implement them effectively;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINSITER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The poverty alleviation programmes are designed to generate self and wage employment opportunities for the poor. The major rural poverty alleviation programmes were recently restructured w.e.f. 1999-2000 with a view to improve their efficacy/impact on the poor. The Employment Assurance scheme (EAS) was restructured as the single wage employment programme and the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was launched for providing self employment opportunities for the rural poor. Food for Work Programme has recently been launched in drought affected States. In the urban areas the rationalized urban poverty alleviation programme Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) was launched in December, 1997 to provide gainful employment to urban unemployment or under employed poor by encouraging the setting up of self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. In addition the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) are also in operation for generating new employment opportunities. The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) aims to provide employment/self employment to educated unemployed youths. Under the margin money scheme of REGP proposals are submitted by entrepreneurs to various banks/financial institutions for setting up village industry units. Therefore, question of merging the poverty alleviations programmes with employment oriented schemes and to enhance financial allocation therefor, does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Mid Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan has reviewed the major anti-poverty programmes (which are employment oriented also) and has drawn attention to the lacunae in the programmes based on evaluation studies and review of specific schemes. The highlights of the Mid Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan with respect to poverty alleviation programmes are enclosed in the statement. The review of the restructured programmes would form part of the Tenth Plan exercise, which has already started.

Statement

Highlights of Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five year Plan (1997-2002)

Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Programmes Poverty Alleviation Programmes

Poverty had declined substantially in 1980s. Proportion of people below poverty line declined from 54.9% in 1973-74 to 36% in 1993-94. However, recent estimates suggest that the projections on reduction of proportion and number of people below poverty line made in the Ninth Plan have not been realised in the first two years of the plan period.

This may be due to : sluggish agriculture growth which was also less well spread out; labour absorption did not increase hence slow down in growth of real wages; failure of poverty alleviation and watershed development schemes; continuance of certain policies that act against the interest of the poorest, especially tribals; inadequate reach of TPDS to the poorest in the northern and eastern states; fiscal crises caused by the V Pay commission that led to reduced ability of the states to spend on social sectors; limited growth of rural non-farm sector; and poor governance.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) evaluation points : Sub-critical investment; unviable projects; illiterate and unskilled beneficiaries with no experience in managing an enterprise; indifferent delivery of credit by banks, overruling of lending in certain projects such as dairy; under emphasis on activities like trading, service and even simple processing, poor targeting and selection of non-poor; rising indebtedness; scale of IRDP outstripped capacity of government and banks to absorb.

Integrated Rural Development Programme-Allied Programmes : TRYSEM not dovetailed with IRDP. Non-existent training centres, non-payment of stipend (Chhapra study). DWARCA did well in some states (AP, Kerala, Gujarat).

Sawarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (the successor to IRDP) aims at micro-enterprises with emphasis on cluster approach. It is a credit-cum-subsidy programme. Focus on self-help groups. In the past, subsidy orientation leads to corruption and distortion of objectives. Too early to evaluate.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana evaluation points : inadequate employment (11 days as per concurrent evaluation); thin spread of resources; violation of material-labour norms; corruption (fudging of muster rolls). Projects were executed by contractors who sometimes hired outside labourers at lower wages. Positive aspects : durable community assets and

empowerment of gram panchayats. Redesigned in April 1999 as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana. Primary aim now rural infrastructure. Employment is secondary. Too early to evaluate.

Employment Assurance Scheme : Initially demand-driven. Funds went to better-off states. Evaluation by PEO: Scheme is being executed through contractors in most of the States in violation of the central guidelines; the norms of 60:40 for wage and material is not maintained; the genuine muster rolls are not being maintained by the Gram Panchayats. Family cards have not been issued; the system of registration of job seekers with Gram Panchayats is not in vogue; Central norms of earmarking, 40 percent of funds for watershed development and 20 per cent for minor irrigation, have not been followed.

From April 1999 restructured as the single wage employment scheme; became allocative; 30% of funds allocated to district reserved for areas suffering from endemic labour exodus/areas of distress. Need to shift focus only to backward areas; should not be a universal scheme.

NSAP. Well-targeted. Fewer leakages reported. Needs more resources.

Delivery mechanism. A major weakness in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes has been the lack of adequate participation by the people for whom the programmes are meant. There should be emphasis on the role of PRIs and NGOs.

State Initiatives do better because of better ownership and flexibility in the design of programmes to suit local conditions. Examples : Gokul Gram Yojana, Apna Gaon Apna Kaam, Kudumshree.

Rural Housing : Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) became an Independent CSS from 1.1.1996. Free of cost houses are provided to below poverty line families. Unit cost is Rs. 20,000 in plain and Rs. 22,000 in hill/tribal areas. Updation of existing houses at a unit cost of Rs. 10,000 is now permissible. A new component of credit-cum-subsidy has also been added. In any given village/block/district it would take a long time before all the families are covered. This is dividing the poor instead of helping them to organise into groups. Despite orders, gram sabhas are not active in deciding beneficiaries.

Land Reforms : Access to land is still critical for employment and income generation in rural areas.

Access to land is possible through liberalisation of leasing, but leasing-in should be limited to small and marginal farmers. In areas characterised by feudal/semi feudal modes of production, there is need to further strengthen the existing laws for security of tenure of the poor.

Alienation of tribal land continues unabated but needs to be arrested.

Gender inequality exists in both inheritance laws and land laws. Suitable Amendments are required to make inheritance laws to agricultural land more gender equal.

There is need to update land records and to computerise them to make access to information easier.

Urban Development, Housing and Poverty Alleviation

Urban poverty remains an area of significant and persistent neglect in public policy and is a manifestation of lack of income and purchasing power attributable to lack of productive employment, high rate of inflation, lack of access to social infrastructure, affecting the quality of life of the people. The 1993-94 official estimate of the total urban population 'below poverty line' was 32.36%.

The modified urban poverty alleviation programme re-named as Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) consists of two schemes, (a) the Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) and (b) the Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP). Impact assessment has been suggested.

[English]

Polio Eradication Programme

* 446. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI MIR ALAM :

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

(a) whether 40 per cent of the world's polio cases are in India as reported in the Times of India dated March 9, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 34 per cent of the world's polio cases are in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar alone;

(c) the reasons for failure of the polio eradication programme in these States;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch a special drive in these two States at National and State level to eradicate polio from the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the efforts made by the Government to get a polio free certificate from World Health Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) As per the report of World Health Organisation for the year 2000, India reported 265 wild polio cases as against 680 cases detected in the World. Out of 680 cases of wild polio cases reported globally during 2000, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar reported 179 and 50 respectively.

(c) Significant progress has been made in control of the spread of polio transmission in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar from 1998 to 2000. There has been a decrease of 80% in Uttar Pradesh and 70% in Bihar during this period. High population density, poor sanitation, weak health infrastructure and low routine immunisation coverage have been some of the reasons for delay in progress of the polio eradication in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

(d) and (e) During 1999-2000, four national and two additional pulse polio rounds were conducted in these two States. Further, during 2000-2001, two national and two additional rounds were conducted in these States. During the current year 2001-2002, pre-emptive mop-up rounds during March-May 2001, covering 40 districts in Uttar Pradesh and 15 districts in Bihar are being undertaken. Besides, it is proposed to conduct national pulse polio rounds and special pulse polio rounds in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the winter season of 2001-2002.

(f) 2005 has been set as the target year for obtaining polio free certificate from World Health Organisation (WHO). The Government of India has already set up the National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication in 1997, which has been monitoring the progress towards polio eradication and obtaining polio free certificate, in co-ordination with the WHO's Regional Certification Committee on Polio Eradication. The National Certification Committee would submit its report to the WHO's Regional Committee on attainment of zero polio incidence as well as on completion of three years of cessation of polio transmission in the country.

[Translation]

District and Village Boards to Promote SSI

* 447. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government propose to set up district and village level boards in order to promote small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other steps being taken to promote small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The promotion of Small Scale Industries (SSIs) has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. A large number of schemes are implemented to facilitate the availability of finance, technology upgradation, marketing, infrastructure development for SSIs and to encourage entrepreneurship development. In addition, a comprehensive policy package for SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000 to strengthen the sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally.

[English]

HIV/AIDS Drugs at an Affordable Cost

*448. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

(a) whether India propose to demand at International Forum for setting up of an international drug facility to make AIDS drugs available at normal prices to the developing world;

(b) if so, whether the World Health Organisation has been consulted; and

(c) if so, the reaction in the WHO in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The United Nations General Assembly is going to meet in a Special Session from 25th to 27th June 2001 to discuss the problem of HIV/AIDS. This is for the first time that the UN General Assembly is meeting to discuss a public health problem.

Government of India intends to propose setting up of an International Drug Facility to make antiretroviral and other

drugs available to developing countries to provide care and support to HIV-infected people either free of cost or at highly subsidised rates which they can afford. A similar global drug facility exists for leprosy drugs and a global facility for TB drugs is in the process of being established. Both these facilities are administered by the World Health Organisation.

The Special Session of the UN General Assembly will adopt a Resolution setting out the global agenda for control of HIV/AIDS among the member-countries.

Central Vigilance Commission

*449. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Central Vigilance Commission wants more, Government gives less", as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 22, 2001;

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

(c) whether CVC has strongly protested over the move of the Government to clip its powers;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen the powers of Central Vigilance Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999, introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 20, 1999, was referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament. The Joint Committee presented its report to the Parliament on November 22, 2000, which contained various recommendations including incorporation of 'Single Directive' in the Bill.

2. The Central Vigilance Commissioner has raised following issues in the context of the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee :-

(a) Restricting the powers of Central Vigilance Commission in exercise of 'Superintendence over the vigilance administration' occurring in Clause 8(1) (g) of the Bill;

(b) Incorporation of the 'Single Directive' in the Bill; and

(c) Ineligibility of Central Vigilance Commissioner and every other Vigilance Commissioners, on ceasing to hold office, for any diplomatic assignment, appointment as administrators of a Union Territory and such other assignment or appointment which is required to be made by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

3. The recommendations of the Joint Committee of the Parliament will be considered by the Lok Sabha when the Bill as reported by the Joint Committee is taken up for consideration. This Bill, after enactment, will confer statutory status on the Central Vigilance Commission.

High Court Guidelines on Rising Incidents of MIG Crash

*450. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court on a petition filed by the Common Cause, a Non-Governmental Organization, had asked the Government recently to look into the rising accidents of MIG-21 Aircraft during the last few years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government on the High Court's directive so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken due note of the observations of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. However, the Government, already seized of the importance of the issue had already initiated several measures to enhance the quality of training of pilots to improve skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and improve situational awareness. These measures are constantly reviewed and reassessed. Besides, quality audit of training units flying MIG-21 aircraft is also carried out to identify and correct problems as they arise.

Cost Escalation in A.J.T. Deal

*451. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "A.J.T. deal may cost Rs. 1600 crore more" appearing in the *Asian Age* dated March 13, 2001;

(b) if so, the extent of truth in the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to make CBI enquiry in the matter in view of the revelations made in the press;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No contract for the AJT has yet been finalized.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Software Piracy

*452. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated loss of revenue for the Government due to the software piracy in the country;

(b) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Software Research and Training Institutes are put under strict scrutiny and vigil; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government against such mushrooming of Training Centres who almost cheat public with false propaganda and exaggerated views over job potentiality in software sector?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Since there is no customs duty and sales tax on software in most States, the loss of revenue to the Government due to software piracy would be negligible;

(b) The Government has taken following measures to curtail software piracy;

(i) In India, Intellectual Property Right (IPR) of Software is covered under the Copyright law, violation of which attracts both fine and imprisonment.

(ii) Information Technology Act 2000 has been notified w.e.f. 17.10.2000. This act is expected to help in dealing with software piracy and containing the problem.

(iii) Government has also set up a Copyright Enforcement Advisory Council, which reviews the progress of the Enforcement of Copyright Act and also advises on measure for better enforcement.

(iv) Government has been supporting the anti-piracy campaign of National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and instructions have also been issued to various Government Departments to only use legal copy of the software.

(v) Custom duty on software has been made zero.

(c) and (d) While there is no regulation by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on opening of computer training centres in the non-formal sector, the Government of India has launched a Scheme known as the Department of Electronics - Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOEACC), in order to bring about standardization and improvement in the quality of computer education in the country. Institutions/ organization in the non-formal sector (both, private as well as public) meeting certain well defined norms and criteria, in terms of faculty, software and hardware are given accreditation based on their request. Institutes accredited under DOEACC scheme for different levels of courses are monitored for their performance including the issue of false advertisements. Wherever a institution is found not conforming to specified guidelines, accreditations is withdrawn.

Review of Family Welfare Programmes

*453. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the family welfare programmes recently in the country;

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

(c) the future plan chalked out by the Government to implement the family welfare programmes effectively in the country?

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

The implementation of the National Family Welfare Programme is reviewed very frequently. As a result of these the ongoing vertical programmes like Maternal and Child Health, Universal Immunization Programme, Child Survival and Safe Motherhood were all combined in a holistic, integrated programme of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), launched in 1997.

Centrally defined, method specific targets were replaced by a community based need assessment approach together with de-centralized planning and implementation that will enable us to address these identified needs. This constituted a paradigm shift in the national family welfare programme. It has served to raise levels of awareness as well as expectations.

The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare as well as Secretary, Department of Family Welfare have periodically reviewed with the State Health Ministers and Secretaries in charge of Family Welfare of States, the State specific implementation and performance of family welfare programme.

The implementation of the national family welfare programme in the demographically weaker States is being reviewed by a Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.

A number of steps have been taken to strengthen the policy as well as the institutional framework for implementing the national family welfare programme.

The National Population Policy, 2000 adopted in February, 2000 provides a policy framework for advancing goals and prioritizing strategies during the next decade, to meet the reproductive and child health needs of people of India. It seeks to simultaneously address the issues of child survival, maternal health, and contraception, while increasing the outreach and coverage of a comprehensive package of reproductive and child health services in partnership with the voluntary sector, the non-government sector, the private corporate and the community.

The National Population Policy, 2000 recommended the constitution of the following bodies :

- (i) National Commission on Population.
- (ii) State/UT Commission on Population.

The National Commission on Population was constituted on 11th May, 2000 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to oversee and review the implementation of the inter-sectoral and inter-Ministerial Agenda of the National

Population Policy. The first meeting of the Commission was held on 22nd July, 2000.

State/UT Population Commissions have been constituted in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, A&N Island and Lakshadweep. Many other States have informed that they are in the process of constituting this Body.

There are significant inter-State differences in the demographic transition among the 32 States and UTs. The National Population Policy, 2000 recommended that focussed attention be paid to national family welfare programme in the demographically weaker States. At the first meeting of the National Commission on Population, Prime Minister announced the formation of an Empowered Action Group within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for paying focussed attention to the demographically weaker States with deficient national socio-demographic indices.

Accordingly, an Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted and notified in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for providing focussed attention to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

The terms of reference of the EAG are very comprehensive :

- (i) To formulate programmes aimed at achieving the socio-demographic goals enumerated in the National Population Policy, 2000 in the areas/States that have been lagging behind in containing population growth.
- (ii) To assist the concerned State Governments in achieving the goals set in their State Population Policy.
- (iii) To devise ways to meaningful involvement of voluntary association, community organisations and panchayati raj institutions.
- (iv) To explore the possibility of expanding the scope of social marketing of contraceptives in a manner that make them easily accessible even while raising awareness levels.

Addressing the first meeting on the National Commission on Population on 22nd July, 2000, the Prime Minister has also announced that a National Population Stabilization fund would be set up with an initial contribution of Rs. 100 crore by the

Government of India, to specially support projects designed to help population stabilisation and to provide a window for canalizing voluntary contribution from individuals, industries, trade organisations, etc. in furtherance of this national cause. A Society has been registered. The Ministry of Finance has contributed Rs. 50 crore as seed money for Population Stabilisation Fund.

Further, specific steps have been taken to strengthen the implementation of the National Population Policy, 2000.

As part of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Strategy in tune with the reproductive and child health programme, the services of private professional agencies for creating audio-visual and visual software, designing advertising campaign by the mass-media have been taken up. Further, IEC components of the family planning of the Family Welfare Department has now been decentralized to the district level and the District IEC Plan is approved only as per the suggestions of the Zila Saksharata Samiti (ZSS). The ZSS is fully empowered to suggest IEC interventions as per the rural lingua, idioms and needs.

A national strategy for social marketing of supplies and services is on the anvil. This will provide a framework for disseminating health products and services in partnership with the voluntary sector, non-government organisations, social marketing organisations, the private corporate sector, Government, panchayati raj institutions and the community with the following objectives:-

- (i) actively promote the acceptability and adoption of social beneficial health behaviors, products and services.
- (ii) Improve equity of access to the availability of a wide range of health information, products and services in both urban and rural areas.
- (iii) Sustain the increase in total contraceptive use, especially spacing methods among all segments of the population.

The Mahila Swasthya Sangh and the Village Self-Help Groups are being increasingly used to disseminate agenda of family welfare in the villages. Although, these bodies do not strictly come within the system of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), however, vigilant and active members of the village are often represented both on PRIs and in such bodies.

A series of Family Welfare and Health Melas have been held at Mathura, Delhi, Kargil, Patna and Lucknow during the year 2000-2001 to provide convergence of a wide range of health and family welfare services at one place and time. These Health Melas are gaining in popularity. These serves to address the unmet needs among different segments of the population.

In order to implement various strategies in the National Population Policy, 2000, an Annual Action Plan has been prepared and is being implemented from August, 2000 to August 2001.

The Chairman, National Commission on Population had a meeting with the Chief Secretaries/Family Welfare Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal to take stock of the implementation of the National Population Policy, 2000, in these States. During the meeting presentations were made by the representatives of these States highlighting the crucial areas of concern. The State Governments have asked to prepare firm and detailed action plan taking into account the ground realities and their area specific problems (region wise/district wise) for achieving the short/medium/long term goals as envisaged in the National Population Policy, 2000, adopted by the Government of India.

Health Facilities

*454. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

DR. V. SAROJA :

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

- (a) whether the Government have set up any committee to grant special status to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to set up Institute of Medical Science in each Capital of the States to provide better facilities to people of that States in their Home State;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to provide national level modern medical facilities to people who could not come to Delhi for their treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) was established in 1956 by an Act of Parliament and was declared as an Institution of National Importance. A Working Group has been constituted to look into the pay structure, perks and attendant infrastructure of 'Centres of Excellence' in the medical and scientific areas with Secretary, Department of Expenditure as Convener. The composition of the Working Groups is as under :

- i) Secretary, Department of Expenditure - Convener.
- ii) Secretary, Department of Secondary Education & Higher Education.
- iii) Secretary, Department of Science & Technology
- iv) Secretary, Department of Personnel & Training.
- v) Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi.
- vi) Director, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.
- vii) Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi.
- viii) Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi.

The Working Group will develop norms and parameters which would enable the 'Centres of Excellence' to be separated and identified for the purpose of long term development of such institutions. The AIIMS also comes under the terms of reference of the Working Group.

(d) to (f) 'Health' is a State subject and the development of hospitals and other related matters is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, keeping in view the requirements of the North Eastern Region, the North Eastern India Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) is being established at Shillong on the model of AIIMS, New Delhi. It will be a 500 bedded referral hospital with 35 postgraduate teaching departments in various specialities and super-specialities. The State Government of Meghalaya has provided land at Mawdiangdiang for the proposed Institute and the project is likely to be completed by the year 2005.

Reservation of Jobs for Handicapped

*455. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed serious concern over Government's apathy towards implementing job reservations for disabled;

(b) If so, the reaction of the government thereto;

(c) the number of posts reserved for disabled persons, lying vacant as on date in each category along with reasons therefor;

(d) the number of jobs given to disabled persons during each of the last three years;

(e) the number of handicapped persons likely to be provided with employment during 2001-2002;

(f) whether the Government propose to provide pension to disabled persons;

(g) whether the Government/the concerned departments have received complaints that handicapped persons have to pay bribe for getting employments or loans from banks or registering themselves in Employment Exchanges; and

(h) if so, the number of complaints received during the said period and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in a case relating basically to employment of persons with disabilities as provided under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, has inter-alia directed the UOI to indicate steps that have been taken in this regard by the Government. In compliance of the directions, the Government have reviewed the matter in regard to the status of implementation of the provision of job reservation for the persons with disabilities. Upon reviewing in details the current status of compliance, it was observed that while considerable work had been done in implementing various provisions of the Act, it was necessary to take more vigorous steps to ensure full compliance with the spirit of the legislation and government policy for the welfare of persons with disabilities. As per information made available, the status of reservation in jobs for persons with disabilities against identified posts in above the statutory requirement of 3%.

(c) to (e) As per information received from Department of Personnel and Training, total number of persons in position in respect of Ministries/Departments is reported as follows :

1.1.1997	4341*
1.1.1998	7036*
1.1.1999	7263**

* Information as received by DOPT from 64 Ministries/Departments.

** Information as received by DOPT from 49 Ministries/Departments.

As per updated information available, the total number of persons with disabilities employed by the Ministries/Departments is 10,063. The figure relates to a total of 66 Ministries / Departments. Whereas in respect of 28 Ministries/

Departments, the information pertains to position as on 1.1.2000, for the remaining, the same pertains to position as on 1.1.1999.

As per the information received from Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) in 1997, as many as 6313 persons are in position in 222 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). As per information received in November, 2000 from DPE, the number of persons in position in 191 Central PSUs have gone up to 8840.

The number of persons with disabilities likely to be provided with employment during 2001-02 depends on the backlog vacancies reported to the recruitment agencies. Recruitment against vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities is a continuous process and, therefore, there is generally a gap between occurrence of vacancy and filling it up. There exists a time lag in collection of information by DOPT as individual Ministry/Department has to collect the same from their Subordinate/attached offices, including field offices and Public Sector Undertakings, if any, etc.

(f) Scheme for providing disability pension is implemented by 17 States/Union Territories.

(g) No such matter has been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Unemployment Problem

* 456. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give priority to mitigate the problem of unemployment in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made an assessment of various categories of unemployed persons at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the number of unemployed increased in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) A major objective of planning in India is employment generation. For working out the strategy for the Tenth Five Year Plan, a Steering Committee and several working groups have been set up by the Planning Commission which have begun their work.

(c) and (d) As per the assessment made in the Planning Commission, on the basis of key results of the 55th round survey (1999-2000) of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the number of unemployed in the country in 1999-2000 was 8.94 million. The category wise details of the number of unemployed is given in the following table :

<i>Number of Unemployed (million)</i>		
	1993-94	1999-2000
Rural Male	2.75	3.30
Rural Female	0.83	1.03
Rural	3.58	4.33
Urban Male	2.75	3.53
Urban Female	1.16	1.08
Urban	3.91	4.61

Population Stabilisation Policy

*457. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

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

(a) whether the strategic support group of National Commission on Population has started working on a two pronged strategy that focuses on area specific and theme specific plan to try and achieve population stabilisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State and local level institutions have also been associated in achieving this aim; and

(d) if so, the details of the said plan?

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

(b) The National Commission on Population (NCP) is mandated to promote synergy between demographic, educational, environmental and developmental programmes and to promote inter-sectoral coordination in planning and implementation across Government agencies of the Central and State Governments so as to hasten population stabilisation. The NCP being a large advisory body, apart from its Secretariat, it was considered necessary to constitute a Core Group of all the key Secretaries to the Government of India whose programmes have a direct bearing on achieving the strategic goals set out in the National Population Policy, 2000. After the deliberations in the Strategic Group, a number of Working Groups/Advisory Groups have been set up by the Commission for detailed examination of various issues having a bearing on population stabilisation. These Groups are in the process of finalizing their reports/recommendations. These reports/recommendations will again be considered by the Strategic Support Group for effecting changes needed in policies and programmes and their implementation.

(c) Additionally, the Prime Minister in his address at the first meeting of the National Commission on Population announced that an Empowered Action Group be constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, particularly to pay focussed attention to regions with deficient national socio-demographic indices. Accordingly, an Empowered Action Group has been notified during March, 2001 for paying specific attention to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. Success of population stabilization efforts in these States will impact the socio-demographic indicators at the national level. The Empowered Action Group will :

- formulate programmes aimed at achieving the socio-demographic goals enumerated in the National Population Policy, 2000 in the areas/States that have been lagging behind in containing population growth.
- assist the concerned State Governments in achieving the goals set in their State Population Policy.
- devise ways to meaningful involvement of voluntary association, community organisations and panchayati raj institutions.
- explore the possibility of expanding the scope of social marketing of contraceptives in a manner that make them easily accessible even while raising awareness levels.

(d) (i) The performance in the implementation of family welfare programme in the demo-

graphically weaker States is being reviewed periodically by a Committee of Secretaries under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary.

- (ii) The National Commission on Population (NCP) also proposes to associate the State and local level institutions in achieving the national objective of population stabilization.

The NCP has held two meetings to review the implementation of the national family welfare programmes in the States, which are having high population growth. In these meetings, the problem areas and gaps in providing family welfare services were identified for remedial action. A seminar of Population Research Centres and institutions doing research work on demographic issues was organised by the NCP to bring in essential academic/research support to its activities. A Conference of District Magistrates of the districts, which have been identified as demographically sensitive, was convened. The participants resolved to adopt a program of action relating to population stabilisation. The NCP will initiate further measures for involving the States and local level institutions on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Groups/Advisory Groups constituted by it.

Demands of SCs/STs Commission

*458. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for SCs/STs has sought permission of Government of India to accord permission to prosecute the persons responsible for atrocities on SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the response of the government thereto;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the funds allocated for the development of SCs/STs are not being utilised properly by the State Governments;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Funds allocated for development of SCs/STs by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment & the

Ministry of Tribal Affairs respectively are mainly utilised through the State Govts/UT Administrations. Some instances of improper utilization have been reported which were referred to the State Governments / UT Administrations concerned for appropriate action. Further the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment & the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have taken several steps for ensuring the proper utilisation of funds, the details of which are given in the statement attached.

Statement

With a view to utilize the amount provided for implementation of various schemes/programmes for welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are taking the following steps:

- (i) Release of funds to State/UTs is made on the basis of a detailed examination of the proposals received,
- (ii) Utilisation Certificates are insted upon in respect of past releases before fresh released are made,
- (iii) Periodic progress reports are obtained from the States/UTs, showing the progress of implementation of schemes, the beneficiaries covered and other relevant information/data,
- (iv) Senior officers from the Ministries visit the States/UTs to assess the progress of implementation of schemes,
- (v) Meetings with State Secretaries in charge of the subject are convened to ascertain the progress of implementation of schemes,
- (vi) In the case of schemes implemented through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), funds are released after obtaining the recommendations of the State Governments/UTs and after an assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance, etc. Apart from periodic progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish Annual accounts and audited reports and Utilisation Certificates on the basis of which further release of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Government/UT officials, and other authorities and also by Central government officers.

[Translation]

Increase in Capital Investment after Globalisation

*459. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether there has been a need to enhance capital investment in small scale industries after the announcement of industrial liberalisation and globalisation policy in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated investment required to small scale industries during the years 1997-98, 1998-99, and 1999-2000; and

(c) the new measures adopted by the Government to meet the capital requirement of small scale industries during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Government continues to examine from time to time which hi-tech and export oriented industries require an increase in the investment limit for Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in order to enable them to maintain their competitive edge. A draft order in respect of Knitwear and handlooms industries, raising the investment limit to Rs. 5 crores, has been laid before Parliament in December, 2000. This will come into force after the period specified in the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951.

(b) As per SIDBI's report on Small Enterprises (2000) the estimated requirement of fixed investment in SSIs during the year 1997-98 was Rs. 70,891 crores, for 1998-99 Rs. 77,531 crores and for 1999-2000, Rs. 82,411 crores respectively.

(c) Equity funding through the National Equity Fund of SIDBI has been made easier through the enhancement of limits of project cost. The limits of composite loans have been enhanced and a Credit Guarantee Scheme launched. In addition, specialized SSI bank branches for each cluster along with extension of SIDBI's Technology Development & Modernisation Fund Scheme have been approved during these years.

[English]

E-Governance

*460. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Centre for E-Governance in the country;

(b) If so, the details of the services provided by the centre and its location;

(c) whether any proposal for setting up of such Centres all over the country is under consideration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial aspects of E-Governance Centre?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Centre for E-Governance has been set up by the Ministry of Information Technology. This Centre is located at Electronics Niketan, New Delhi. The Centre showcases the best practices in the area of e-Governance and conducts programmes for creating awareness amongst decision makers in the Centre and the State Governments. A few of the successful applications in the country are also demonstrated here.

The Centre is integrated in the Ministry of Information Technology and has no commercial or revenue earning objective. It does not have any separate financial identity.

Indo-Korea Centre

4565. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Indo-Korea Centre has been set up;

(b) If so, whether this Centre will promote mutually beneficial relationship between India and Korea through trade, education and cultural exchange;

(c) If so, whether any concrete steps in this regard have been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent of increase in trade between the two countries in recent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. A private Korean organisation called Indo-Korea Centre was set up in August 2000 with headquarters in Seoul. It reportedly has two representatives in India. The Centre is not yet operational. Neither the Korean Government nor the Government of India have any association with the Centre.

(e) India-Korea bilateral trade increased from Rs. 5460.74 crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 7150.23 crores in 1998-99. Bilateral trade declined slightly to Rs. 7109.67 crores in 1999-2000.

Sale of Computers

4566. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether sale of computers has slowed down in India in comparison to Global trends during the first half of 2000-2001;

(b) if so, facts thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the comparative cost of computers in India and other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the National I.T. Task Force has made any suggestions to tackle the high cost of computers in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development, set up by the Prime Minister's Office in May, 1998 suggested various measures for lowering the cost of computers in the country. These measures are reduction of custom duty to zero % on inputs such as Storage devices, Integrated Circuits, colour graphic display tubes, deflection, components for colour monitors, Parts of computers and stepper motors etc., Ministry of Finance, Government of India had already reduced the custom duty to zero % on these items except parts of computers and stepper motors on which the duty is 5%.

Cerebral Malaria

4567. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a new breakthrough by R&D Scientists in control of Cerebral Malaria at Bangalore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the findings are likely to be given practical shape for consumer benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Scientists from Jawahar Lal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research and Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore have found that Triclosan is effective against plasmodium falciparum (Human Cerebral Malaria). At this stage, it is at the laboratory experimental level. This research is to go through various stages like toxicological studies and clinical trials etc. in human before giving it practical shape for consumer benefits throughout the World.

Defence Procurement Board

4568. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up Defence Procurement Board;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and
- (d) the other steps proposed to be taken to bring transparency in defence deal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Government on 17th April 2000 to thoroughly review the national security system in its entirety and, in particular to consider the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and formulate specific proposals for implementation, has, *inter alia*, recommended the creation of a separate and dedicated institutional structure i.e. the Procurement Board, to undertake the entire gamut of procurement functions in a more professional and cost effective manner. The recommendations of the GoM have been presented to the Prime Minister on 26.2.2001. After

examination and acceptance of the Report, action as required will be taken expeditiously.

(d) In consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), the Government has institutionalized a procedure for a mandatory and time bound scrutiny of all major defence deals exceeding Rs. 75 crores with effect from 21.9.2000. Accordingly, details of all purchase/procurement decisions/award of works of a value exceeding Rs. 75 crores will in the normal course of time be sent to the C&AG within a month of such a decision having been taken and in any case, not later than three months. The C&AG will have all such cases scrutinized as expeditiously as possible and render a report to the Government. The Chief Vigilance Officer in the Ministry of Defence will scrutinize these reports of the C&AG to ascertain if there is any case for initiating disciplinary/vigilance/legal action in the matter. Thereafter, wherever necessary, a formal reference will be made to the CVC by the CVO, Ministry of Defence. Besides, in accordance with the standing instructions issued by the CVC, details of all contracts above Rs. 2 crores are being sent to the CVC regularly on a quarterly basis. Copies of these reports are now also being sent to the C&AG.

[Translation]

Assessment of GDP

4569. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have made an assessment in regard to the gross production growth rate in the States of the country during the eighties and nineties;
- (b) if so, the target fixed for growth rate of Gross domestic production in all the States during eighties and nineties; and
- (c) the estimated actual growth rate likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) The state-wise growth rates of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) during the eighties and nineties are annexed in the statement. The growth targets of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the Five Year Plans are not fixed state wise.

Statement

Growth rate of GSDP during the eighties (1981-91) and nineties (1993-94-99) at constant prices

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	Growth rate (%)	
		Eighties	Nineties
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.3	5.3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.9	4.2
3.	Assam	4.1	2.7
4.	Bihar	4.8	4.0
5.	Goa	5.6	NA
6.	Gujarat	5.3	8.4
7.	Haryana	6.4	5.7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.9	6.9
9.	J&K	3.4	NA
10.	Karnataka	5.1	8.3
11.	Kerala	3.6	5.7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5.1	4.4
13.	Maharashtra	6.0	6.9
14.	Manipur	5.0	NA
15.	Meghalaya	5.9	5.9
16.	Mizoram		NA
17.	Nagaland	8.0	NA *
18.	Orissa	2.8	4.7
19.	Punjab	5.2	NA
20.	Rajasthan	7.4	6.6
21.	Sikkim	11.0	NA
22.	Tamil Nadu	5.6	7.0
23.	Tripura	5.7	8.4
24.	Uttar Pradesh	5.0	4.6

1	2	3	4
25.	West Bengal	4.4	6.8
26.	A & N Island	5.0	NA
27.	Delhi	7.5	6.7
28.	Pondicherry	4.4	12.4

Source : Directorate of Economics & Statistics of various State Governments

1. NA : Not available

2. Eighties : From 1980-81 to 1990-91 (1980-81 series)

3. Nineties : From 1993-94 to 1998-99 on the basis of data available as on 25.7.2000 (1993-94 series)

MPLADS

4570. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Members of Parliament have been requested to allot fund from their MPLADS to the State of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the number of Members of Parliament allotted the money so far, to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Under the Guidelines on MPLADS, Members of Parliament can recommend works outside their constituencies/States for construction of assets that are permissible in the Guidelines, for rehabilitation measures in the event of "natural calamity of rare severity" in any part of the country for an amount not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs, for each calamity. In the case of Gujarat a relaxation has been issued enabling Members of Parliament to contribute whatever amount they desire upto their unspent balance for the year from their MPLADS funds for reconstruction work in the earthquake affected areas of that State. Accordingly, Members of Parliament have been intimated to send their contribution to the Chief Secretary of Gujarat State for creation of durable assets which are permissible under the MPLADS Guidelines. In accordance with the information available with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, as on 31.3.2001, details regarding number of MPs, indicating their consent, State wise/ House wise are indicated below :

State	Lok Sabha	Rajya Sabha	Amount
(Rs. lakhs)			
Orissa	83	68	1510
West Bengal	28	10	380
Gujarat	66	108	2686
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-
Total	177	186	4576

As MPs desirous of contributing funds to the calamity affected areas may do so by advising their nodal DCs, the complete lists of Members of Parliament indicating their consent for contribution to these calamity affected areas are available with the concerned States.

Amendment in Lunatic Act

4571. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact amendments in the Indian Lunatic Act to provide fundamental rights to the persons suffering from mental disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from NGOs and leading Psychiatrists of the country in this regard; and

(d) if so, the decision of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The Indian Lunacy Act 1912 and the Lunacy Act 1977 have been repealed following enactment of Mental Health Act, 1987. Adequate provisions exist under the Mental Health Act, 1987 which came into effect from 1st April, 1993 to safeguard the fundamental rights to the persons suffering from mental illness.

Visit by U.S. Delegations

4572. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the Prime Minister's visit to USA a number of US delegations visited India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the agreement signed during these visits; and

(c) the impact of these visits with regard to the lifting of the US sanctions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After Prime Minister's visit to the United States in September 2000, several U.S. delegations visited India, including the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defence, a seven-member Senate delegation, a four-member India-Caucus Congressional delegation led by the Democratic Co-Chair, and a four-member Congressional delegation led by both the Democratic and Republican Co-Chairs of the India-Caucus who came to express solidarity in the aftermath of the Gujarat earthquake. No agreements were signed during these visits.

(c) The visits provided opportunities to discuss the broad spectrum of Indo-U.S. relations and helped in fostering a better understanding of each other's positions, including on the issue of sanctions.

One Year Medical Laboratory Technology Course

4573. SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Safdarjung Hospital is running one year certificate course in Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) with out any proper sanction from authorised body;

(b) whether any prior sanction was obtained from the authorised body in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Border Trade

4574. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of allowing third country trading through the border points in the North-East and Myanmar came up for discussions during his recent visit to Myanmar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

Merger of NICD with other Institutes

4575. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to merge the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) with other institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of research institutes are doing the same work;

(d) if so, the objective of various organisations doing the same work; and

(e) the steps proposed to rationalise such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no proposal for merger of NICD with other organisations/Institutes.

(b) to (e) However, for better collaboration and coordination amongst the Institutes carrying out similar kind of activities, there is a proposal of networking of NICD with other Institutes under the National Surveillance programme for Communicable Diseases (NSPCD).

Post Graduate Courses in Medical Colleges

4576. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines/rules framed by Medical Council of India for medical colleges for running post graduate courses in different fields;

(b) whether a number of medical colleges in Mumbai are running post graduate courses in different fields in violation of these rules;

(c) if so, the details thereof and names of medical colleges running such courses;

(d) whether MCI have required into this; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The guidelines/rules framed by Medical Council of India for medical

colleges for running post graduate courses are contained in the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 published in the Gazette of India on 7th October, 2000.

(b) No, Sir. The Medical Council of India has not received any complaint from any sector regarding violation of the rules of the Council for the conduct of Post graduate Medical courses in different medical colleges in Mumbai.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

IID for SSI in Backward Districts of Bihar

4577. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal so far from the Bihar Government to develop Integrated Infrastructure Development for the Small Scale Industries in the rural areas of the backward districts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve their condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Under the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme, the State Government/UT concerned is required to first select a suitable site in rural/backward areas, firm up a project proposal and get the project proposal appraised by Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to ascertain the techno-economic viability of the project. The recommendations of the SIDBI on the proposal are then considered by the Government for sanction of the projects. The provisions of the IID Scheme have been brought to the notice of the State Governments/UTs including Bihar, from time to time through communications addressed to them, press, advertisements and meetings with the officials etc.

Special Employment Scheme through KVIC in Maharashtra

4578. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating Special Employment Scheme in the country, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra through Khadi & Village Industry Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount sanctioned under this scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Rural Employment Generation Programme of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is being implemented throughout the country. No new employment generation programme is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Efficiency in Administration

4579. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of management studies for improving the efficiency in the Government Departments had been completed by the Department of Administrative Reforms during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the number of studies that have been commissioned during 2000-2001; and

(c) the number of such studies which are likely to be completed by March 31, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The number of management studies completed by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is four and one respectively.

(b) and (c) The number of management studies which were commissioned during 2000-2001 is five. Out of these five, three have been completed and reports submitted. Out of the remaining two, one is likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year and the other in the next three-four months.

Ayurvedic Therapeutic

4580. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ayurvedic therapeutic procedures for the treatment of chronic disorders like rheumatism, paralysis, poliomyelitis paraplegia and other neurone diseases has proved to be very effective;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to encourage this system by opening more colleges to train students in this system of medicine; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme finalised by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Ayurvedic Therapeutic procedures have been found effective in the treatment of these diseases according to research conducted by the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha and other institutions.

(b) and (c) There is already a good number of Ayurvedic colleges-undergraduate and postgraduate imparting training in these procedures.

[Translation]

Disappearance of Army Helicopter

4581. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an M.I-8 helicopter of the Indian Army had disappeared mysteriously on February 26, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any information about the above helicopter and its six members crew on board;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether the Government are making any efforts to trace out the missing helicopter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The debris of the helicopter were finally located on 6th March, 2001. All the six crew members were found dead. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the accident.

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

Atomic Power Generation in Rajasthan

4582. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether third and fourth unit of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station have started functioning;

(b) If so, the details thereof including the extent to which it will augment power supply in the State;

(c) whether Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited has set any target to generate nuclear energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The commercial operations of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station Units-3&4 have commenced from 1.6.2000 and 23.12.2000 respectively.

(b) These two units have added a total capacity of 440 MWe to the grid.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) NPCIL target for the year 2000-02, for RAPS units-3&4, is generation of 2510 Million Units (MUs). The generation target for all the units of NPCIL, for the year 2001-02 is 15518 Million Units (MUs).

Action Taken Notes on CAG's Observation in Defence

4583. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CAG in its Report No.7 of 1997 for the year ended 31st March, 1996 observed that even after incurring an additional liability of Rs. 42.93 lakh in, the procurement of portable steel bin 70% of the operational requirement could not be met in the last six years;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has looked into the matter;

(c) if so, the results achieved therefrom and the steps taken to check such delays and to fix accountability and responsibility; and

(d) the number of audit paras from CAG reports pending action in his Ministry and the dates of their pendency together with the reasons for such delays and the steps taken to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has considered the matter and the Action Taken Note dated 15.12.2000 has been sent to the Ministry of Finance after vetting by Director General of Audit, Defence Services.

(c) Necessary instructions have been issued by the Army Headquarter to ensure that in future, action for procurement of items should be taken in a time bound manner to avoid unnecessary delay.

(d) A statement is attached.

Statement

The number of Audit Paras pending in the Ministry from the CAG reports pertaining upto the year 1998-99 are 197 as on date and year-wise pendency position is as follows :-

Year	1992 93	1993 94	1994 95	1995 96	1996 97	1997 98	1998 99	Total
Pending Paras	10	10	5	16	49	56	51	197

(ii) The main reasons for delay in finalisation of Action Taken Notes are as follows :-

(a) Involvement of multiple agencies in the matter of furnishing information, drafting Action Taken Notes and replies to observations by Audit.

(b) In many cases, the finalisation of the Action Taken Notes gets linked to some other action like settlement of some contractual issued, regularisation of some expenditure/loss or holding Court of Inquiry.

(c) Some time is also taken by Audit in vetting or giving comments on draft Action Taken Notes.

(iii) The position of pending Action Taken Notes is constantly reviewed by Defence Secretary/Secretary (Defence Finance) and concerned Joint Secretaries. The Service Chiefs have also been advised to set up Central Monitoring Mechanisms in respective Service Headquarters to ensure urgent response to Audit Paras. Meeting are also held with the Officers of Director General of Audit Defence Services/Principal Director of Audit to expedite vetting of Action Taken Notes.

Affect of Earthquake on Children in Gujarat

4584. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM :

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

(a) whether recent earthquake of Gujarat has had a serious affect on the mind of children;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such occurrences have taken place in the past; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to put back the affected children to their normal life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The recent earthquake of Gujarat as is well known, was a major disaster leading to loss of life, severe injuries and loss of property, leaving numerous people homeless and deprived of livelihood. Children who witnessed death of their parents, close relatives and friends, developed mental disorders in the form of depression. Usually the symptoms observed were impaired sleep and reduced food intake. The children also were afraid that further earthquake would occur leading to more damage. There were also concerned about their school since many of the school buildings were also destroyed.

(b) Earlier in the earthquake at Latur, Maharashtra State, similar problems were noticed.

(c) Children and their families are being provided counselling and also drugs required for treatment of depression, if considered necessary.

Misutilisation of Funds by NBCFDC

4585. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of alleged misutilisation of funds by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation in several States including Karnataka;

(b) If so, the facts and details in this regard for the last three years;

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

(d) the details of the targets and achievements made by the NBCFDC in Karnataka during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The details of amount of loan sanctioned and disbursed by the NBCFDC in the State of Karnataka during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are, as under :-

Year	Sanctioned	(Rs. in crores) Disbursed
1998-99	1.34	8.75
1999-2000	4.89	5.624
2000-2001	8.27	5.77

[Translation]

Civic Amenities in Cantonment Areas

4586. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds provided to Cantonment Boards in various States including Maharashtra for undertaking construction works during each of the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to solve the problems relating to water and power supply in these cantonment areas; and

(c) the schemes of the Government to make these

Boards more effective and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The details of funds provided during the last three years by the Central Government to Cantonment Boards for undertaking various construction works are at Annexed in statement.

(b) and (c) Power supply to Cantonment areas is catered to by the State Electricity authorities and not by the respective Cantonment Boards. However, in view of the power shortage, prevailing in different States, Cantonment Boards have been advised to explore scope for adopting Non-conventional Energy sources. Cantonment Boards, which are autonomous local bodies, under the Ministry of Defence, have drawn their own plans of action for improvement in all civic amenities, including water supply. The Central Government provides financial assistance in the form of special 'grant-in-aid', as and when, schemes for the improvement of civic amenities etc. are received. Rs. 22.43 crores has been proposed for the current financial year towards Central assistance to the deficit Cantonment Boards.

Statement

Name of the State/Board	Purpose	Funds Provided (Rs. in lakhs)		
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Maharashtra				
Aurangabad	Underground Sewerage Scheme	30.00	28.08	—
Madhya Pradesh				
Saugor	Water Supply Scheme	65.52	—	—
Jharkhand				
Ramgarh	Water Supply Scheme	—	46.02	100.21
Uttaranchal				
Clement Town	Construction of roads	—	04.00	—
Fanikhet	Construction of roads	—	12.00	—

Incorporation of Indian System and Homoeopathy

4587. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :

SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to impart education in regard to Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic System of Medicine to the student of MBBS as reported in the *Navbharat Times* dated December 13, 2000;

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

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have requested the Medical Council of India to consider including the basic principles and concept of Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani in the curriculum of MBBS students. The Council have constituted a Sub-Committee to consider the matter.

Fund for Uttar Pradesh

4588. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) total amount of additional financial assistance demanded by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) total amount allocated year-wise, plan-wise during the said period;

(c) the reasons for not providing full assistance in each of the cases in comparison to the amount demanded;

(d) whether any additional aid has been demanded during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted many proposals for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for specific projects during the last three years to the Planning Commission. These proposals are in addition to the funds provided to them for Annual Plans. The proposals are considered and the funds

sanctioned by the Planning Commission keeping in view the techno-economic viability of the project, competing demands from other states and total availability of funds.

(b) The Additional Central Assistance (ACA) approved for Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Additional Central Assistance (Rs. in crore)
1998-99	19.25
1999-2000	34.76
2000-2001	16.45

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Pension to PSU Employees

4589. DR. BALIPAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the agency which would give pension to those Group 'C' and Group 'D' employees working in public sector undertaking who have opted for the PSU pension and the Central Government pension alongwith the account wherefrom they are to be given the said pension;

(b) the details of the rules under which the PSU employees get PSU and Government pension; and

(c) the name of the agency which would give pension to those PSU employees who opted for the Government pension in case the concerned PSU is closed down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Appropriate mechanism for payment of pension based on combined service, in the event of closure of a public sector undertaking, shall have to be worked out by the public sector undertaking in consultation with the Government only when the eventuality arises and cannot be determined at this stage.

Statement

(a) and (b) Retirement benefits, admissible on absorption in public sector undertaking under different circumstances, are as under :-

A. Individual cases of absorption :

- (1) Pro-rata pension/service gratuity, as the case may be, based on qualifying service rendered by the employee under Government prior to the date of absorption, is payable by Government; and
- (2) Retirement benefits for the service rendered in PSU are payable by the PSU as per the PSU Rules.

B. Absorption consequent upon conversion of a Govt. Deptt. into PSU

(i) Absorption taking place before 30.9.2000 :

In accordance with the provisions of Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare O.M. No. 4/18/87-P & PW (D) dated 5.7.1989 an absorbed employee could opt for :

- (a) Pro-rata pensionary benefits to be paid by Government provided he was a permanent employee with not less than 10 years qualifying service under Government prior to absorption in the PSU, plus retirement benefits as per PSU Rules for the service rendered in PSU, to be paid by the PSU.

Or

- (b) Pension on retirement from the PSU based on combined service rendered in the Government and the PSU as per formula for calculation of pension under Govt. Pensionary liability of the Government is to be discharged in one lumpsum to the PSU concerned who are required to create a Pension Fund out of which the combined pension would be paid.

(ii) Absorption taking place after 30.09.2000

Under the provisions of Rule 37 A of the CCS (Pensions) Rules, 1972 notified on 30th September, 2000, the absorbed employees will be eligible, on retirement from the public sector undertaking, for payment of pension on the basis of combined service in Government and the public sector undertaking, as per formula for calculation

of pension in Government. The Central Government shall create a Pension Fund in the form of a trust and the pensionary benefits of absorbed employees shall be paid out of such Pension Fund.

In the case of absorbed employees of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, pensionary benefits would be paid by the Government.

[English]

Electronic Education

4590. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote Electronic Education all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and targets fixed for 2001-2002 academic session;

(c) whether the global education network is being started for Electronic Education in every State;

(d) if so, the interest shown by the various States; and

(e) to what extent the Centre is planning to assist the State Governments in promoting Electronic Education?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) The Government of India considers Online Learning or Electronic Education as an area with potential for generating quality IT manpower and is also a scalable methodology to meet manpower requirements. Hence, Government of India is promoting this area.

(b) No specific targets have been proposed. A National Resource Centre for Online Learning has been set up at NCST, Mumbai to further the objective. A few more projects have also been funded.

(c) to (e) There are no specific proposals. Kerala Government has shown interest on behalf of IIITM, Kerala.

Malnutrition

4591. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to identify

such States which are worst affected by child and pregnant mother malnutrition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate child and pregnant mother malnutrition in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) As per latest Survey conducted by the National Family Health Survey-2, the States most affected by child (below 3 years) by malnutrition are :

States	% of severe Malnutrition
Bihar	25.5
Madhya Pradesh	24.3
Uttar Pradesh	21.9
Rajasthan	20.8
Orissa	20.7

(b) Malnutrition is a multifaceted problem due to inadequate intake of food, poverty, poor socio-economic status, female illiteracy, rate of population growth, inadequate access of people to health services, safe drinking water, environmental sanitation, hygiene and other social services.

(c) Various programmes are being implemented by the Government for Women and Children. There are :-

- i) increased agricultural production;
- ii) improving the purchasing power of the people through income-generating schemes;
- iii) availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through public distribution system;
- iv) nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast-feeding;
- v) supplementary feeding programmes viz.
 - (i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme; (ii) Special Nutrition Program (SNP); (iii) Balwadi Nutrition Program (BNP); (iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Program;
 - (vi) Mid-Day Meal Program etc., Besides these,

Programmes for prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control programme: Prophylaxis Program to prevent blindness due to Vitamine A deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency are a part of the Reproductive and Child Health Program. Pilot project for control of micronutrient malnutrition is also under implementation.

- (vi) The recent Pradhan Mantri Grameena Yojana (PMGY) which envisages for the basic minimum services of rural roads, Primary Health, Primary Education, Shelter, Drinking Water and Nutrition.

Kendriya Bhandar

4592. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the suppliers making supplies of stationery and other items in the Kendriya Bhandar have registered themselves in different names in the organisation to be able to have different price tags of their items and the institution has failed to detect their modus operandi;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to identify such suppliers which have floated more than one firm in the organisation and compare the rates of supplies to check supply of items at exorbitant prices;

(c) whether the board of directors take stock of business activities in the organisation intimately or the business activities is run by the executive head and his subordinates; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the organisation harping of there being a board of directors looking after the business activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No such case has come to the notice of either the Kendriya Bhandar or the Department of Personnel & Training.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Board of Directors of the Kendriya Bhandar broad policy for the business activities of Kendriya Bhandar but the same is implemented by the executives.

[Translation]

Spreading of Jaundice

4593. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jaundice is spreading in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government are examining the causes responsible for the spread of Jaundice; and

(c) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to take any steps to prevent it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Jaundice is prevalent in many parts of the country despite steps being taken for its prevention. Jaundice is caused by hepatitis A, B, C, D, E and G viruses. Viral Hepatitis A and E are transmitted by contaminated water, food and poor personal hygiene. The control measures for Hepatitis A and E are directed towards provision of safe water supply, improvement of environmental sanitation, food and personal hygiene. The other forms of hepatitis are transmitted through parenteral, sexual route and from mother to child. The following measures have been taken to control blood borne hepatitis infection :-

- Mandatory screening of blood at blood banks
- Health education activities to promote safe sex behaviour under the National AIDS Control Programme
- Instructions issued to the Health authorities for use of a separate sterile syringe and needle for each injection.
- Immunization of high risk personnel in Central Government hospitals. State Governments have been advised to take similar steps.

[English]

Letters from MPs

4594. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has fixed any time limit for the reply of letter written by MPs and Ex. MPs to Union Government offices and State Government offices;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has reviewed

instructions from time to time in view of changing scenario to strengthen the Parliamentary system of the country;

(c) whether such review enables the MPs and Ex. MPs to report to the Ministry in case reply to their letters is not received within time limit either from the Union Government offices or from the State Government offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Time Limits are fixed for reply of letter written by MPs, a member of public, a recognized association or a public body, to Union Government offices vide 11th Edition of Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (CS-MOP). The provisions laid down in the CS-MOP are not applicable to State Governments. However, the State Governments normally prescribe their own guidelines in this regard. Guidelines exist in the CS-MOP, for dealing with the letters received from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament vide para 57 and Time Limits are prescribed vide para 60. (Extracts of para 57 & 60 are given in the statement I and II respectively.

(c) and (d) The concerned MPs and Ex. MPs are at liberty to approach the respective Ministry in case a reply to their letters is not received within the prescribed time limit.

Statement-I

Extracts of Para 57 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure

57. Correspondance with Members of Parliament-

(1) Communication received from Members of Parliament should be attended to promptly.

(2) Where a communication is addressed to a Minister, it should, as far as practicable, be replied to by, the Minister himself. In other cases, a reply should normally be issued over the signature of an officer of the rank of Secretary only.

(3) Where, however, a communication is addressed to the head of an attached or subordinate office, Public Sector Undertakings Financial Institutions (including nationalised banks), Division/Branch Incharge in a Ministry/Depart-

ment/Organisation, it should be replied to by the addressee himself. In routine matters not involving question of policy, he may send an appropriate reply on his own. In matters involving questions of policy the officer should have prior consultation with higher authorities before sending a reply. It should, however, be ensured that minimum level at which such replies are sent to Members of Parliament is that of Under Secretary and that also in letter form only.

(4) Normally information sought by a Member should be supplied unless it is of such a nature that it would have been denied to him even if asked for on the floor of the Houses of Parliament

(5) As far as possible, in corresponding with Members of Parliament, pre-printed or cyclostyled replies should be avoided.

(6) In case, a reference from, an ex-Member of Parliament (or MP who has not been re-elected) is addressed to a Minister or Secretary, reply to such reference may be sent by the concerned Divisional Head after obtaining approval of the Secretary of the ministry/department. In case the reference is addressed to a lower level officer, reply to such reference could be sent by the officer on his own in non-policy cases and after obtaining approval of the higher authorities in policy cases. However, the minimum level at which reply could be sent should be that of an Under Secretary and that too in letter form only.

Statement-II

Extracts of Para 60 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure

60. Prompt response to letters received -

(1) Each communication received from a Member of Parliament, a member of the public, a recognised association or a public body will be acknowledged within 15 days, followed by a reply within the next 15 days of acknowledgement sent.

(2) Where (i) delay is anticipated in sending a final reply, or (ii) information has to be obtained from another Ministry or another office, an interim reply will be sent within a month (from the date of receipt) indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given.

(3) If any such communication is wrongly addressed to a department, it will be transferred promptly (within a week) to the appropriate department under intimation to the party concerned.

(4) Where the request of a member of the public

cannot be acceded to for any reason, reasons for not acceding to such a request should be given.

(5) As far as possible, requests from members of public, should be looked at from the user's point of view and not solely from the point of view of what may be administratively convenient.

[Translation]

MPLADS

4595. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether recommendations have been made by the Members of Parliament for the construction of Mahila Mandal Bhavans, Sarai/Dharamshala or community centres under MPLADS but objections are being raised by State Auditor Generals particularly by the office of the Auditor General, Himachal Pradesh as a result of which such recommendations made by MPs are being rejected by District Deputy Commissioners;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this is in contravention of the guidelines of the said scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Some District Heads of Himachal Pradesh have reported that the construction of Community Centre, Mahila Mandals, Janj Ghars, Dharamshalas/Sarais has been objected to by the audit authorities. The Comptroller & Auditor General, in their draft review, have also pointed out that a number of items including construction of Community Halls, Community Centres, Yuvak Mandals, Mahila Mandal buildings has been undertaken in violation of the Guidelines on MPLADS. A clarification has been issued to Himachal Pradesh Government that construction of buildings for cultural and other community activities is permitted under the MPLAD Scheme.

National Sample Survey

4596. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent survey conducted by the National Sample Survey indicated a substantial reduction of people below poverty line in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey contradicts another survey brought out in 1997 by the Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the factual position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The estimate of poverty calculated from the 50th Round large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) was 35.97% for the year 1993-94. The data from the latest large survey of the 55th Round on a 30-day recall basis indicate a poverty ratio of 26.1% for 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The two latest such surveys were conducted in 1993-94 and 1999-2000. As such, the estimates of number of persons living below the poverty line in the year 1997 are not available.

[English]

Patent of Our Old Traditional Medicines

4597. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are some foreign countries trying to obtain the patent of our old traditional medicines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Government is aware that some foreign countries are trying to obtain patents of some traditional medicines and medicinal plants used in ISM. The government is setting up a Traditional

Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) to bring the Ayurvedic knowledge about the use of Medicinal Plants which is already in published form in easily accessible and retrievable form to prevent grant of patents on non-original inventions.

Amendment in Regularisation of AIIMS

4598. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the regulations and amendments to regulations under the AIIMS Act 25 of 1956 are made with previous approval of Central Government;

(b) If so, whether any regulation or amendment to regulations have been made and brought into effect by the AIIMS without seeking prior approval of the Central Government in violation of Section 29 of the Act 25 of 1956;

(c) If so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken for rectifying such defects and holding persons accountable for such lapses; and

(e) the date of the official Gazette notification in the amendment made to regulation 37 vide Section 29(1) and Section 29(3)?

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

(b) to (d) No regulations have been framed under Section 29(1) or amendment thereof have been made by the authorities of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi without seeking the prior approval of the Government in violation of Section 29.

(e) AIIMS Regulations framed under Section 29(1) was notified vide notification No. 12, Part-III Section 4 dated February 26, 1999.

MPLADS

4599. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to CAG report and *Times of India* editorial dated June 28, 2000 on MPLADS highlighting many irregularities;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether detailed guidelines have been issued for guidance to the MPs with the help of CAG in view of post Gujarat-Quake realities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether MPLADS is likely to be restricted to bonafied public use for improving employment and quality of life of the needy poor and not for affluent colonies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On receipt of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the period ending March' 1997, all the State Governments were advised to take corrective/remedial measures in respect of the irregularities pointed out in the report. All Members of Parliament have also been requested to ensure proper observance of the Guidelines in recommending works.

(c) and (d) Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme are changed from time to time so as to ensure proper implementation of the MPLAD Scheme. Amendment was made in the Guidelines so as to authorise the Member of Parliament to recommend works outside their Constituencies/States for construction of assets that are permissible in the Guidelines for rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamity of rare severity in any part of the Country for an amount not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs for each calamity. In case of Gujarat, a relaxation has been issued enabling MPs to contribute whatever amount they desire upto their unspent balance for the year from their MPLADS funds for reconstruction work in the earthquake affected areas of that State.

(e) In accordance with the Guidelines, the MPs have to recommend works to the concerned District Heads for taking up works which are developmental in nature based on locally felt needs. The Heads of District get them implemented by following the established procedure as laid down by the State Government subject to the Guidelines.

Clearance for Sale of Sildenafil Citrate

4600. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ :

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

(a) whether M/s. Ranbaxy, Cadila Health Care and Torrent were granted permission to manufacture and market Sildenafil Citratea Viagra substitute throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that these companies manufactured formulation of Sildenafil without permission;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether this issue has been processed for violating the Drugs & Cosmetic Act; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken against these Companies?

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

(b) and (c) As per information received from the State Drug Controllers, manufacture of formulations was undertaken after permission was given to them on 8.1.2001.

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

Implementation of Reservation Quota

4601. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :

DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SC/ST Parliamentary Forum are demanding discussion in Parliament for effective implementation of reservation of SC/ST quotas in all Government departments;

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

(c) if not, the steps taken to ensure effective implementation of quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPART-

MENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Any discussion in a House of Parliament is governed by the 'Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business' of that House. However, instructions already exist for effective implementation of the reservation policy. The mechanism of rosters is also meant to ensure that the reserved categories including Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes get due representation in the posts and services under the Central Government.

MPLADS

4602. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any case has come to the notice of the Government where MPs could not utilise the amount of Rs. 2 crores under MPLADS during the last two years, State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to ensure that the expenditure of allocations of MPLADS funds are utilised for the purpose stipulated in the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are cases where MPs could not utilise amount of Rs. 2 crores, under MPLADS, for last two years. Funds released by the Government of India, under the Scheme, are non-lapsable. The liability of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward for making releases in the subsequent years. The cumulative information about the funds released, amount sanctioned by the Districts and expenditure incurred in the Districts is maintained by the Ministry. This information, Lok Sabha Constituency-wise and Rajya-Sabha MP-wise is brought out by the Ministry every month in the form of a 'Statement on Release & Expenditure, under MPLADS.' Copies of this statement are supplied to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Parliament Library, regularly.

(c) Under the MPLADS, works of development nature based on locally felt-needs, recommended by the Members of Parliament, are undertaken by the District Heads. While implementing such works the District Heads are to strictly comply with the provisions of the Guidelines on

MPLADS. As and when any case of deviation from the Guidelines on MPLADS is brought to the notice of the Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is advised to investigate the matter and taken remedial action.

Use of Antibiotic

4603. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news appeared in the Time of India dated December 29, 2000 that the risk of developing an antibiotic resistant infection rose by about a third from 1995 to 1998 because of extensive use in both people and animals;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the situation?

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

(b) and (c) It is a well recognised fact that indiscriminate use of antibiotics is responsible for increasing drug resistance in most drugs used in treatment of infectious diseases. In order to check indiscriminate use of antibiotics, it has been made mandatory under Drugs & Cosmetics Rules that all antibiotics are sold only against the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioner. For this purpose, antibiotics have been classified under Sch. 'H' of D&C Rules.

CGHS Dispensary

4604. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CGHS dispensary, Rajouri Garden has been operating from a small rented accommodation inspite of allotment of a plot of land for it in Tagore Garden 14 years ago;

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

(c) whether the CGHS beneficiaries and the staff of the dispensary are facing lot of hardships on account of inadequate size of the rented building; and

(d) if so, the time by which the Government propose to construct the new building on the plot earmarked for and shift the CGHS there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) CGHS dispensary Rajouri Garden is functioning in a private rented building.

(c) The available space in the rented building is considered adequate to run the dispensary.

(d) Though there is a proposal to construct CGHS own building at Tagore Garden for accommodating the CGHS Rajouri Garden dispensary, the time schedule for the same cannot be indicated as it depends on availability of resources and completion of required administrative formalities.

Senior Citizens Community Centres

4605. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Senior Citizens community centres are non functional in Delhi & Ahmednagar (Maharashtra) for a long time;

(b) if so, the names of such centres in Delhi & Ahmednagar (Maharashtra) separately alongwith date of their being non-functional in each case;

(c) whether the Government have drawn any plans to make them functional;

(d) if so, the details thereof and time frame worked out therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Monosodium Glutamate

4606. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to remove the existing limit of 1 per cent for total glutamate a constituent of monosodium glutamate (MSG) content in processed food;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to dilute some of its effective provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) In pursuance of the recommendation of Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), a statutory Committee under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act 1954, a draft notification for further amending the provisions of PFA Rules, 1955, were published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary vide No. GSR 76(E) dated 7.2.2001 inviting objections or suggestions to the proposed draft rules. The draft amendment proposes to remove the existing limit of 1 per cent of Glutamate content and to allow the use of Mono-Sodium Glutamate as per good manufacturing practices in all the food products.

The final notification will take into consideration the comments/objections received from the public.

Monitoring of the Private Health Sector

4607. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any mechanism in place with the Government to ensure effective monitoring of the private health sector particularly its large scale expansion during the last decade;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure the quality of medical facilities particularly the medical equipments and the total number of beds in the private medical institutions;

(c) whether the Government propose to make a law for monitoring of the functioning the private medical institutions and to prescribe minimum requirements to implement the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution of India and it is the responsibility of every State/Union Territory to frame rules/guidelines to monitor the functions of private health sector in the State/Union Territory under the rules/laws available in the respective State/Union Territory.

Under the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, Medical Council of India has prescribed Minimum Standard Requirements for the Medical Colleges for 50,100 and 150

admissions annually and also Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997. Certain parameters have been laid down in these regulations with regard to procurement of the medical equipments, staff and total number of beds which are the same for Government as well as the Private Medical Colleges.

There is a proposal in Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to have a legislation prescribing the minimum standards for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments in the country in view of the large scale proliferation of private clinic/ nursing homes all over the country and complaints received from time to time about the quality of service provided by them. 'Health' being a State subject, proposed legislation requires the consent of two or more States. All the State Governments have been requested to consider the proposal and take necessary steps to make available the recommendations of the State Legislature.

Revision of SC/OBC List

4608. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received representation from MPs to include 'Chain' community of West Bengal in Scheduled Caste list and Muslim Shersabadia community in OBC list; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal for inclusion of Chain community in the list of Scheduled Caste for West Bengal has been processed as per the approved modalties and sent to National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for advice.

The proposal regarding inclusion of Muslim Shersabadia community of West Bengal in the Central list of Backward Classes has been referred to National Commission for Backward Classes for necessary action as per provision under National Commission for Backward Classes Act.

Reservation for SC/ST and OBC

4609. SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH :

DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.P.S.C conducted Civil Services examination in 1999 to fill 411 vacancies;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the number of candidates belonging to SC/ST and OBC categories selected and the number of OBC candidates selected in the open merit list;

(c) the number of candidates were considered as general merit list and the number of other candidates were put in the OBC List;

(d) whether only one out of 16 SC candidates was considered as open general merit list and in ST categories only one out of 9 ST categories was considered as open general merit list;

(e) If so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(f) the details of criteria of such selection; and

(g) the action being taken to wipe out all the anomalies in such selection so as to provide maximum number of employment to the OBC, SC/ST candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (g) There were 411 vacancies (234 - Unreserved, 97-O.B.C., 53-SC and 27- S.T.) to be filled in for various service on the basis of the Civil Services Examination, 1999. Against this, the U.P.S.C. recommended 191 - Unreserved candidates, 127 candidates belonging to O.B.C., 63 candidates belonging to S.C. and 30 candidates belonging to S.T.

2. The list of 127 O.B.C. candidates included 30 candidates who were recommended against un-reserved vacancies. Similarly, the list of 63 S.C. candidates included 10 candidates and the list of 30 S.T. candidates included 3 candidates who were recommended against un-reserved vacancies. However, only 6 O.B.C and 1 S.T. candidates have been allocated against un-reserved vacancies. The remaining candidates who were recommended against un-reserved vacancies have been allocated against reserved vacancies so that they could get the service of their higher preference.

3. In the present system of allocation, the candidates belonging to OBC, SC and ST are being provided the maximum employment for the reason that in most of the cases, all the reserved vacancies are being filled by the recommended candidates.

Streamlining the Functioning of Passport Offices

4610. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether inordinate delay takes place in the issuance of passports as reported in the "Statesman" dated January 24, 2001;

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

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of passport offices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The facts of the case reported in the Statesman are as follows :-

(i) While applying for a fresh passport in 1991 the applicant had suppressed the information regarding his return from the US on an Emergency Certificate (EC). The EC was issued to him as he was deported from the US after being convicted on an illegal drug trafficking charge.

(ii) As per the Passport Act, 1967, a passport can be denied to an Indian national under the public interest clause and the applicant's offence justified denial of a passport.

(iii) The applicant applied for a fresh passport again in 1998 and fresh enquiries were made.

(iv) As the applicant had been without a passport for the many years and a clear police report was received, a lenient view was taken and the passport was issued to him in September 2000.

(c) The main reasons for delay in issue of passports are due to receipt of negative or incomplete police verification reports, discrepancies in documents submitted by the

applicants, lack of response by the applicants to the queries raised by the Passport Offices and suppression of vital information by the applicants.

(d) Streamlining the functioning of passport offices in the country is an ongoing and continuous process. It has been the Government's constant endeavor to expand and modernise the network of Passport Offices and Passport Application Collection Centres throughout the country keeping in mind the need to provide prompt and efficient service to the public. Improvements brought about the enhance efficiency and effectiveness of passport offices include the computerisation of 21 of the 28 Passport Offices, introduction of the tele-enquiry system, launch of the Central Passport Organisation Web site and also at selected RPOs, setting up of grievances redressal mechanism in all passport offices, introduction of the machine-writing of passport booklet and scanning of index cards etc. The Government has recently introduced a facility for acceptance of passport applications at designated speed post centres to reduce the congestion at the passport offices.

Establishment of International Criminal Court

4611. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations General Assembly has proposed the setting up of International Criminal Court (ICC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is one of the countries which has rejected this proposal; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) The UN General Assembly in its resolution 51/207 of 17 December 1996, decided to hold a Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries in 1998 with a view to finalising and adopting a Convention on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. In pursuance of this decision and following deliberations held in Rome from June 15 to July 17, 1998, a Statute was adopted by the Conference. So far nearly 140 countries have signed the Statute, while 29 countries had ratified it, as on March 15, 2001. 60 ratifications are necessary for the Court to be established.

(c) and (d) India had abstained in the voting on the Statute of the International Criminal Court during the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rome in July 1998. India has not signed the Statute of the Court as there are several deficiencies in the Statute, including that it brings under the purview of the Court several crimes which are subject to national jurisdiction, and makes the primacy of national jurisdiction subject to the satisfaction of the Court; it does not include terrorism as a crime against humanity. It gives special and discriminatory powers to the UN Security Council to refer to, or block consideration by, the Court, of cases.

Indo-Israel Discussions

4612. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign office officials of both India and Israel had held long discussions in December, 2000; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) The Fifth Round of Foreign Office Consultations with Israel was held in December, 2000 and the Indian delegation to the talks was led by Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs. During the consultations, besides discussing ways and means to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries, important global and regional issues were also discussed.

Disbursement of Fund

4613. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is being appointed as Nodal Agency for disbursement of Rs. 150 crore R&D fund for Pharmaceutical Industry; and

(b) if so, the details and the criteria for disbursement of fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Infrastructure Development

4614. **SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress chart of infrastructural development during each of the last three years upto December 12, 2000 alongwith the projected objectives in that regard;

(b) the reasons, if any, for slow down in the infrastructure sector, in the above period; and

(c) steps the Government proposed to be taken to give a fillip to the infrastructure in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) :

(a) The progress chart in respect of infrastructure development during each of the last three financial years along-with the projected objectives is given in the statement attached.

(b) From the enclosed Statement, it can be seen that though there had been shortfall in Actuals as compared to the Annual Plan targets, in some sectors, overall there has been no slow down in the infrastructure sector during the period. In fact, Actuals during April-December period given in the Statement show an upward trend.

(c) The Ninth Five Year Plan recognizes the significance of infrastructure, especially Power, Telecommunication, Railways, Roads, and Ports for development process. The investment needs of infrastructure greatly exceed resources likely to be available. The Ninth Five Year Plan, therefore, emphasizes far reaching reforms in the infrastructure sector, mobilisation of private investment to supplement the public effort, achievement of higher operational efficiency and introduction of appropriate user charges.

Statement*Trends in the Performance of Infrastructure Sectors*

Sector	Unit	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Target	Actual	Target	Provisional	Target	April-Dec.
I. Energy							
1. Coal Production	Million Tonnes	306.50	292.16 (206.7)	301.80	300.00 (207.3)	308.07	218.20
2. Electricity generated (Utilities only)	Billion Unit	450.00	448.37 (330.8)	469.00	430.01 (355.7)	499.00	372.60
3. Petroleum (crude oil production)	Million Tonnes	31.55	32.71 (24.40)	33.02	32.00 (24.30)	31.99	24.50
II. Transport and Communications							
1. Railway revenue earning goods traffic	Million Tonnes	450.00	420.90 (306.3)	450.00	456.40 (330.7)	475.00	347.80
2. Cargo handled at major ports	Million Tonnes	258.00	251.72 (184.3)	258.00	271.90 (201.4)	290.00	209.20
3. Telecommunications (New telephone connections provided-DELS)	Lakh Lines	36.00	37.92 (16.50)	45.50	49.18 (21.99)	57.90	28.55

Source : Economic Survey 2000-2001 (Chapter 9, Table 9.1, Page no. 171), Planning Commission Annual Plan Document 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and Mid-Term Appraisal of Ninth Five Year Plan

Note : () The Figures in brackets indicates actuals during April-December of the year concerned.

[Translation]

Employment Generation Programmes by KVIC

4615. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the districts in the country where employment generation programmes of Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) are being implemented; and

(b) the norms laid down for selecting districts for implementation of these programmes of the KVIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Rural Employment Generation Programmes of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is being implemented in all the Districts of the country.

[English]

Integrated Industrial Development Scheme

4616. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Tamil Nadu have been covered under the Integrated Industrial Development Scheme through loans extended by the SIDBI;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The reference is perhaps to the Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme launched by Government of India on 7.3.1994. So far, five projects have been sanctioned in Tamil Nadu. These are

located at Urangampathy District Madurai, Kittampalyam District Coimbatore, Thirumudivakkam, Chengai MGR District, Kuttur Avadi Block, Chengai MGR District and Vichoor, District Thiruvellore.

(b) and (c) The Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme is to provide basic infrastructural facilities to promote small scale industrial units in the country. Under the Scheme, Central Grant upto Rs. 2.00 crores (Rs. 4.00 crore for the North East Region) and loan from Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) upto Rs. 3.00 crores (Rs. 1.00 crore for North East Region) is available for each Centre. The State Governments are required to select appropriate site, firm up the proposals, get these appraised from SIDBI for techno-economic viability and appoint an Implementing Agency. SIDBI is authorised to release central grant matching with the term loan. The Implementing Agency may obtain advance from Central Government by depositing matching share, in a bank exclusively in the name of the project or the central grant is released on reimbursement basis against the expenditure incurred by it. This scheme is to progressively cover the entire country with 50% reservation for rural areas.

Committee on All India Services

4617. SHRI MANOJ SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee has been constituted to receive representations regarding cases of genuine hardships from officers of All India Services affected by allocations to the State cadres of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any representation has been received by the said Committee from officers belonging to the Indian Police Service;

(c) whether any representation in regard to incorrect inclusion of officers belonging to the OBC category in general category has also been received;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI

VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Central Govt. has constituted a Committee to examine the cases of genuine hardship of individual officers and other related issues arising out of the allocation of All India Services officers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The representations received are to be considered by the Committee referred in reply to part (a) above.

Quality of Medicines

4618. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian medicines are of poor quality and as such these are not able to compete with foreign drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to poor quality of medicines, Indian firms are not getting sufficient export orders even from the under developed countries; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by the Government to ensure better quality of medicines from the Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) To further facilitate compliance of quality for purposes of export the following measures have been taken:-

- (1) Exporting nations have been advised to obtain assurance from the Drug Controller of India that the manufacturing plant in which the product is produced conforms to requirements for good practices in the manufacture and quality control of drugs as recommended by WHO. This is being provided when such references are received.
- (2) Where any serious quality defects of drugs come to notice, the importing country has been advised to provide information so that corrective action can be taken.
- (3) Zonal officers of the Central Drugs standards Control Organisation/Port Officers have been advised to draw random sampling for quality validation of exported drugs.
- (4) The requirements of GMP are being upgraded and harmonised with international standards.

Irregularities in Space Centre

4619. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have ordered CBI inquiry into the alleged irregularities in SHAR Satellite Launching Centre;

(b) if so, the present status thereof;

(c) whether the senior CISF officials are hands in glove with the SHAR officials in various scams as alleged in the regional Telugu daily 'EENADU' dated March 5, 2001;

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

(e) whether the security arrangements at SHAR centre are inadequate;

(f) if so, the facts thereof; and

(g) the corrective measures taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The matter is being inquired into. Pending inquiry, two officials have been transferred out of SHAR.

(e) No, Sir. The security of SHAR Centre, Sriharkota is adequately taken care of by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Security arrangements at SHAR Centre are also reviewed by the Department of Space and the Intelligence Bureau periodically.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Burglary in Houses of DRDO Staff

4620. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "High Security houses of DRDO staff burgled, officials fear sensitive papers were accessed" appeared in the "Times of India" dated March 3, 2001;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to tone up the security agencies; and

(c) the nature of sensitive papers accessed by burglars at the residence of 4 scientists and implication thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to tone up the security agency, periodic surprise checks are being carried out. Security agency personnel are not monitoring all visitors and vehicles at entry points.

(c) No sensitive papers were lost/accessed.

C.B.I. Enquiry

4621. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBI is probing cases against several IAS and IPS officers for commission of crimes and dereliction of duties;

Action taken	1998		1999		2000	
	IAS	IPS	IAS	IPS	IAS	IPS
Charge sheet filed and case pending trial in courts	1	-	1	-	1	1
Recommended Regular Departmental Action (RDA)	7	3	1	2	1	-
Recommended action as deemed fit	4	-	1	-	1	-
Case closed after investigation	5	2	4	-	1	-
Under Investigation	9	-	1	1	11	4

(d) The Government is fully committed to provide clean administration and to eradicate corruption at all levels of public services. The drive against corruption is a continuing process and the policies are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. A three pronged strategy of surveillance, prevention and punitive/deterrent action is followed by the Government in this regard. Recognising that

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such officers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the CBI, cases against 13 IPS and 49 IAS officers have been registered for various offences and dereliction of duty during 1998, 1999 and 2000. The year wise break up is given below :

Year	1998	1999	2000
IAS	26	8	15
IPS	5	3	5

(c) Action taken by the CBI (year wise) in the above cases is as given below :

an important aspect of Preventive Vigilance is to ensure transparency in public Administration, measures of administrative reforms such as introduction of Citizen's Charters and Facilitation Counters have been initiated. The review and simplification of laws, rules and procedures has also been taken up. The punitive action under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 duly supported by the various service rules governing public servants also act as a deterrent against

corruption. Some of the major initiatives taken by the Government to eradicate corruption from public services in the recent past inter-alia include introduction of Central Vigilance Commission Bill on 20/12/99 in the Lok Sabha and Freedom of Information Bill in the Lok Sabha on 25/7/2000.

SC/ST Officers on Deputation

4622. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts in various ranks/grades under the Central Ministries/Departments and other Autonomous, Statutory, Subordinate/Attached Offices are filled by the DoPT by deputing Officers from different Services and Organisations;

(b) If so, the nature and composition of Selection Committees/Boards constituted for selecting persons for such deputation posts;

(c) whether any provision has been made for participation/association of persons belonging to the SCs/STs on such Selection/Appointment Committees and Boards;

(d) if not, reasons therefor; and

(e) the total number of persons deputed to the above referred posts in the grade of Deputy Secretary/Director, Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Secretary and the number out of them belongs to the SCs/STs during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Appointments to senior administrative posts at the centre, excluding posts which are specifically encadred within the organised Group 'A' services or filled by recruitment through the Union Public Service Commission, are made under the Central Staffing Scheme, by the Department of Personnel and Training, by borrowing officers from the All India Services and Group 'A' Central Services, on deputation basis. Appointments to posts in autonomous bodies and statutory organizations are made by the concerned Ministries/Departments and those are governed by the rules, regulations and procedures prescribed for such appointments.

(b) Appointments to the posts of Deputy Secretaries, Directors and Joint Secretaries/equivalent levels under the Central Staffing Scheme are based on the recommendations of a board called the Civil Services Board, which consists of :-

(a) Cabinet Secretary : Chairman (ex-Officio)

(b) Secretary (Personnel) Member (ex-Officio)

(c) One Secretary to the Government of India (to be appointed for a year at a time) Member

(d) Establishment Officer Member Secretary (ex-Officio)

(e) Secretary of the Administrative Ministry /Department Concerned Co-opted Member

Appointments to these posts are made on the basis of vacancies reported by each Ministry/Department of the Central Government and the officers available on offer for deputation from their respective cadre authorities.

(c) and (d) There is no explicit provision for participation/association of persons belonging to SCs/STs category on the Civil Services Board.

(e) As on 1.3.2001, the following number of officers at the level of Deputy Secretary, Director, Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Secretary were working in various Ministries/Departments :

Secretaries & equivalent	141
Additional Secretary & equivalent	104
Joint Secretary level	490
Director level	590
Deputy Secretary level	563

Since caste/tribe is not a criterion in making appointments to the aforesaid posts, the statistics in respect of the number of SC/ST officers appointed to posts at the above mentioned levels is not maintained separately.

[Translation]

To set up College in Chhattisgarh

4623. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a medical college in the newly created Chhattisgarh State;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether permission has been granted to any private institution for opening the medical college; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith name of the institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur seeking permission of the Central Government to start a new medical college at Bilaspur. The clearance of the proposal depends on the availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendation of the Medical Council of India thereon.

(c) and (d) No such permission has been granted by the Central Government so far to any private institution in the State.

[English]

Revival of SAARC

4624. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has agreed to the Sri Lanka request for lifting SAARC out of limbo;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is likely to participate in the Standing Committee meet of the Body in May this year;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a long interval in interaction between the Member Countries of SAARC has put in limbo the decisions already taken in the previous SAARC summit;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard specially by India;

(g) whether the government have taken any initiatives for holding the postponed SAARC Summit; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (d) During the visit to India of the Sri Lankan President, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga last month, it was agreed that a meeting of the SAARC Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries may be scheduled within the next few months in consultation with SAARC Member States. The Meeting is likely to be held in early June, 2001.

(e) and (f) Although the Eleventh SAARC Summit has to be postponed, the technical and functional cooperation under SAARC has continued. The SAARC Technical Committees, which are the primary mechanisms of the SAARC Integrated Programme of Action (SIPA), have already held several meetings since last year. The First Meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Communications and Transport, the First Meeting of the Technical Committee on Science and Technology and the First Meeting of the Technical Committee on Environment, Meteorology and Forestry were held on January 5-6, 2001 in Islamabad, on January 23-25, 2001 in Delhi and on February 20-21, 2001 in Thimphu respectively. These Meetings were attended by all Member States. Additionally, a number of other Expert-level meetings have been held, including the 4th Meeting of the SAARC Network of Researchers on Global Financial and Economic Issues on March 22-23, 2001, in Delhi; and the 8th Meeting of the SAARC Food Security Reserve Board on April 10-11, 2001, in Kathmandu. The 2nd Meeting of the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) is scheduled to be held on May 11-12, 2001.

(g) and (h) No decision has been taken on holding the next SAARC Summit.

[Translation]

Russian Assistance for LCA

4625. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Russia has offered to assist India in its Light Combat Aircraft project;

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

- (c) the response of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No,
Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

- (c) Does not arise.

Kidney Disease Amongst Children

4626. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether kidney ailment amongst the children
in the country are rising every year;

- (b) if so, the number of children inflicted with this
disease during each of the last three years, State-wise;

- (c) whether the Government have taken any
concrete steps to check the kidney related ailments amongst
the children; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

[English]

Financial Assistance

4627. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the
Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) the financial assistance provided by the Union
Government under each of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes
during the Ninth Plan period, State-wise; and

- (b) the financial assistance utilized by each state
during the said plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF
PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND
PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPART-
MENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI
VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (b) Under the Centrally

Sponsored Scheme of Cooperativisation in the Coir Sector,
the Central Government provides its share of funds to the
projects approved by the Government. An amount of Rs.
278.63 lakhs has been released to the following State
Governments during Ninth Plan period for implementation of
the Scheme :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Amount Released
Orissa	3.62
Kerala	145.35
Tamil Nadu	84.24
Karnataka	42.90
West Bengal	2.52

Upgradation of the LHMC

4628. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

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

- (a) whether the Government have decided to
upgrade the Lady Harding Medical College and its associated
hospitals;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether Lady Harding Medical College and its
associated hospitals are not providing latest Medical education
and treatment;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and
(b) The development and upgradation of Hospitals is an
ongoing process. A Comprehensive Redevelopment Plan has
been prepared by the Central Design Bureau for Medical &
Health Buildings, Directorate General of Health Services for
upgrading and strengthening of Lady Harding Medical College
& Associated Hospitals in a phased manner.

(c) to (e) According to the information received from Lady
Harding Medical College and Associated Hospitals, the Lady

Harding Medical College is following the syllabus prescribed by the University of Delhi to which it is affiliated.

[Translation]

Ayurvedic Dhanvantri System

4629. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the medicine developed by the Ayurvedic Dhanvantri System of Medicine to protect the country from the deadly disease of AIDS;

(b) if so, whether the Government have sought assistance from the doctors practising the above system of Medicine for the treatment of AIDS; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) It has been claimed that some AIDS patients have been cured by Ayurvedic treatment. The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi has advised the claimant to provide details of studies, achievements, number of patients treated, laboratory investigations carried out, medicines used and their composition to ascertain the basis of the claims.

[English]

Health Policy

4630. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the high officials of the European Commission in Brussels have recently held discussions with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on country's health policy and also about their ongoing project (i.e. ECH&FW programme) in India;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Mr. J.De. Oliveira E. Sousa, Director (AIDCO) European Commission, Brussels visited this country during 4-7 December, 2000 and met Secretary (Family Welfare). The meeting did not have any specific agenda. The visiting official was apprised of the status of the on-going Sector Investment

Programme. There is no specific discussion on the country's health policy. The European Commission reiterated its long term commitment to the Health Sector.

(c) No issues requiring decision of the Government arose during the discussion.

UNAIDS Report on Virus

4631. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

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

(a) whether the recent report of update by UNAIDS on virus for the year 2000 has omitted India;

(b) if so, the main reasons for omission by the UNAIDS;

(c) whether the Government had criticised the earlier report of the UNAIDS; and

(d) the reasons for India's objecting UNAIDS last report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) No, Sir.

Computer Information Centres

4632. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN :

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared a scheme for setting up computer information centres in each State and Union Territory of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the time-frame for its implementation;

(c) the present status thereof and steps taken in pursuance thereof so far; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) With a view to accelerating the socioeconomic development of the community in hilly areas of difficult geographical terrain having poor infrastructural and communication facilities in the North-East region of the country, a scheme was approved for providing connectivity by setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at all the block headquarters in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim within two years at an estimated cost of Rs. 220. crores.

A pilot project was launched in August, 2000 at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores by setting up 30 CICs in the aforesaid states at sites selected by the State Government. Based on the experience gained therefrom, CICs are to be set up at the remaining 457 block headquarters of these States.

It has been decided to extend the scheme to provide block level connectivity also to the State of Jammu and Kashmir which has similar characteristics and level of development as the North East region.

Food Adulteration in Dairy Products

4633. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have amended the provisions under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 relating to standards for some dairy products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to ensure that consumers received clean and wholesome food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Rule 20 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 was amended in to 1995 to stipulate that in case of samples of "ice-cream" and 'mixed ice-cream', a liquid commonly known as formalin, that is to say a liquid containing about 40 per cent of formaldehyde in aqueous solution in the proportion of 0.6 ml. For 100 ml. or 100 gms., shall be used for preserving samples for the purpose of analysis under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

(c) To ensure that consumers receive clean and wholesome food, samples of food articles are drawn by the

States/U.Ts, who have the responsibility for implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 in the country, and prosecution is initiated when violations of standards or guidelines are noted.

Shortage of Officers in Newly Created States

4634. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of All India Services Officers in the States as well as in the newly created States;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to cover this shortage of officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Authorised Strength and officers allocated to the newly created States as well as the Authorised Strength and officers remaining in the residual States in regard to the three All India Services are as under:-

	Authorised Strength			Officers allocated		
	IAS	IPS	IFS	IAS	IPS	IFS
Uttar Pradesh	467	375	199	485	359	180
Uttaranchal	68	42	84	72	42	75
Madhya Pradesh	296	219	270	315	219	270
Chhattisgarh	100	59	115	93	59	110
Bihar	264	163	43	250	161	40
Jharkhand	129	87	130	120	86	120

2. In the matter of cadre allocation, the main features of the undivided cadre, as far as possible, with respect to 'direct recruits' and 'promotees' and 'reserved' and 'general' categories, have been reflected in the cadres of the two States arising out of it. Further, any surplus or deficits in the undivided cadre be proportionately distributed between the two States arising out of it.

Bilateral Agreements

4635. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI :

Will the Minister of EXTERENAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which agreements in different sectors have been signed by the Union Government during the last three years till date; and

(b) the details thereof, sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Protection to Places of Worship in Afghanistan

4636. SHRI J. S. BRAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindu, Jain temples and Sikh Gurudwaras in Afghanistan; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure their protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) Government have received reports of the existance of Gurudwaras and temples in Afghanistan. However in the absence of any official representation it is not possible to ascertain details of these Gurudwaras and temples including their present condition. At the same time Government is aware of Taliban's obscurantist ideologies and harsh discriminatory

practices against religious minorities and their places of worship. Government has drawn the attention of its foreign interlocutors to these policies.

[Translation]

Militant Activities in J&K

4637. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pak-based multi-party alliance of several Kashmiri outfits has threatened to intensify its activities against security forces in Jammu and Kashmir under its new strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have lodged any protest with the Pak Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Pak Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (d) The leaders of several Parkistan based terrorist groups, encouraged and sponsored by Pakistan's intelligence agencies, have been continuously calling upon their cadres to step-up terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India.

Government have conveyed to Pakistan on numerous occasions that its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India contravenes its obligations and commitments under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration which are the cornerstones of our bilateral relations. Pakistan has persisted with its state sponsorship of terrorism against India.

[English]

Human Genome Research

4638. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has cleared over 120 proposals on human genome research;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted by ICMR in clearing the human genome projects, financial requirements, pattern of finance and the advantages which would accrue to the country from these proposals;

(c) whether most of the original research in the field has already been done in other countries;

(d) if so, the original and unique contribution of ICMR that would be in the field of genome research; and

(e) the steps proposed to be weigh the advantage of repeating research already done elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has considered so far 120 proposals on human genome research. The proposals have been examined by three special committees of experts which met on 14.2.2001 and a subsequent committee of experts of 28/29th March, 2001. A total number of 81 projects have been approved till now which will further be screened by an Apex committee in May, 2001 before final sanction. The project will be sanctioned to the investigators in near future. The usual pattern of funding followed by ICMR will be adopted for these also by way of giving research staff, contingencies and required equipments.

The criteria adopted for evaluating these proposals is the proven track record of the Investigators through prior research publications, availability of infrastructure at the parent Institution and the condition that the same work is not being funded by any other agency. Council has been working in the area of genome research for the last decade or so where it had already progressed to certain extent so that the leads could be further taken to the logical conclusion. In addition, work related to drug development, population genetics, cancer genomics, microbial genomics, vector genomics, reproduction, neurogenetics, pharmacogenomics, and nutrition genomics is also in progress.

The research on human genome and human genetics is a global effort launched by USA, Japan, France, Germany and China. The first map of human genome was released in June, 2000 and final one in Feb., 2001 for entire scientific community in the world to utilise this information for appropriate analysis for improving Health care system in respective countries. Structure of genome is announced and function of each gene, as relevant to each country, has to be taken up by all countries.

For identification of new genes for complex diseases and of genes that confer susceptibility/ resistance to diseases inhuman, it is necessary to collect and create a data-base of partial genomics sequences on multiple individuals drawn from population isolates. There will be no repetition of any study done elsewhere whose results are already known. Information specific to Indian population will be funded taking care to avoid duplication even within the country.

Food Poisoning

4639. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of food poisoning in Delhi are on the increase;

(b) the number of cases of food poisoning during the last one year in Delhi;

(c) the action taken against the defaulters in each case; and

(d) the precautionary measures initiated to guard against spread of this evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Department of PFA, Government of Delhi is regularly lifting samples of different food items under the supervision of Sub Divisional Magistrates who have been given the powers of LHA under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 from all the nine districts of State of Delhi. These samples are analysed in the Food Laboratory of PFA by a notified Public Analyst. All the samples lifted during the last one year have been analysed and in none of the samples has any poisonous material been detected.

Protein Powder

4640. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether artificial protein powder is being sold in the market to lose weight;

(b) whether that powder has dangerous effects on health;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any investigation has been done into the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome therefor;

(f) whether the Government have any proposal to ban the sale of such protein powders; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (g) Some powders are reported to be sold in the market as food supplements which make claims for facilitating weight loss. Since these products do not come under the category of regular food under the PFA Act 1954, no investigation has been carried out about their effect on health so far. There is no proposal to ban the sale of such powders. However, to regulate the sale and quality control of these products, the Central Committee for Food Standards, a statutory technical advisory committee under the PFA Act, 1954 has recently recommended that an expert Committee may be constituted by the Director General of Health Services, to look into the matter.

Pay Scale Revision of HSK Gr-I and Master Craftsman of Defence

4641. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demands of pay scale revision of HSK Gr-I and Master Craftsman of Defence at par with Railways, grant of intergrade to the Industrial Employees and accumulation and encashment of earned leave up to 30 days in accordance with recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission have since been settled;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these demands are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The demand of Defence civilian employees for pay scale revision of HSK Gr-I and Master Craftsman at par with those of Railways is not as per recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, while the other two demands regarding grant of intergrade ratio and accumulation of earned leave upto 300 days are part of the Fifth Central Pay Commission recommendations. All the three demands have not been settled so far because the issues have wider ramifications both in terms of financial as well as personnel aspects and this require consultation with various Ministries/Departments. No definite time frame for settlement of the demands can be given.

[Translation]

Alleged Corruption in Army Recruitment

4642. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of rampant corruption and bribery in the regional recruitment centres of the army;

(b) if so, the region-wise number of such complaints received during the last two years and the number of army officers found involved therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the concrete arrangements made by the Government to bring transparency in recruitment in Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) It is not true that there is rampant corruption and bribery in the regional recruitment centres of the Army. However, some complaints have been received from time to time relating to recruitment in the Army.

2. Complaints are received by and large against Zonal Recruitment Offices (ZRO)/Branch Recruiting Offices (BRO). ZRO/BRO wide details are not being maintained. However, a total number of 82 complaints were received in the year 1999 and 102 complaints were received in the year 2000. All the complaints were promptly investigated and varying scales of punishment such as reprimand, fine, reduction of rank, rigorous imprisonment, dismissal from service were awarded. The number of Army personnel found guilty are given below :-

Year	Name of Zonal Recruiting Office	No. of Army personnel found guilty
1999	HQ Recruiting Zone, Kolkata	1
1999	HQ Recruiting Zone, Ambala	1
1999	HQ Recruiting Zone, Jalandhar	2
2000	HQ Recruiting Zone, Chennai	1
2000	HQ Recruiting Zone, Kolkata	3
2000	Mahar Regimental Centre, Saugor	1

3. In addition to prompt investigation of the complaints received and award of suitable punishment to those found guilty, various steps have been taken to streamline the process of recruitment with a view to curbing corruption.

4. The new recruitment system which was introduced with effect from 1st April, 1998 is more transparent to the public. The main features of the policy are as follows :-

- (i) The entire recruitment process is completed at rally site in the presence of a Board of Officers.
- (ii) Branch Recruiting Office in whose location/area of responsibility rally is being held is not involved in recruitment. Instead complete recruitment is done by Recruitment team detailed from other Branch Recruiting Offices.

- (iii) Candidates do not have to make a number of trips to Branch Recruiting Offices locations.
- (iv) This system is open, transparent, totally fair and candidate friendly.
- (v) Written test is evaluated by a Board of Officers.

Legislation for Medical Practitioners

4643. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact any legislation to safeguard the interest of medical practitioners, holding integrated degrees/diplomas (under the Ancient and Modern System of Medicines) awarded by the Centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by when a new legislation is likely to be enacted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) A person enrolled on the State Register of Indian medicine or Central Register of Indian Medicine can practice Indian Medicine. However, according to the Supreme Court Order dated 13.9.1998 in the case of Sh. Mukhtiar Chand and others Vs. Integrated course, recognised by any State Act as being sufficient for registration in the State Medical Register will not be affected by the prohibitions contained in Section 15(2) (b) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. However, the position prevailing in different States is being collected.

Dwelling Units Destroyed in Bhuj by Earthquake

4644. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dwelling units which were constructed by the Defence Contractor in Air Force Station, Bhuj, which was destroyed in the recent earthquake; and

(b) the action taken against the erring Defence Contractor and the steps being taken to compensate the Air Force personnel for losses suffered and to prevent such occurrence in defence residential establishments?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) At the Air Force Station, Bhuj, which was established in 1966, about 194 dwelling units, constructed by the Defence Contractors, were destroyed in the recent earthquake, in January, 2001.

Since 1966, various categories of dwelling units were constructed, in a phased manner, as per design parameters of the buildings, prepared and approved by the qualified engineers of Military Engineering Service (MES). The construction work was executed under the supervision of MES by the approved qualified contractors.

Once the buildings are taken over, after verifying the contractual specifications and particularly, after expiry of guarantee period, it is difficult to pin-point construction errors, imputable against the contractors and therefore, it is not proposed to take action against the contractors. No compensation has been paid in this regard by the Government.

The National Building Code of India, containing specifications on constructing earthquake-resistant dwelling units, was formulated only in 1984. Since then, possible precautions have been taken, as per the technology and material available, at the time of construction, to make the units earthquake resistant.

CGHS Dispensaries

4645. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of CGHS Allopathic, Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic Dispensaries functioning in Delhi as on March 31, 2001;

(b) the number of retired Central Government Employees living in the area not covered by these CGHS Dispensaries and getting Medical allowance in lieu of proper CGHS facilities;

(c) the ratio of CGHS Dispensaries vis-a-vis the number of beneficiaries in reach of the Dispensary;

(d) the doctor patient ratio in each of the dispensary; and

(e) the details of the Schemes Government propose to implement to enhance the coverage of its retired employees by CGHS medical dispensaries to provide proper medical facilities to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The System wise information is as under :-

S.No.	System	Dispensaries
1.	Allopathy	87
2.	Homoeopathic	3
3.	Ayurvedic	5

(b) The number is not available with the CGHS. Only number of CGHS cardholders are available.

(c) The average ratio of CGHS dispensaries vis-a-vis the number of CGHS beneficiaries is 1:20988.5. The dispensary-wise number of CGHS beneficiaries is given in statement-I attached.

(d) The information is given in statement attached,

(e) Though there are proposals to open more dispensaries under CGHS in Delhi in the remaining part of the 9th Five Year Plan, but pending implementation of the SIU Report of November, 1999, as also due to constraints of resources and manpower, it will not be possible for the CGHS to open new dispensaries in Delhi at present.

Statment-I

The Number of CGHS Beneficiaries registered in each Dispensary as on 31.12.2000

S.No.	Name of the Dispensaries	Number of Beneficiaries
1	2	3
1.	Andrewsganj	16569
2.	Dakshinpuri	57747
3.	Hauzkhas	18660
4.	Jungpura	7590
5.	Kalkaji-I	22610
6.	Kalkaji-II	18438
7.	Kasturba Nagar I	17392
8.	Kasturba Nagar II	14112
9.	Kidwai Nagar	29102
10.	Laxmibai Nagar	11792
11.	Lajpat Nagar	8193
12.	Motibagh	11474
13.	Munirka	17990
14.	Malviya Nagar	11732
15.	Nanakpura	14060
16.	Naurojnagar	12064
17.	Netaji Nagar	17231
18.	R.K. Puram I	26282
19.	R.K. Puram II	20823
20.	R.K. Puram III	28951

1	2	3
21.	R.K. Puram IV	16972
22.	R.K. Puram V	22508
23.	R.K. Puram VI	14151
24.	Sarojini Nagar I	10750
25.	Sarojini Nagar II	7428
26.	Sarojini Nagar Market	7914
27.	Sadiq Nagar	16406
28.	Srinivas Puri	36622
29.	M.B. Road	35095
30.	Vivek Vihar	17382
31.	G.K.G.	3562
32.	Rajpur Road	18259
33.	Laxminagar	43259
34.	Shahdra	46397
35.	Mayur Vihar	64750
36.	Yamuna Vihar	52663
37.	Pul Bangash	7973
38.	Subzi Mandi	13209
39.	Daryaganj	11595
40.	Kingsway Camp	90031
41.	Timar Pur	24060
42.	Chandni Chowk	6081
43.	Dilshad Garden	10701
44.	Ashok Vihar	18779
45.	Delhi Cantt.	28119
46.	Dev Nagar	15013
47.	Hari Nagar	27200
48.	Indar Puri	17928
49.	Janak Puri I	58124
50.	Janak Puri II	17522

1	2	3
51.	Karol Bagh	4522
52.	Naraina	14147
53.	New Rajinder Nagar	9761
54.	Nangal Raya	37525
55.	East Patel Nagar	11270
56.	West Patel Nagar	17125
57.	Pusa Road	5486
58.	Palam Colony	45819
59.	Pitam Pura	27172
60.	Rajouri Garden	19748
61.	Rohini	19526
62.	Pashim Vihar	24183
63.	Shakur Basti	28207
64.	Sundar Vihar	15668
65.	Tilak Nagar	21121
66.	Tri Nagar	5971
67.	All Ganj	23016
68.	Chanakypuri	8658
69.	Chitra Gupta Road	21645

1	2	3
70.	Constitution House	9321
71.	Gole Market	26682
72.	Kali Bari	22193
73.	Lodhi Road	17279
74.	Minto Road	23010
75.	North Avenue	12106
76.	Pahar Ganj	16064
77.	Pandara Road	10668
78.	Pragati Vihar	10703
79.	President Estate	9641
80.	South Avenue	16991
81.	Telegraph Lane	9220
82.	Dr. Zakir Hussain Road	11311
83.	Faridabad	19209
84.	Ghaziabad	41000
85.	Gurgaon	27568
86.	Noida	31991
87.	Moti Nagar	Temporary Closed for want of accommdation

Statement-II

The Number of CGHS Beneficiaries Registered in each Dispensary as on 31.12.2000 and Doctor Patient Ratio

S.No.	Name of the Dispensary	Number of Beneficiaries	No. of Doctors Posted	Doctor Patient Ratio Approx.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andrewsganj	16569	7	2367
2.	Dakshinpuri	57747	6	9625
3.	Hauz khas	18660	6	3110
4.	Jungpura	7590	5	1518
5.	Kalkaji I	22610	7	3230
6.	Kalkaji II	18438	5	3688
7.	Kasturba Nagar I	17392	8	2174
8.	Kasturba Nagar II	14112	5	2822

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Kidwai Nagar	29102	8	3638
10.	Laxmibai Nagar	11792	6	1965
11.	Lajpat Nagar	8193	6	1366
12.	Motibagh	11474	6	1912
13.	Munirka	17990	6	2998
14.	Malviya Nagar	11732	5	2346
15.	Nanakpura	14060	6	2343
16.	Nauroji Nagar	12064	6	2010
17.	Netaji Nagar	17231	7	2462
18.	R.K. Puram I	26282	8	3285
19.	R.K. Puram II	20823	5	4165
20.	R.K. Puram III	28951	7	4136
21.	R.K. Puram IV	16972	7	2425
22.	R.K. Puram V	22508	6	3751
23.	R.K. Puram VI	14151	5	2830
24.	Sarojini Nagar I	10750	5	2150
25.	Sarojini Nagar II	7428	5	1486
26.	Sarojini Nagar Market	7914	6	1319
27.	Sadiq Nagar	16406	6	2734
28.	Srinivas Puri	36622	9	4069
29.	M.B. Road	35095	8	4387
30.	Vivek Vihar	17382	5	3476
31.	G.K.G.	3562	5	7124
32.	Rajpur Road	18259	3	6090
33.	Laxminagar	43259	7	6180
34.	Shahdra	46397	6	7733
35.	Mayur Vihar	64750	7	9250
36.	Yamuna Vihar	52663	5	10533
37.	Pul Bangash	7973	4	1993

1	2	3	4	5
38.	Subzi Mandi	13209	6	2202
39.	Daryaganj	11595	7	1656
40.	Kingsway Camp	90031	12	7503
41.	Timar Pur	24060	12	2005
42.	Chandni Chowk	6081	4	1520
43.	Dilshad Garden	10701	5	1402
44.	Ashok Vihar	18779	8	2347
45.	Delhi Cantt.	28119	6	4687
46.	Dev Nagar	15013	6	2502
47.	Hari Nagar	27200	7	3886
48.	Indar Puri	17928	6	2933
49.	Janak Puri I	58124	9	6458
50.	Janak Puri II	17522	6	2920
51.	Karol Bagh	4522	4	1131
52.	Naraina	14147	4	3537
53.	New Rajinder Nagar	9761	5	1952
54.	Nangal Raya	37525	7	5361
55.	East Patel Nagar	11270	6	1878
56.	West Patel Nagar	17125	5	3425
57.	Pusa Road	5486	4	1372
58.	Palam Colony	45819	7	6546
59.	Pitam Pura	27172	5	5434
60.	Rajouri Garden	19748	8	2469
61.	Rohini	19526	5	3905
62.	Paschim Vihar	24183	7	3455
63.	Shakur Basti	28207	7	4030
64.	Sundar Vihar	15668	5	3134
65.	Tilak Nagar	21121	8	2640
66.	Tri Nagar	5971	5	1194

1	2	3	4	5
67.	Ali Ganj	23016	5	4603
68.	Chanakypuri	8658	4	2165
69.	Chitra Gupta Road	21645	6	3608
70.	Constitution House	9321	5	1864
71.	Gole Market	26682	5	5336
72.	Kali Bari	22193	4	5548
73.	Lodhi Road	17279	6	2880
74.	Minto Road	23010	6	3835
75.	North Avenue	12106	6	2018
76.	Pahar Ganj	16064	5	3213
77.	Pandara Road	10668	5	2134
78.	Pragati Vihar	10703	4	2676
79.	President Estate	9641	4	2410
80.	South Avenue	16991	5	3398
81.	Telegraph Lane	9220	5	1844
82.	Dr. Zakir Hussain Road	11311	6	1885
83.	Faridabad	19209	5	3842
84.	Ghaziabad	41000	6	6833
85.	Gurgaon	27568	6	4595
86.	Noida	31991	6	5332
87.	Moti Nagar	Temporarily Closed for want of accommodation	-	-

Population Control

4646. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to popularise one-child norm to check the increase in population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other alternative measures being made by the Government to control the explosive increase in the population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India has adopted the National Population Policy, 2000 (NPP 2000) which provides a multi-sectoral agenda for population stabilization within the country. The NPP 2000 enumerates 14 national demographic goals, sought to be achieved by 2010. The NPP 2000 sees as its immediate objective a focus upon addressing the unmet needs for contraceptives, health care infrastructure, and health care personnel and to provide integrated service

delivery for basic reproductive and child health care. Its medium-term objective is to bring about reductions in the total fertility rate to replacement levels by 2010 and the long-term objective is to achieve a stable population within India, by 2045.

The NPP 2000 enumerates over 100 interventions under the 12 strategic themes of decentralization, convergence of service delivery at village levels, empowering women for improved health and nutrition, meeting the unmet needs for family welfare services, provisioning for diverse health care providers, collaboration with and commitments from non-government Organisations and the private sector, mainstreaming Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy, encouraging contraceptive technology on reproductive and child health and augmenting IEC.

Since there is striking diversity in the demographic transition among the 32 States and UTs, an Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted presided over by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, in order to pay focussed attention to the 8 States of UP, Bihar, MP, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand.

[Translation]

Special Package for SSI

4647. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has announced any special package for the small scale industries recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps initiated by the Government for implementation of the said package;
- (d) the manner in which SSIs are likely to be benefited therefrom; and
- (e) the number of States likely to be covered under the said package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Hon'ble Prime Minister

had announced a Comprehensive Policy Package on 30th August, 2000 to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The policy package *inter-alia* includes fiscal incentives, easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

(c) A number of steps have been taken towards implementation of the package. These include enhancement of excise exemption limit, capital subsidy of 12% for technology upgradation, increase in investment limit in respect of industry related service and business enterprises, enhancement of limit of collateral free composite loans; extension of Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme to all areas, enhancement of limit of funding under the National Equity Fund Scheme of SIDBI from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs etc.

(d) The package will help enhance competitiveness of the small sector and equip it to meet the challenges of liberalisation and globalisation.

(e) The policy package is applicable for the country as a whole.

Voluntary Organisations

4648. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether several voluntary organisations have been given funds under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for construction of latrines;
- (b) if so, the names of those Voluntary Organisations and the names and details of their founders, the amount paid to them in advance and the Parliamentary constituencies in which the construction works have been entrusted;
- (c) whether the lavatory construction work entrusted has been completed by these organisations in time and satisfactorily;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details of the voluntary organisations who have been blacklisted by some State Governments for irregularities committed in construction work; and
- (f) if so, the reasons for entrusting them again the construction work of toilets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines, implementing agencies can be either Government or Panchayati Raj Institutions or any other reputed non-Governmental organisation who may be considered by the District Heads as capable of implementing the works satisfactorily. Therefore works under MPLADS can be entrusted to an NGO that fulfils the above requirements.

(c) to (f) Details of work taken up under MPLADS, and implementing agencies are maintained by district authorities and are available with them.

[English]

Negligence of Doctors

4649. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU :

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to give power to Indian Medical Council to look into the case of negligence on the part of Doctors;

(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 (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The doctors registered with the Medical Council of India/State Medical Councils are required to follow the Code of Medical Ethics prescribed by the Medical Council of India. The Medical Council of India have also submitted a proposal to the Central Government to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 for establishment of an Ethics-cum-Disciplinary Committee to deal with all questions relating to maintenance of the standards of medical conduct, Etiquette and Code of Medical Ethics by medical practitioners. This Committee will also function as the appellate authority over the State Disciplinary Committee.

Test Firing of Anti-Ship Missile by Pak

4650. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the context of missile tests, including that of Agni-II, Pakistan has test-fired an anti-ship missile from a newly acquired French Submarine;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Pakistan missile test has added a new dimension to India's security concern; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The available information indicates that Pakistan test fired SM-39 Missile at a de-commissioned Pakistani ship in March, 2001.

(c) and (d) Necessary measures have been taken to meet the threat to the national security.

Post Based Rosters in place of Vacancy Based Rosters

4651. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the services i.e. Class I, II, III and IV category/grade under the Ministry of Health and Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous/Attached/Subordinate organisation under its control where the representation of persons belonging to the SC/ST categories has reached the prescribed percentage of reservation and because of which 'Post Based Rosters' have been introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters'; and

(b) the reasons if 'Post Based Rosters' are introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters' in those categories of services also where representation has not reached the prescribed percentage of reservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Indian Nursing Council

4652. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'SC/ST Parliamentarians' in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on December 17, 1996, September 1, 1997 and July 23, 1998 have demanded appointment/posting of persons belonging to the SCs/STs in posts such as Chief Executives, Functional

Directors, Part-Time Chairman and Official/Non-Official Members of the Board of Management of Public Sector Undertakings and Enterprises under Government of India;

(b) if so, action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of persons appointed/posted to the above referred posts in Indian Nursing Council falling under the Ministry of Health during the last three years;

(d) the number of persons belonging to the SCs/ STs among them and their percentage as compared to the total number of posts referred to above; and

(e) the reasons, if the above referred demand of SC/ST MPs is not met satisfactorily?

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

Operation Knowledge

4653. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any comprehensive plan for strengthening operation knowledge;

(b) if so, the salient features of such programmes; and

(c) the manner in which it is likely to strengthen the economy?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) It is estimated that about 7.77 lakh IT professionals at the high end would be required by 2008. Operation Knowledge is essentially a strategy to bridge the gap of IT professionals both in India and abroad which aims at doubling the intake in IT related engineering disciplines in 2001 and tripling it in 2003. 1999 has been taken as the base year when the intake in IT related engineering disciplines was 70,000. Consequently, this is proposed to be doubled to 1,40,000 by 2001 and 2,10,000 by 2003. In order to achieve this objective, the Government has set up a Task Force to address this issue. The Task Force has submitted its interim report wherein it has made forty-seven (47) specific recommendations to ensure adequate supply of manpower for the Information Technology sector. The recommendations are aimed at increasing the availability of quality IT manpower in the country and to help Indian Software Services Sector to increase its productivity and move up the value chain, enabling

the country to achieve targeted annual revenue of US \$ 87 billion including US \$ 50 billion through exports in Software & Services sector in the year 2008.

Visit of US Delegation

4654. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of US Congress visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the issues discussed with the delegation; and

(d) the extent to which this visit is likely to strengthen the ties between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A four-member delegation of the U.S. Congress visited India from February 17-21, 2001. The main purpose of the visit was to express solidarity with India in the aftermath of the Gujarat earthquake.

(c) The delegation had meetings with Chief Minister of Gujarat as well as senior officials of the State Government dealing with relief and rehabilitation in Gujarat. They also called on the Prime Minister in New Delhi during which they assured him of the continued bi-partisan support for close Indo-U.S. relations. They also suggested that the federal emergency response system prevailing in the United States to deal with natural disasters could be of interest to India.

(d) The visit was part of continuing interactions at all levels of government between India and the United States which contribute to strengthening the ties between the two countries.

HIV/AIDS Drugs at an Affordable Cost

4655. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) whether the Government have sought the help

of U.K. to keep essential drugs like HIV/AIDS out of the purview of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime under WTO so that they will be available at an affordable cost;

(b) if so, the reaction of the U.K. in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have received financial assistance from abroad for the AIDS control;

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

(e) the total amount provided to each State during the last three years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have received financial assistance from abroad for the AIDS control and country wide details is as follows :-

Rs. in million	
IDA Credit (1999-2004)	11550
USAID	1660
DFID	1040

In addition CIDA is providing financial assistance of 12 million Canadian \$.

(e) The statement for total amount provided to each state during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

National AIDS Control Programme Utilisation of Funds

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	1998-99 Grants Released	1999-2000 Grants Released	2000-2001 Grants Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	650.00	1219.67	824.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30.00	159.00	111.00
3.	Assam	100.00	322.00	375.00
4.	Bihar	110.00	55.00	196.00

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Goa	35.00	98.00	72.73
6.	Gujarat	230.00	721.00	347.17
7.	Haryana	160.00	270.00	246.50
8.	Himachal Pradesh	115.00	318.00	282.50
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	25.00	25.00	152.00
10.	Karnataka	335.00	801.67	398.65
11.	Kerala	65.00	280.00	350.63
12.	Madhya Pradesh	315.00	352.31	542.00
13.	Maharashtra	800.00	998.35	852.00
14.	Manipur	245.00	352.38	415.30
15.	Meghalaya	30.00	70.14	87.50
16.	Mizoram	100.00	168.00	179.00
17.	Nagaland	227.00	380.00	250.50
18.	Orissa	100.00	200.00	358.50
19.	Punjab	150.00	312.39	321.50
20.	Rajasthan	100.00	150.00	380.00
21.	Sikkim	50.00	25.00	66.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	800.00	883.09	1108.30
23.	Tripura	20.00	50.00	92.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	200.00	851.00	1175.00
25.	West Bengal	350.00	425.00	643.15
26.	Delhi	110.00	283.00	239.00
27.	Pondicherry	40.00	25.00	21.50
28.	A&N Islands	20.00	50.00	66.44
29.	Chandigarh	60.00	115.00	93.11
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		25.00	9.00
31.	Daman & Diu	15.00	95.00	9.00
32.	Lakshadweep		25.00	9.16
33.	MDACS Mumbai	350.00	670.00	431.65
34.	Ahemdabad MC	5.00	75.00	84.61
35.	Chennai MC		125.00	101.50
Total		5942.00	10975.00	10872.40

Sino-India Ties

4656. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Chinese delegations visited and are scheduled to visit India, for study in trade, industry, agriculture and other fields;

(b) If so, the details of Chinese Study teams which visited this year;

(c) whether any reciprocatory teams have been and are being sponsored by the Union Government to visit China to secure Chinese co-operation in different fields; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The following delegations have visited India this year –

A delegation led by Mr. Liu Chengguo, Chinese Vice-Minister for Agriculture visited India from February 6-12, 2001 to make a comparative study of poverty alleviation programmes in India and China.

A Chinese delegation from Sichuan Province led by Party Secretary, Mr. Zhou Yongkang visited India from February 27-March 2, 2001 to explore opportunities for economic co-operation.

A Chinese delegation from Hebei Province led by Vice-Governor, Mr. He Shaocun visited India from April 9-14, 2001 to explore opportunities for economic co-operation.

(c) and (d) India and China have set up a number of mechanisms to expand bilateral relations in diverse fields. These include the India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG), India-China Sub-Committee on Science & Technology under JEG, Cultural Exchange Programme, Working Groups on coal and steel, institutional exchanges between FICCI and China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and between Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) and CCPIT.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Educational Colleges

4657. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of medical colleges that have been recognised in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether certain medical colleges have been recognised which do not fulfil the prescribed criteria; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken against such colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) One medical college in Uttar Pradesh was granted recognition during the last three years. During the same period no medical college in Madhya Pradesh was granted recognition.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Reduction in Number of Posts

4658. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Ministries and Departments of the Government of India as on date;

(b) the number of employees employed in those Ministries/Departments, as on date, category wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the number of employees belonging to Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' and merge the Ministries and Departments having similar nature of work and functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) As on 28 February, 2001, there were 41 Ministries and 56 Departments in the Government of India. 56 Departments included 48 Departments which form part of 17 Ministries.

(b) As per the information available with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure), the Group-wise estimated strength of Central Government (civil) staff including the employees of Union Territories as on 1 March, 2000 is as under :

Group	Estimated Strength
'A'	77,680
'B'	1,74,675
'C'	23,87,625
'D'	11,36,686
Total	37,76,666

(c) and (d) Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) has been issuing instructions from time to time to control creation of Plan and Non-Plan posts and thereby to reduce the expenditure on establishment. In August, 1999, instructions were issued by that Ministry to all the Ministries/Departments, inter alia, to undertake a review of all the posts which were lying vacant in the Ministries/Departments and in their Attached and Subordinate Offices, etc. in consultation with the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). These instructions envisage that till the review is completed, no vacant posts will be filled up except with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure). Further, such Ministries/Departments as had not fully implemented the Government's decision to achieve 10% reduction in the number of posts (as on 1.1.1992) were asked to implement that decision immediately. According to the information available with the Ministry of Finance, approximately 1.83 lakh posts, pertaining to different Groups, have been abolished in various Ministries/Departments as a result of this exercise. In the recent past, three Departments, namely, Department of Industrial Development, Department of Sugar and Edible Oils, and the Department of Supply have been abolished/merged. In addition, the Departments of Telecom Services and Telecom Operations have been corporatised with effect from 1 October, 2000.

[English]

Impact of U.S. Economy on Software Companies

4659. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India's leading software companies are likely to be affected by the slow down in the US economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the amount spent on the Research and Development in Software sector; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to make the country the global leader in this particular field?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) It is too early to judge the effect of the slowdown in the US economy on India's leading Software companies. Indications, however, seem to suggest that export of on-site services is likely to be affected to some extent. However, outsourcing of Software services by US companies is likely to go up. On the balance it is expected that the Indian Software industry will continue to maintain a healthy rate of growth in future.

(d) Globally, the Software Sector spends around 10% of its revenue on R&D. However, the figure in the case of India is estimated to be significantly lower.

(e) The steps taken by the Government are given in the statement attached.

Statement

Incentives for Software Sector

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) has been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.

2. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.

3. Powers of approval of the Designated Officers of MIT for implementation of STP scheme have been further enhanced upto US\$ 20 million.

4. Accelerated depreciation norms for computers and computer peripherals for units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP) have been enhanced. These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years instead of around 5 years earlier.

5. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for software units under EOU/STP schemes.

6. In the 2000-01 Budget, Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals had been reduced from 20% to 15% and continues to be same. The Customs duty on all storage devices, integrated circuits, microprocessors, data

display tubes and deflection components of colour monitors also continues at 0%. In the 2001-02 Budget, Customs duty on Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items of WTO (IT and Telecom products) has been reduced from existing 20-25% to 15%.

7. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.

8. EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are exempted from payment of Income Tax on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Section 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act. On site development of computer software and services will also be eligible for tax exemption.

9. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act has been widened to include transmission of data.

10. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.

11. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been extended to the IT sector.

12. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund or Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income.

13. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

14. There will be no tax on distributed or undistributed income of Venture Capital Funds. The income distributed by the VCFs will only be taxed in the hands of the investors at the rates applicable to the nature of the income. VCFs will continue to be eligible for exemption even if the shares of the VC undertaking in which the VCFs have made the initial investment are subsequently listed in a recognised stock exchange in India.

15. Under Policy on portfolio investment, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are permitted to invest in a company upto an aggregate of 24% of equity shares, extendable upto 40% subject to approvals. This limit has been raised from 40% to 49% in the Budget 2001-02.

16. Under the Employees Stock Option Scheme,

income tax payable on income from GDRs purchased in foreign currency by a resident employee of IT software and service companies, shall be at a concessional rate of 10%.

17. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80I-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.

18. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can now be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.

19. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

20. Information Technology Act 2000 has been enacted. This act deals with Cyber Security, Cyber crime and other information security related legal aspects. This will encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

Dave Committee Recommendations

4660. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dave Committee had recommended curtailment of existing social security benefits for the employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tripartite Central Board of Trustees of the E.P.F have unanimously rejected the Dave Committee report (Expert Committee);

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is pursuing the recommendations of Dave Committee despite its rejection by Board of Trustees of the E.P.F., Ministry of Labour; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government against the curtailment of social benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Dave Committee has recommended some measures to reform the existing income security systems for Government employees and a new old age income security system for workers in the unorganized sector.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Trustees, EPF, in its meeting held on 8.2.2000, rejected all the recommendations made by the Dave Committee in respect of the Employees Provident Fund and Employees Pension Scheme.

(e) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, being the nodal Ministry for welfare of older persons, is exploring the possibility of setting up a social security system that may benefit all workers during their old age in light of recommendations of the Dave Committee made in this regard.

(f) In view of reply to parts (a) & (b), the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Anti-Corruption Unit

4661. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an anti-corruption unit has been set up in the Prime Minister Office;

(b) if so, the date on which it was set up, alongwith the number of details of complaints received since its inception, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken on these complaints so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise till date with percentage of disposal during each month; and

(e) the details of pending cases as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Anti-Corruption Unit in Prime Minister's Office was set up on 17-08-1997. The Anti-Corruption Unit has received a total number of 6659 complaints since its inception till 16th April, 2001.

(c) to (e) Complaints relating to the Government of India are sent to the designated nodal officers of the rank of Joint Secretary in each Ministry/Department, who have been given responsibility to coordinate action on such complaints. The concerned Ministries/Departments furnish fortnightly feedback reports to the Prime Minister's Office, cleared at the level of the Administrative Secretary, who is responsible for time-bound inquiries and investigations. Complaints, which relate to the State Government officials are forwarded through letters addressed to the Chief Secretary to the concerned State. The State Government are to undertake necessary inquiries.

Out of the total number of 6669 complaints received, 1657 complaints have been referred to the State Governments. Out of these, feedback has been received in 504 cases from the State Govt. In respect of remaining 1153 cases, feedback has not been received. The details of the cases referred to the State Governments is given at statement.

Statement

S.No.	State	No. of complaints referred to State	Cases which (closed)	Feed Back Received (in process)	Cases in which Feed Back not received
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	21	9	2	10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	53	5	15	33
3.	Assam	15	3	1	11
4.	Bihar	172	1	28	143
5.	Chandigarh	13	4	1	8
6.	Delhi	198	67	36	95

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	2	0	0
8.	Goa	7	1	2	4
9.	Gujarat	19	3	2	14
10.	Haryana	71	11	19	41
11.	Himachal Pradesh	15	0	0	15
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	1	1	6
13.	Karnataka	22	5	15	2
14.	Kerala	9	1	1	7
15.	Lakshadweep	1	0	0	1
16.	Maharashtra	69	5	3	61
17.	Meghalaya	2	0	1	1
18.	Mizoram	4	0	0	4
19.	Manipur	7	1	1	5
20.	Madhya Pradesh	162	10	29	123
21.	Orissa	65	7	40	18
22.	Pondicherry	3	1	0	2
23.	Punjab	114	9	9	96
24.	Rajasthan	116	17	10	89
25.	Sikkim	4	0	0	4
26.	Tamil Nadu	53	10	22	21
27.	Tripura	1	1	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	411	34	50	327
29.	West Bengal	20	2	6	12
		1657	210	294	1153

[English]

the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi, if so, the reasons therefor;

CGHS Dispensaries

(b) whether Dispensary No.48 is also one of them;

4662. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(c) the minimum number of beneficiaries required to open a new CGHS dispensary and the total number of beneficiaries attached to each dispensary in Delhi including Dispensary No.48;

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift some of

(d) whether it is a fact that the said dispensary (No.48) was retained in the present government flats only after a comprehensive survey of the entire area was made by the CGHS Directorate and this place was found to be the most suitable place being the central place;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the present dispensary has existed in the present place for the last 20 years and a full generation of beneficiaries have become senior citizens who will not be able to avail of the benefits of CGHS in the proposed place of shifting as they will be requiring one person to accompany them; and

(f) if so, the corrective steps taken/being taken to mitigate the problems of senior citizens, beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) At present there are proposals for shifting the CGHS dispensaries functioning at Pushp Vihar, Minto Road and Dev Nagar.

The CGHS Dispensary at Pushpa Vihar is presently functioning in Government flat allotted by Directorate of Estates and the same would be shifted to the CGHS own building in the area as and when the CPWD hands over possession of the building which is almost ready for occupation pending issue of completion certificate by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The existing CGHS Dispensary building at Minto Road is to be demolished and the existing CGHS dispensary building at Dev Nagar has been declared dangerous. Therefore, both these dispensaries are to be shifted to alternative premises as and when alternative space is allotted to the CGHS by the Directorate of Estates.

(b) The CGHS Dispensary No.48, which was earlier functioning in DDA flat, Mayapuri, has already been shifted in February, 2001, to CGHS' own building in the area.

(c) As per the norms fixed in the SIU Report of November, 1999, for opening of a new CGHS Allopathic dispensary, there should be minimum of 2000 cardholders in the area which comes to approximately 10,000 beneficiaries. The information regarding the number of beneficiaries attached to each CGHS dispensary in Delhi is given in the statement attached.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. However, consequent upon possession of CGHS own building constructed for dispensary purposes in the area, in lieu of the CGHS dispensary at Mayapuri which was being run in a DDA Flat, the same has been shifted to its new location. The new premises of the dispensary is within the demarcated area of the dispensary

and is within approachable distance for all the beneficiaries attached to the dispensary and therefore the question of any inconvenience in this regard does not arise.

(f) In view of (d) and (e) above, the question does not arise.

Statement

The number of CGHS Beneficiaries registered in each Dispensary as on 31.12.2000

S.No.	Name of the Dispensary	Number of Beneficiaries
1	2	3
1.	Andrewsganj	16569
2.	Dakshinpuri	57747
3.	Hauzkhas	18660
4.	Jungpura	7590
5.	Kalkaji I	22610
6.	Kalkaji II	18438
7.	Kasturba Nagar I	17392
8.	Kasturba Nagar II	14112
9.	Kidwai Nagar	29102
10.	Laxmibai Nagar	11792
11.	Lajpat Nagar	8193
12.	Motibagh	11474
13.	Munirka	17990
14.	Malviya Nagar	11732
15.	Nanakpura	14060
16.	Naurojinagar	12064
17.	Netaji Nagar	17231
18.	R.K. Puram I	26282
19.	R.K. Puram II	20823
20.	R.K. Puram III	28951
21.	R.K. Puram IV	16972
22.	R.K. Puram V	22508

1	2	3
23.	R.K. Puram VI	14151
24.	Sarojini Nagar I	10750
25.	Sarojini Nagar II	7428
26.	Sarojini Nagar Market	7914
27.	Sadiq Nagar	16406
28.	Srinivas Puri	36622
29.	M.B. Road	35095
30.	Vivek Vihar	17382
31.	G.K.G.	3562
32.	Rajpur Road	18259
33.	Laxminagar	43259
34.	Shahdara	46397
35.	Mayur Vihar	64750
36.	Yamuna Vihar	52663
37.	Pul Bangash	7973
38.	Subzi Mandi	13209
39.	Daryaganj	11595
40.	Kingsway Camp	90031
41.	Timar Pur	24060
42.	Chandni Chowk	6081
43.	Dilshad Garden	10701
44.	Ashok Vihar	18779
45.	Delhi Cantt.	28119
46.	Dev Nagar	15013
47.	Hari Nagar	27200
48.	Indar Puri	17928
49.	Janak Puri I	58124
50.	Janak Puri II	17522

1	2	3
51.	Karol Bagh	4522
52.	Naraina	14147
53.	New Rajinder Nagar	9761
54.	Nangal Raya	37525
55.	East Patel Nagar	11270
56.	West Patel Nagar	17125
57.	Pusa Road	5486
58.	Palam Colony	45819
59.	Pitam Pura	27172
60.	Rajouri Garden	19748
61.	Rohini	19526
62.	Pashimi Vihar	24183
63.	Shakur Basti	28207
64.	Sundar Vihar	15668
65.	Tilak Nagar	21121
66.	Tri Nagar	5971
67.	Ali Ganj	23016
68.	Chanakypuri	8658
69.	Chitr Gupta Road	21645
70.	Constitution House	9321
71.	Gole Market	26682
72.	Kali Bari	22193
73.	Lodhi Road	17279
74.	Minto Road	23010
75.	North Avenue	12106
76.	Pahar Ganj	16064
77.	Pandara Road	10668
78.	Pragati Vihar	10703
79.	President Estate	9641
80.	South Avenue	16991

1	2	3
81.	Telegraph Lane	9220
82.	Dr. Zakir Hussain Road	11311
83.	Faridabad	19209
84.	Ghaziabad	41000
85.	Gurgaon	27568
86.	Noida	31991
87.	Moti Nagar	Temporarily Closed for want of accommodation.

Health Problem of Labourers in Andhra Pradesh

4663. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the role of the National Institute for Occupational Health;

(b) whether the NIOH (ICMR) have conducted any surveys of the health problems of workers;

(c) if so, the details of the outcome thereof, State-wise particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether any camps have also been done by the Institute to observe and watch such ailments; and

(e) if so, the details of camps held, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The objectives of the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad are to provide a safe, healthy and comfortable environment for work and living through multidisciplinary approach. For the purpose, the institute has undertaken Research, Education and Services.

(b) NIOH has conducted many surveys on health problems of workers in various industries.

(c) The details of the surveys and their outcome State-wise has been furnished in the Statement attached.

(d) and (e) This institute does not organize health camps, but conduct training programmes and awareness programmes for workers in industries to create awareness about occupational health problems and how preventive measures could be taken.

Statement

State/District	Epidemiological Study	Outcome/Findings	Control Measures/Recommendations
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh :			
(1) Asbestos Mines in Cudappah District	Prevalence of Asbestosis in Asbestos Mines ¹	Dust levels 2-244 times more than TLV (2 fibre/ml) Prevalence of Asbestosis - 11.5% Milling - 21.1% Mining - 3.3% Prevalence was found to increase with increase in duration of exposure	Intervention Measures adapted in Asbestosis Milling Unit 3 Partial enclosures of jaw crusher, edge runner, vibrator & conveyer, along with Training in Health Education Programme with regard to use of respiratory mask & protective clothing Dust levels came down to below the Threshold Limit Value (TLV) of 2 fiber/ml
Andhra Pradesh :			
(2) Asbestos Mines in Cudappah District	Immunological Profile of Workers having Asbestosis ²	Anti-nuclear factor (ANF), IgG, IgA in asbestosis cases and non-asbestosis cases in controls—CIC of IgG, IgA, IgM significantly higher in exposed than in controls.	
Andhra Pradesh :			
(3) East Godavari District	Occupational Health Problems among Workers handling Virginia tobacco 6.7.8.9	"Green Symptoms" was found to be a major occupational health problem among the tobacco harvesters The symptoms included weakness, giddin, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, etc.	Workers were advised to use gloves during harvesting/cultivation

1	2	3	4
		<p>The prevalence rate was high (53.29%) as reported by 289 tobacco workers</p> <p>Urinary excretion rate of Nicotine and its major metabolite cotinine increased significantly among the subject suffering from Green Symptoms</p>	
Andhra Pradesh			
(4) Organophosphate Manufacturing & Formulating Plants, Medak District	(A) Health Monitoring of Workers Manufacturing and Formulating Insecticides ⁴	<p>Exposure-related morbidity :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neurological - 21.21% - Eye - 20.6% - Skin Irritation - 34.5% - Big Joint pain - 64.84% <p>Production & Formulation workers showed decrease in Plasma Cholinesterase Reduction on X-Ray</p> <p>Reduction on Serum IgA</p> <p>Increased CIC of IgG in workers having joint pain</p>	Suitable personal protective equipment have recommended for use.
	(B) Evaluation of Joints Problem among Pesticide manufacturing Plant Workers ⁵	<p>Multiple joint affection in exposed Large joint affection in controls</p> <p>Physical activity - aggravating factor</p> <p>Inhibition of whole blood ACHE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decreased Serum IgG - Increased Serum C-4 in exposed group - Urinary and Serum Fluoride levels suggested that Fluorosis could not be a causative factor 	
Gujarat State			
(5)	A Health Survey of Tobacco Harvesters ¹⁰	<p>Tobacco workers engaged in tobacco cultivation and harvesting come in contact with tobacco leaves and tobacco plants and absorb Nicotine through the skin.</p> <p>Nicotine acts as ganglion and produce acute or chronic toxic effects. Because of the acute toxicity of nicotine, tobacco workers suffer from nausea, vomiting, giddiness, headache, tiredness etc., which is called "Green Tobacco - Sickness" (GTTS).</p>	In order to prevent green tobacco sickness, suitable gloves are recommended which significantly reduce the absorption of nicotine through the skin. Trials of different types of gloves (cotton, nylon, polyester with rubber) are under progress to suggest efficacy of the Gloves.
Himachal Pradesh			
(6)	Environmental-cum-medical survey in Cement factory ¹¹	Prevalence of chronic bronchitis, dyspnoea and respiratory tract infection was more in exposed workers as compared to unexposed and community control.	Engineering control devices like electro-static precipitator and scrubbing system were installed.

1	2	3	4
		<p>The prevalence of pulmonary function testing observations (PFT) was higher in exposed and unexposed workers as compared to community control</p> <p>Mean values of total dust were below permissible level (10mg/m³) in plant-I, mining operation at coal yards, but in plant-II at Clinker conveyor and bagging department the levels were higher.</p> <p>Noise levels exceeded 85 dBA at raw mill, workshop and cement mill in both the plants, and more within the prescribed limits in the rest of the premises.</p> <p>The levels of TSP were higher than 200 ugm/m³ upto 1.5 KM radius and RSP higher than 100 ugm/3 upto 1 KM radius distance in the community.</p>	

Madhya Pradesh

(7) Mansoor	Health hazards of Slate pencil workers ^{12 13}	<p>The dust levels were alarmingly high in breathing zones of cutters in big, medium, and small units.</p> <p>Total 39.78, 66.38, 33.25 mg/m³ Respirable - 0.04, 6.78, 15.4 mg/m³ Respiratory systems in 55.5% workers.</p>	Local exhaust system with air purifying system has been developed and installed.
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Gujarat

(8) Anand	Health Status of Agate Industry workers ^{14, 15}	<p>A study in 1987 and follow up in 1993 suggested high prevalence of Silicosis (38%) and high respiratory morbidity in this worker.</p> <p>A study including present agate grinders, past agate grinders, family members and community subjects and control has been initiated in 2000-2001. A new agate-grinding machine is being developed at present.</p>	<p>Appropriate control measures to reduce dust production were developed in collaboration with Gujarat Rural Technology Institution</p> <p>Significant reduction of Total and Respiratory dust levels (70-80%) were achieved.</p> <p>A new agate-grinding machine is being developed and the evaluation of its efficacy has shown encouraging results.</p>
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One-Time Licenses System for Computers

4664. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has any plan to introduce one-time license system, for the use of computers and softwares in the country;

(b) whether the existing software patent system uniformly benefit the large portion of the software industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that only a few core software companies are making heavy operational surplus and profits in India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial steps taken by the Government to curb the gross 'Monopoly' in software Research and Development as well in the software marketing?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Government does not license the use of computers and software. In the case of software, the licensing agreements are executed between the vendor and the customer.

(b) and (c) Currently software is not patentable in India and is protected under the Copyright Act.

(d) No, Sir. Currently 37 companies have a annual export turnover in excess of Rs. 100 crores, 60 companies between Rs. 50 to 100 crores and 180 companies between Rs. 10 to 50 crores.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Government is not aware of any monopoly in Software Research and Development or in Software marketing.

Disciplinary Proceedings

4665. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prescribed time under which the Disciplinary Authority has to take a final decision on the report submitted by the Inquiry Officer against a delinquent officer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have not empowered the Disciplinary Authority to exercise its arbitrary powers in deciding the disciplinary proceedings against a delinquent officer;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasonable period within which the Government have to take decision on the report of the Inquiry Officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (f) No time limit as such has been prescribed in the Rules keeping in view the requirement of consultation with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in disciplinary cases. However, it has been prescribed through executive instructions that it should normally be possible for the disciplinary authority to take a final decision on the inquiry report within a period of three months in respect of cases where consultation with CVC and UPSC is not required. In cases where it is felt that it is not possible to adhere to this time limit, a report may be submitted to the next higher authority indicating the additional period required and reasons for the same. It should also be ensured that cases involving consultation with the CVC and UPSC are disposed of as quickly as possible.

Hepatitis 'B' Immunisation Programme

4666. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to include Hepatitis 'B' in their immunisation programme;

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

(c) whether some underdeveloped countries have included Hepatitis-B in their immunisation programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have made screening of Hepatitis 'C' in the blood banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith instruction so issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have drawn up a Pilot Project for introduction of Hepatitis-B Vaccine under the Universal Immunisation Programme. This project is proposed to be conducted in slums of metropolitan cities and selected rural districts of the country.

(c) and (d) As per World Health Organisation, more than 100 countries including neighbouring countries like China, Indonesia, Thailand, Maldives, Bhutan and Sri Lanka, have included Hepatitis-B Vaccine in their National Immunization Programme. Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh are considering introduction of the vaccine in their programme.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government have made screening of Hepatitis 'C' in the blood banks mandatory under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Notification to this effect, bearing No. GSR. 40 (E), has been issued on 29th January, 2001.

Population Control

4667. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission on Population had undertaken an exercise, following the recent census operation to rank all the districts in different States, on the basis of social, economic and demographic indicators to identify districts requiring intensive efforts for effective control on population growth;

(b) if so, the details of the district identified particularly in Assam and other north-eastern States; and

(c) the plan of action to bring them to the desired demographic level, if any, laid down for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Even before the release of the Census 2001 data the National Commission on Population had made efforts to identify regions/districts which are demographically sensitive because of very high fertility rate vis-a-vis the rest of the country.

(b) Though many other areas may also require infrastructure and other support service, the number of districts of high priority, in view of (a) above, in Assam and other North Eastern States are as under :-

1.	Assam	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9
3.	Manipur	3
4.	Meghalaya	5
5.	Mizoram	1
6.	Nagaland	6

(c) The Plan of Action to bring the identified districts to the desired demographic level is being formulated in consultation with the State/District administrations.

[Translation]

Performance of Heavy Water Plants

4668. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the heavy water plants are making production below their targets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor including the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of the actual production and installed capacity of each plant during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir. The production performance of all operating heavy water plants during the last three years has been excellent.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Heavy water being a strategic material, the figures of actual production are not disclosed. The installed capacities of operating heavy water plants are as follows :

Manuguru	-	185 MT
Kota	-	80 MT
Hazira	-	80 MT
Thal		78 MT
Tuticorin	-	49 MT

[English]

Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research

4669. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Council of Medical Research has released the first comprehensive study of ethical guidelines for biomedical research on human subjects which specially prohibits research on cloning;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued;

(c) the extent to which these guidelines are likely to help the rapidly expanding horizons in the research and biomedical and biotechnological including genetic field;

(d) whether the Government have adopted these guidelines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (f) The Council's revised ethical guidelines for bio-medical research on human subjects was released by Hon'ble Health Minister Dr. C.P. Thakur on 18.10.2000. These revised guidelines are in view of the current advances in science and technology to safeguard the rights of the Human participants. At present, research on human cloning is prohibited in India. Ethical guidelines contains apart from Statement of general Principles on Ethical consideration; chapter on Ethical Review Procedures, General Ethical Issues; Statement of Specific Principle for Clinical Evaluation of Drugs, Devices/Diagnostics/ Vaccines/Herbal Remedies, Epidemiological Studies, Human Genetic Research; Research in Transplantation, including Foetal Tissue Transplantation and assisted Reproductive technology. These guidelines cover the areas of human genetic research also and should be consulted for such research of recombinant gene and Gene therapy.

The guidelines are receiving the attention of the Government.

Replacement of Old Planes of IAF

4670. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 40% of IAFs combat fleet is obsolescent and has to be replaced during the next decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Defence Review (IDR) has recommended that while planning replacement, new types of aircraft must be avoided;

(d) whether the Review also commented on licensed production of Sukhoi-30 and Mirage 2000-5 and Jaguars; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken to replace the old fleet and on the other recommendations of IDR?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Indian Air Force may face depletion of certain aircraft and equipment, due to obsolescence, in a matter of a few years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Indian Air Force has formulated a Modernisation Plan to enhance its combat Aircraft strength. Suggestions made in the IDR have been taken into account.

Electronic Transaction

4671. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to promote Electronic Transaction;

(b) if so, the steps taken to introduce measures to boost E-Transaction; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Government primarily acts as a facilitator for the promotion of electronic transactions carried out as part of e-commerce in the country. In this regard, the Information Technology Act 2000 has been enacted to provide legal recognition for electronic transactions. The Act provides a legal framework for recognition of electronic contracts, prevention of computer crimes, electronic filing / documents and legalizes digital signature. A Controller of Certifying Authorities to facilitate the implementation of the Act has already been appointed.

Visit of DCGI and DG Health to Pharmaceutical Company

4672. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

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

(a) whether DCGI and DG Health have visited Pharma companies together for favours;

(b) whether it is also a fact that DCGI has granted permission for marketing of the new drug CLOPIDOGRIL within three days submission of trial report;

(c) whether Government are aware that DCGI has taken special favours from the company for granting the approval;

(d) the names of the new drugs cleared during 2000 and time taken to grant first approval after submission of clinical trial reports for each drug;

- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether Ministry would like to refer the case to CBI; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The application for state III trials and approval of this drug was received on 5.7.2000 from M/s. Torrent Pharmaceutical Ltd., Ahmedabad which has been granted permission to manufacture and market the drug. The firm was granted permission to conduct clinical trial and laboratory testing for quality from the Central Drug Laboratory, Calcutta on 3.10.2000.

Based on the results of the trials, which was received on 5.1.2001, results of tests conducted by Central Drug Laboratory received on 4.12.2000, recommendation of the experts and the evaluation of the clinical data, the approval to manufacture and market Clopidogrel was granted to M/s. Torrent Pharmaceutical Ltd., on 1.2.2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A list of New Drugs cleared during the year 2000, along with date of first approval granted and date of submission of clinical trial reports is given in the statement attached.

(e) to (g) Do not arise in view of replies to part (a), (b) and (c) of the question.

Statement

*New drugs approved by Drug Controller General (India)
during the period January 2000 to December 2000*

S.No.	Name of the Drug	Category	C/T Reports Recd. on	Date of Approval	Comment CDL Report Recd. on
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Oxiconazole	Anti fungal	03/05/1999	17/01/2000	07/12/1999
2.*	Temozolamide	Anti Cancer		17/01/2000	
3.	Olanzapine	Anti Psychotic	04/11/1999	27/01/2000	
4.	Fluvoxamine Maleate	Anti Depressant	07/01/2000	21/02/2000	
5.	Celecoxib	Nsaid	18/01/2000	22/02/2000	
6.*	Nevirapine	Anti HIV		06/03/2000	
7.	Repaglinide	Anti Daibetic	09/10/1999	23/03/2000	09/03/2000
8.*	Ganciclovir	Anti Viral		05/04/2000	
9.*	Trepidil	Adjunct in Angioplasty		11/05/2000	
10.	Rofecoxib	Nsaid	14/06/2000	28/06/2000	
11.	Rosiglitazone Maleate	Anti Diabetic	13/06/2000	28/06/2000	
12.	Irbesartan	Anti Hypertensive	17/05/2000	28/06/2000	
13.	Granisetron	Anti Emetic	02/05/2000	05/07/2000	
14.*	Rituximab	Anti Cancer		10/07/2000	

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.*	Trastuzumab	Anti Cancer		10/07/2000	
16.	Moclobemide	Anti Depressant	26/06/2000	28/07/2000	
17.	Candesartan	Anti Hypertensive	28/07/2000	31/08/2000	
18.	Venlafaxine HCL	Anti Depressant	24/08/2000	18/9/2000	
19.	Paroxetine HCL	Anti Depressant	25/08/2000	04/10/2000	
20.*	Iomeprol	Contrast Medium		05/10/2000	
21.*	Capecitabine	Anti Cancer		12/10/2000	
22.*	Daclizumab	Immuno Superssive Agent		12/10/2000	
23.*	Didanosine	Anti HIV		15/10/2000	
24.	Pioglitazone HCL	Anti Diabetic	29/08/2000	17/10/2000	
25.	Ocxy Lonium Bromide	For I.B.S. (Irritable Bowel Syndrome)	11/09/2000	15/12/2000	
26.	Parvastatin	Lipid Lowering Agent	19/09/2000	20/12/2000	04/12/2000

* Marked drugs mentioned above are either anti cancer/anti Aids or immuno suppressive agent which are life saving drugs and it is also difficult to conduct clinical trials with such drugs because of ethical reasons. Therefore these drugs are approved on the basis of recommendations of experts.

[Translation]

MPLADS

4673. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit has been fixed for the execution of schemes recommended by MPs under MPLADS Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any case has come to the notice of the Government in regard to delay in execution of the scheme under MPLADS;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue any guidelines for early implementation of these schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Instructions have been issued to all District Heads to stipulate time limit in the work order for the implementing agencies to complete the given work in a specific time frame, depending upon the nature of the works;

(c) to (f) Some complaints from Members of Parliament have been received regarding delay in execution of MPLADS works. The Government has taken a number of steps to expedite the pace of progress under the Scheme. District Heads have been advised to process and sanction works, recommended by Members of Parliament to the extent of their yearly entitlement of funds. All the State Governments have been advised to issue instructions to all District Heads to quickly process the works recommended by Members of Parliament and accord administrative and financial sanction within 45 days and to scrupulously follow the monitoring provisions by all concerned. The Hon'ble Speaker has held meetings, in Hyderabad and Khajuraho to have interaction with the MPs and District Collectors on implementation of the Scheme. In the meeting at Hyderabad, some members of the

Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha, some MPs from the State of Andhra Pradesh and some Collectors from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and UTs of Pondicherry and Lakshadweep participated. In the meeting at Khajuraho, some Members of the Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha and some Collectors from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan participated.

Sale of Un-Saleable Medicines

4674. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SURESH KURUP :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 27.1.2001 under the caption 'Bikri Ki Ijjajat Nahi Fir Bhi Bik Rahi Hai Nai Dawaiyan';

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken against the guilty persons;

(c) whether the Government have any monitoring mechanism to estimate the results in the research areas of Indian alternate medicines and standard of medicines; and

(d) if so, the number of institutes doing these works and the areas they cover?

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

Category of Gutkha

4675. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that more than 93% brands of Gutkha of the total production are going without date of manufacturing and are carrying the statutory warnings that 'chewing pann masala may be injurious to health' and 'chewing of tobacco is injurious to health';

(b) if so, whether the Government includes Gutkha in the category of 'Pann Masala' or tobacco;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to attend this issue keeping in view the health of the people;

(e) if so, the time by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (f) As per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, (PFA) 1955, the month and year in which the food product is manufactured or prepacked is essential to be printed on the labels of all food products including Gutkha. No specific instance of violation of above provision has been brought to the notice of Government.

Gutkha is not covered under the standard of Pan Masala as laid down under the PFA Rules, 1955. However Pan Masala containing Chewing Tobacco is marketed as Gutkha, as a proprietary product.

The PFA Rules 1955, provide for giving statutory warning on the label of chewing tobacco including Gutkha regarding its injuriousness to health.

The Government has proposed that the warning declaration should be in bilingual and more conspicuous. The draft rules seeking to amend the PFA Rules 1955 have been notified on 7.2.2001.

[English]

India-Nepal Treaty

4676. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have made a request to the Union Government to review the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 in order to protect them from the continuing inflow of Nepali nationals in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (c) Government of Meghalaya have expressed concern over

Nepalese migration to Meghalaya and suggested a review of the India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed in 1950 and introduction of travel documents for Nepalese travelling to India.

Travel documents have been introduced for air travel between the two countries. Modalities of border management between India and Nepal are also under discussion in the Joint Working Group on Border Management which is expected to meet shortly for the Fourth Meeting.

India-Nepal Foreign Secretary Level Talks were held on January 30 and 31, 2001 in Delhi. In that meeting, the two sides had a useful exchange of views on issues relating to the India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship as directed by the two Prime Ministers. They discussed various aspects of the Treaty in a candid and open manner and agreed to continue their discussions keeping in mind the perceptions, concerns and interests of both sides and their close and friendly relations.

Clearance of Drugs

4677. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether number of complaints from drugs manufacturers against the drugs controller on account of delays in granting clearances for new drugs;

(b) if so, the action is being taken to simplify and expedite the processing of new drugs applications; and

(c) the time by which the drugs controller stipulate and enforce for disposing off new drug applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Efforts are being made to further streamline the process of clearing new drugs in terms of the relevant provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules as well as Schedule Y of the said Rules. A Panel of experts has been constituted to undertake in-depth evaluation of the data furnished by the applicants. A separate panel of experts has also been constituted for evaluating recombinant derived products.

(c) Time frames have been laid down for approving the protocols and evaluating the results of the clinical trials during the different phases to expedite the process of clearing new drugs. Accordingly a period of 90 days will be available

for clearing phase-I study while phase-II will be cleared within 45 days and phase-III within 60 days in consultation with the panel of experts.

[Translation]

Recruitment of SC/ST in Government Offices

4678. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI :

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of SC/ST and OBC provided employment in various offices under his Ministry/ Departments/autonomous bodies and subordinate offices during each of the last three years, category-wise;

(b) the number of vacant posts of SC, ST and OBC in the said offices as on date; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry to fill up these vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The requisite information in respect of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and its subordinate offices for the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 category-wise, is as under :

Year	SC	ST	OBC
1998	40	8	24
1999	6	2	12
2000	6	1	5

(b) As on 25.2.2001, there were 284 vacant posts out of the posts reserved for SC, ST and OBC categories in the said offices.

(c) Concerted efforts are being made to fill up the vacant posts reserved for SC/ST and OBC at the earliest.

[English]

Subsidy to Haj Pilgrims

4679. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

SHRI J.S. BRAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia had commented, as reported in the press, that extending subsidy to Haj pilgrims violates the tenets and spirit of shariat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether even Pakistan has discontinued subsidy for Haj pilgrimage; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the Haj subsidy in a phased manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) The Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia did refer to the question of providing assistance for Haj pilgrims in passing, and expressed the view that, in general, only those pilgrims should perform Haj who have means for it.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Cabinet in its meeting held on 30th October, 2000, while approving the proposal for subsidy for Haj 2001, directed that a proposal to reduce the subsidy in a phased manner for Haj 2002 and beyond be brought up immediately after Haj 2001. Accordingly, the Ministry of Civil Aviation is taking necessary action.

[Translation]

Recruitment of OBC in Central Government Offices

4680. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sanctioned posts in various Ministries/Departments/other subordinate offices of Government of India and the number of people from other Backward Classes appointed on such posts under general category through open recruitment, grade-wise;

(b) the number of officers/employees of Other Backward Classes recruited up to 30 March 2001 after the

implementation of new reservation policy;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding not filling up of the posts reserved for Other Backward Classes; and

(d) If so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill such vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Information is not centrally maintained.

(b) As per information received from all Ministries/Departments, 1,24,003 OBCs were recruited till 30-4-1998. During 1998 and 1999, a total of 27,795 OBCs were recruited.

(c) and (d) Implementation of the reservation policy is the responsibility of each administrative Ministry/Department. Complaints in regard to non-filling up of reserved posts are also looked into by the concerned Ministry/Department.

[English]

Purchase of Capital Equipments

4681. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Ordnance Factories have chalked out any investment plan for the Tenth Five Year Plan for purchase of capital equipments;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some equipments are also to be imported; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The plan envisages investment of Rs. 1786 Crores for purchase of capital equipments required for the Ordnance Factories during the 10th Plan Period;

- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Equipments likely to be imported are :
- (i) Presses of different varieties and capacities viz., Forging; Nosing; Straightening; Extrusion and Radial Forging;
- (ii) CNC Machining Centres of different types;
- (iii) CNC Laser Plasma Cutting Machines;
- (iv) Cold Swaging Machines;
- (v) Chemical Plants for TNT, Picrite and Nitro Cellulose etc.
- (vi) Case plant for Small Arms ammunition.

[Translation]

Representation from Kutir Udyog Bachao Andolan

4682. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the 'Kutir Udyog Bachao Andolan' Delhi;
- (b) if so, the main demands thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Representations are received from various organisations highlighting the problems and suggestions in respect of their activities and appropriate action is taken wherever necessary. The representations not concerning this Ministry are forwarded to the concerned Ministry/Department for necessary action. However, no memorandum from the 'Kutir Udyog Bachao Andolan' Delhi appears to have been received in the Ministry of SSI & ARI.

[English]

Tammo-Kilimyo-Kalwa Road

4683. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tammo-Kilimyo-Kalwa road will become a vital section of the designated Asian Highway running from Singapore to Istanbul passing through Myanmar and India; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the road will usher in the economic development of both India and Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) Inclusion of Tamu-Kalemio-Kalewa road in the proposed Trans-Asian Highway network would enhance the role it could play in promoting economic development in the region besides providing a valuable cross-border link between India and Myanmar which would enhance cross-border trade, tourism and economic development.

Decline in Poverty Line

4684. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a survey poverty level in the country has gone down merely by 9% between 1993-94 and 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons for such slow progress;

(c) whether poverty level is being estimated on the basis of monthly per capita consumption and on the basis of per capita income;

(d) if so, the justification thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to change the method of estimating poverty level;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the other specific plans of the Government to reduce the below poverty level in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The estimate of those living below the poverty line calculated from the 50th Round large sample survey on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) was 35.97% for the year 1993-94. The data from the latest large survey of the 55th Round on a 30-day recall basis indicate a poverty ratio of 26.1% for 1999-2000. Among the reasons for poverty ratio not reducing faster could be that the growth rate of agriculture and allied sectors during the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000 is 3.1% as compared to the Ninth Plan target of 3.9%.

(c) The poverty line that is used for estimating the poverty level is determined with reference to monthly per capita consumption expenditure and not per capita income.

(d) Per capita consumption expenditure is considered more appropriate for analysis of level of living and poverty than per capita income for two reasons. First, expenditure data reflect more accurately people's actual level of living while income data are more concerned with people's potential level of living. Secondly, expenditure data are considered more reliable than a income data. Income data often underestimate people's potential level of living because income is normally measured over a year's period which is a long period for correctly recalling one's income. The reference period for expenditures is one month, except for expenditure on consumer durables. Moreover, income in kind such as consumption of own produce is often valued at producer prices which results in people's actual level of living being underestimated.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to change the method of estimation of poverty level at the moment since it is based on the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor, which comprised of the leading experts in the country.

(g) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are : (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.

The increase in income of the people living below the poverty line occur from the joint impact of general growth process and direct income generation of the poor arising from various anti-poverty programmes introduced from time to time by the Government for their upliftment. Since the Sixth Five

Year Plan (1980-85), the Government has been implementing employment and asset generation schemes for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. These schemes are mainly of two types, self employment and wage employment. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has been the major self-employment programme and it has been in operation in all the blocks of the country since 1980. The wage employment programme initially was National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) during the Sixth Plan period. In the Seventh Plan, another wage employment programme under the name Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced. Then in 1989, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was launched by merging the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme, and it became the main wage-employment programme. In addition, several programmes to help the poor were also in operation until March, 1999. These programmes are : Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA).

From 1st April, 1999, these programmes, excepting EAS and JRY have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focussed approach to poverty alleviation, capitalising advantages of group lending, and overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of programmes. Also, from 1st April, 1999, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

From 1.12.1997, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is the main poverty alleviation programme in the urban areas. The SJSRY, which has subsumed all the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes, viz., Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the poor (UBSP), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUEP), seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban and educated up to IX standards for setting up self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The implementation of SJSRY is relying on suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and such community structure.

Welfare Measures for Sex Workers

4685. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has asked the Department of Social Welfare to chalk out welfare measures for sex workers;

(b) If so, the details of aforesaid measures worked out so far;

(c) whether the Court has also issued notices to State Commission of Women, NCW and asked them to provide assistance to agencies working for sex workers;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Decrease in Khadi Production

4686. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of Khadi has decreased and a large number of Khadi workers were thrown out of employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any memorandum has been received about the problems being faced by KVIC sector; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) There was decline in Khadi production during 1999-2000 over 1998-99. Similarly, in the case of employment in Khadi sector also there was a marginal decline in the corresponding period. The employment generated in 1999-2000 was 12.35 lakhs as against 13.85 lakhs in 1998-99. The shortfall in Khadi production is mainly due to decline in the sales.

The production of Khadi and Village Industries both in terms of quantity and value as well as corresponding employment for the year 1997-98 to 1999-2000 are given below :

Year	Production (Rs. in crores)				Employment (Figures in lakhs)		
	Khadi		V.I. Rs.	Total Rs.	Khadi	V.I.	Total
	Quantity (Mill Sq. Mtrs.)	Value Rs.					
1997-98	104.20	624.10	3895.21	4519.31	14.01	42.49	56.50
1998-99	98.20	635.89	4476.48	5112.37	13.85	44.44	58.29
1999-2000	83.98	551.94	5613.41	6165.35	12.35	46.88	59.23

The Government has received a few representations from various Khadi Institutions, which have, *inter alia* given suggestions with respect to the rebate policy, the pattern of financial assistance etc.

The Khadi rebate policy for the financial year 2000-2001 was declared on 1.6.2000. Regarding payment of rebate claims, adequate funds have already been provided to the KVIC. The financial assistance by the banks is provided to Khadi institutions on the basis of the Interest Subsidy Eligibility

Certificate (ISEC) issued by the KVIC, which in turn is based on the performance of the institutions.

Health Infrastructure in Gujarat

4687. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether the Red Cross has warned that the potential threat to public health in the quake hit areas continues to remain high, particularly in the urban centres because of the severe damage to the health infrastructure in Gujarat;

(b) If so, the suggestions given by Red Cross and the Government response thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient health infrastructure in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cancer and Heart Patients

4688. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the WHO has predicted that by the year 2015 the number of heart patients would double and the number of cancer patients would be three times in India; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to resolve this problem?

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

(b) Cardio Vascular Diseases are managed at various levels in the Urban Health Care Institutions and Rural Health Care Delivery system in the country both in the public and private sectors. Besides, several district level hospitals which provide secondary level health care facilities, premier government and autonomous Institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh provide specialised tertiary care facilities in this field.

Under the National Cancer Control Programme the following schemes are implemented for providing facilities for awareness, early detection and treatment of cancer patients in the country;

1. Grants to Regional Cancer Centres.
2. Assistance for development of Oncology Wing in Government Medical Colleges.

3. Assistance for Cobalt Unit at Govt. Institutions/Registered Charitable Organisations.

4. Assistance for District Cancer Control Programme.

5. Assistance to NGOs for Health Education and Early Detection Activities.

Sub-Standard Stationery

4689. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that "poor stationery obliterating records" as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 16, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the use of substandard stationery in Government departments is a matter of concern;

(c) whether the officials of the National Archives have urged the Government departments to use only ISI approved paper and ink;

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

(e) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) As reported in the Hindustan Times dated February 16, 2001, the National Archives of India has been requesting the Ministries/Departments etc. to use standard quality paper and ink for records of enduring nature and had issued two circulars, one in December, 1999 and another in October, 2000 requesting all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India to use ISI (now BIS) mark paper and ink for ensuring longevity of public records of permanent nature. Earlier, this aspect had also been emphasised on the Ministries/Departments in a meeting held in the Department of Administrative Reforms in July, 1999. Some of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India in turn have issued instructions to this effect to all the offices functioning under their control.

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Sickness in SSI

4690. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a sharp increase in sickness in the small scale sector during the nineties;

(b) If so, the annual increase in sick industries during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any fresh survey in this regard;

(d) if so, findings thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regularly compiles data on sickness in the small scale industrial sector. The number of sick small scale industries as per RBI data and annual increase/decrease in sickness during nineties is as under :

As at the end of March	Total number of sick Small Scale Units	Percentage annual increase/decrease over previous year of sickness in SSI sector.
1991	221472	1.21
1992	245575	10.88
1993	238176	(-) 3.01
1994	256452	7.67
1995	268815	4.82
1996	262376	(-) 2.40
1997	235032	(-) 10.42
1998	221536	(-) 5.74
1999	306221	38.23
2000	304235	(-) 0.65

(-) Shows decrease in sickness over previous year.

(c) and (d) There has been no fresh survey on sickness in SSI sector. However, according to the RBI, the reasons for sickness in SSI units are manifold. These are poor management, delayed implementation of project, diversion of funds, non-availability of raw materials, erratic power supply, marketing difficulties, labour problems, high rates of taxes, inability of the units to face growing competition due to liberalisation and globalisation, poor and obsolete technology, change in Government policies, etc.

(e) The Government is fully seized of the problem of industrial sickness amongst the SSI units and has taken

various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter-alia*, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter Institutional Committees, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. Further, with a view to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government has announced a Comprehensive Policy Package which consists of *inter-alia* enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructural and marketing facilities and incentives for technology upgradation.

Recommendation of SC/ST Commission

4691. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

DR. V. SAROJA :

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn any action plan to implement the recommendations made by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented;

(c) the details of the recommendations which were not accepted by the Government; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) In the last three years, National Commission for SCs and STs has submitted its fifth report for the year 1998-99 and Special reports on the recommendation of the SCs and STs (POA) Act, 1989 in the States of Uttar Pradesh and working of the Special Courts set up under the provision of this Act in the State of Madhya Pradesh in March, 2001.

The fifth report contains 106 recommendations that pertain to various Central Ministries/ Departments and States. The reports have been sent to the concerned Ministry/ Department/State for necessary action. This is being pursued with the concerned Ministries/Departments and State for implementation at the earliest possible.

[English]

Dispensing with Police Verification

4692. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to dispense with the system of police verification for issuance of passport in the cases where verification for certificate has been issued by a competent authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Compensation to Families of Victims Killed in Terrorists' Attacks

4693. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of soldiers killed in terrorists' attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East region during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether families of the killed soldiers have since been received relief, compensation etc. in all the cases;

(c) if not, the number of complaints received during the said period from the families of the soldiers killed and injured for want of rehabilitation; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Airlift Charges towards Former Minister

4694. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has since reviewed its stand to clear the amount of Rs. 14.45 lakhs towards hire charges of the then Union Minister who chartered a plane of Defence Ministry on March 24, 1995 to go to Thiruvananthapuram from New Delhi;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the manner in which the payment is proposed to be recovered;

(d) whether the Union Government have to recover any dues of such type from others; and

(e) whether the Union Government propose to consider to collect the hire charges in advance before chartering the Defence Aircraft in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Government of Kerala has been requested to clear the outstanding amount of Rs. 14.69 crores by end of April, 2001. If they fail to respond in a positive manner, the Ministry shall be constrained to take appropriate action, as per legal advice.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

ISO-9000 Certificate

4695. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant Rs. 75000/- to each small scale unit which obtains ISO-9000 certification for next five years;

(b) If so, the details of units which availed ISO-9000 certification and grants till date;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to provide R&D facility to Small Scale Industries to obtain certification;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The present scheme to grant reimbursement upto Rs.75,000/- to each Small Scale unit which obtains ISO-9000 certification has been extended upto 31st March, 2007.

(b) Under the Scheme 1384 Small Scale Industries have been granted reimbursement for an amount of Rs. 8.45 crores upto 31st March, 2001.

(c) to (e) The Small Scale Industries need facilities of techno-managerial consultancy, training; testing and calibration to obtain ISO-9000 Certification. A number of government and non-government organisations presently provide such facilities to the Small Scale Industries in the country.

[Translation]

Norms of Poverty Line

4696. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the norms regulating the poverty line have been revised recently;

(b) if so, the details of the prescribed norms for availability of calories in food, clothing, housing and sanitation facilities and the standard of living;

(c) whether the only criteria prescribed under the revised norms is two meals a day;

(d) if so, the reasons of ignoring the other norms; and

(e) the State-wise estimated number of people living below the poverty line in the rural and urban areas and the percentage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The poverty line is expressed in terms of per capita consumption expenditure needed to attain a minimum amount of calorie intake out of food consumption along with a minimum amount of non-food expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc. These poverty lines were originally recommended by a Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand in 1979. Then, in 1993, the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor recommended disaggregation of these national poverty lines into state specific poverty lines using state specific price indices and inter-state price differential.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Planning Commission estimates percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS) Organisation. The last such survey was conducted in the 55th Round of the NSS covering the period July 1999 to June 2000. The state-wise estimates of number and percentage of people living below the poverty line in 1999-2000 derived from the 30-day recall tabulation in the Key Results of the 55th Round large sample survey of Household Consumer Expenditure in India carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation, is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line

by State - 1999-2000

(30 day Recall period)

No.	States/U.T's	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	60.88	26.63	119.01	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	40.04	0.18	7.47	3.98	33.47
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04	2.38	7.47	94.55	36.09
4.	Bihar	376.51	44.30	49.13	32.91	425.64	42.60
5.	Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40
6.	Gujarat	39.80	13.17	28.09	15.59	67.89	14.07
7.	Haryana	11.94	8.27	5.39	9.99	17.34	8.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	7.94	0.29	4.63	5.12	7.63
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.97	3.97	0.49	1.98	3.46	3.48
10.	Karnataka	59.91	17.38	44.49	25.25	104.40	20.04
11.	Kerala	20.97	9.38	20.07	20.27	41.04	12.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	37.06	81.22	38.44	298.54	37.43
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	23.72	102.87	26.81	227.99	25.02
14.	Manipur	6.53	40.04	0.66	7.47	7.19	28.54
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	40.04	0.34	7.47	8.23	33.87
16.	Mizoram	1.40	40.04	0.45	7.47	1.85	19.47
17.	Nagaland	5.21	40.04	0.28	7.47	5.49	32.67
18.	Orissa	143.69	48.01	25.40	42.83	169.09	47.15
19.	Punjab	10.20	6.35	4.29	5.75	14.49	6.16
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	13.74	26.78	19.85	81.83	15.28
21.	Sikkim	2.00	40.04	0.04	7.47	2.05	36.55
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	20.55	49.97	22.11	130.48	21.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Tripura	12.53	40.04	0.49	7.47	13.02	34.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	31.22	117.88	30.89	529.89	31.15
25.	West Bengal	180.11	31.85	33.38	14.86	213.49	27.02
26.	A & N Islands	0.58	20.55	0.24	22.11	0.82	20.99
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	5.75	0.45	5.75	0.51	5.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.30	17.57	0.03	13.52	0.33	17.14
29.	Daman & Diu	0.01	1.35	0.05	7.52	0.06	4.44
30.	Delhi	0.07	0.40	11.42	9.42	11.49	8.23
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	9.38	0.08	20.27	0.11	15.60
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	20.55	1.77	22.11	2.41	21.67
	All India	1932.43	27.09	670.07	23.62	2602.50	26.10

Notes :

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu and Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu and Kashmir.
4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A and N Island.
5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Darda & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
8. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
9. Urban Poverty Ratio of Rajasthan may be treated as tentative.

*[English]***Bilateral Agreements for Generating Nuclear Energy**

4697. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any agreements have been signed with foreign countries for the generation of nuclear energy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to sign some more similar agreements with foreign countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF

PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. In terms of the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) of co-operation between India and Russian Federation for setting up of 2x1000 MWe units at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is being prepared and the work is nearing completion. After acceptance of the DPR and techno-commercial offer by the Government, an investment decision will be taken.

(c) to (e) While our nuclear power programme envisages more Light Water Reactor (LWR) units as an additionality to domestic programme, there is no other firm proposal under the consideration of the Government at present.

Development of Desert Areas of Rajasthan

4698. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned any Scheme for the development of backward desert/tribal areas of Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the year-wise allocation of funds made during the said period;

(d) the details of other schemes submitted by Government of Rajasthan for seeking financial assistance from the Union Government as on date; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which these Schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Funds released for the three Schemes under implementation are mentioned below :

(Rupees in lakhs)

Name of Scheme	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Integrated Wastelands Development Project	107.76	489.19	589.20
Drought Prone Area Programme	173.00	386.00	971.00
Desert Development Programme	5064.00	3901.00	7854.00

(d) and (e) One Integrated Wastelands Development Project from Baran district of Rajasthan is pending which will be considered during the current year. Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 1 Crore was sanctioned for Gauseva Aayog during 2000-01.

Indo-Myanmar Ties

4699. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his recent visit to Myanmar marked a shift in India's approach towards Myanmar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHANAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) The exchange of high level visits between India and Myanmar is in keeping with the tradition of personal contacts between the leaders of friendly neighbouring countries.

Establishment of Foreign Commercial Service Offices

4700. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether commercial service office of different foreign countries have been set up; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise alongwith services being provided by each of them?

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

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

[Translation]

Development and Upgradation of Safdarjang Hospital

4701. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to accord Safdarjang Hospital in status of an autonomous organisation in order to ensure that better medical facilities and adequate funds are made available to the hospital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Introduction of VRS in Armed Forces

4702. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the Armed Forces personnel;

(b) whether such a V.R.S. is already there for certain categories of the Armed Forces;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of officers likely to be retired in 2001-2002 under this scheme;

(e) whether any applications for VRS are already pending on this matter in each of the forces;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and

(g) If not, the manner in which the Government propose to give wide publicity of such VRS offer in the Armed Forces?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (g) Do not arise.

Medicinal Plant Board

4703. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up Medicinal Plant Board;

(b) If so, the composition, powers and functions of the Board;

(c) whether 29 Medicinal plants used by Siddha, Ayurvedha and other systems are under endangered category;

(d) If so, the names of the plants; and

(e) the steps taken to protect and preserve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Medicinal Plants Board has been set up under the Chairmanship of Minister of Health & Family Welfare, having members from different Ministries, Departments, Organisations, State Governments, experts in different related fields and organisations etc. The Medicinal Plants Board will coordinate activities relating to conservation, cultivation, marketing and export, etc. of medicinal plants.

(c) and (d) 29 Medicinal plants have been identified as threatened/endangered. List of such plants is given in the statement attached.

(e) These plants, plant portions, derivatives and extracts prepared out of these plants obtained from the wild are not allowed to be exported. Further, collection of certain plant species covered under Schedule-VI of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from any forest land or a specified area has been banned by law. Steps are also being taken to encourage propagation and cultivation of such plant species by including them under various schemes such as in-situ/ex-situ Conservation, Biosphere reserves, establishment of Gene Banks, agro-techniques.

Statement

1. Beddomes cycad (*Cycas beddomei*)
2. Blue vanda (*Vanda coerulea*)
3. *Saussurea Costus*
4. Ladies slipper orchid (*Paphiopedilium species*)
5. Pitcher plant (*nepenthes Khasiana*)
6. Red vanda (*Renanthera lmschootiana*)
7. *Rauvolfia serpentina* (Sarpagandha)
8. *Ceropergia species*
9. *Frerea indica* (Shindal Mankundi)
10. *Poophyllum hexandurm (emodi)* (Indian Podophyllum)
11. *Cyatheaacea species* (Tree Ferns)
12. *Cycadacea species* (Cycads)
13. *Diosco deltoidea* (Elephant's foot)
14. *Euphorbia species* (Euphorbias)
15. *Orchidaceae species* (Orchids)
16. *Pterocaropus santalinus* (Redsanders)
17. *Taxus Wallichiana* (Common Yew or Birmi leaves)
18. *Aquilaria malaccensis* (Agarwood)
19. *Aconitum species*

20. Coptis teeta
21. Coscinium fenestrum
(Calumba wood)
22. Dactylorhiza hatagirea
23. Genetiana Kurroo (Kuru, Kutki)
24. Gnetum species
25. Kampheria Galenga
26. Nardostachys grandiflora
27. Panax pseudoginseng
28. Picrorhiza kurrooa
29. Swertia chirata (Charayatah)

Lung Cancer

4704. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a sharp rise in number of lung cancer patients in the country;
- (b) if so, the main causes of such Increase; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control the spread of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.
- (c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme the Government provides financial assistance for the following schemes :-
 - i) Upgradation of Regional Cancer Centres in various States/UTs.
 - ii) Development of Oncology Wing in identified Medical Colleges/Hospitals.
 - iii) Installation of Cobalt Therapy facilities in Government/Charitable Institutions.
 - iv) District Cancer Control Programme to provide service for prevention and early detection of cancer, training of existing medical and para-medical staff of the concerned district and palliative treatment of terminally ill patients.

- v) Financial assistance to NGOs for awareness and early detection of cancer.

Physiotherapy Facilities

4705. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that due to increased road accidents and other health disabilities, number of cases of disabled who can be restored mobility are in the increase;
- (b) if so, the estimated number thereof for the last three years;
- (c) whether the Government are also aware that due to lack of adequate physiotherapy facilities in Government and private hospitals and in Institute on Physically Handicapped, New Delhi the patients from weaker section of Society go unattended; and
- (d) if so, steps being taken to set up physiotherapy centres in all institutions and provide assistance to low income and unemployed persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No such facts/studies or estimates have so far been brought to the notice of Government.

(c) and (d) Of the six National Institutes/apex Institutions under the aegis of this Ministry in Disability Sector, three National Institutes are engaged mainly for welfare of persons with physical disabilities i.e., National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta and Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi. These institutes provide, inter alia, facilities for rehabilitation including physiotherapy of persons with disabilities particularly patients from weaker section of society. The Government also reimburses expenditure towards free beds, which are meant for poor and indigent, to the Indian Spinal Injury Centre, New Delhi.

The Government has, in addition, launched major initiatives with an objective to provide rehabilitative services to the persons with disabilities. Over one hundred districts have been identified for providing primary composite rehabilitation services including physiotherapy. A four tier scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been approved in the State sector for implementation in order to create infrastructure at State/

District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the persons with disabilities. A Central Sector Scheme has been approved for setting up Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) for Persons with Disabilities in different parts of the country to provide services for different kinds of disabilities and for creating infrastructure for training and manpower development. A centrally sponsored scheme for setting up of four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for Persons with Spinal Injuries and other Orthopaedic Disabilities has also been approved.

Purchase of Forklifts by Defence

4706. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CAG in its report for the year ended on March 31, 1996 commented adversely on non-utilisation of all the ten forklifts procured injudiciously in March 1988 at a cost of Rs. 60.10 lakh and incurring an expenditure of Rs. 97.29 lakh on hiring other forklifts;

(b) if so, whether the matter was investigated for injudicious purchase of forklifts causing pecuniary loss to the State and on hiring of forklifts;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken in the matter;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to identify the persons involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (e) A statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

Primary Health Centres

4707. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the exists critical gaps in infrastructure and manpower hampering the efficient functioning of the primary health care centres in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

(b) Even though a vast health infrastructure has been created, there are some gaps in health infrastructure and manpower within the primary health care system and it functions sub-optimally. Some of the factors responsible for the sub-optimal functioning of rural Primary Health Care Institutions are :

- * Multiple tier of institutions, which had been created at various times, not being organized to take care of health needs of a defined population.
- * Inappropriate location, poor access and poor maintenance;
- * Gaps in critical manpower;
- * Lack of essential drugs/diagnostics;
- * Poor referral linkages;

(c) The following steps are being taken by Government to improve the functioning of Primary Health Care Institutions :-

- * Strengthening/appropriately relocating Sub-centres/PHCs.
- * Merger, restructuring, re-locating of hospitals/ dispensaries in rural areas and integrating them with existing infrastructure.
- * Restructuring existing block level PHC Taluk, Sub-divisional hospitals in some States.
- * Utilising funds from BMS, ACA for BMS and EAP to fill critical gaps in manpower and facilities.
- * Districts level walk-in interviews for appointment of doctors of required qualifications for filling up the gaps in PHC and Contractual Appointments/ hiring of ANMs/Lady Doctors/Specialists.
- * Use of mobile health clinics.
- * Currently, funding from Additional Central Assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) serves to strengthen health infrastructure and to improve functioning of centrally sponsored programmes in Health and Family Welfare, covering critical gaps in manpower, equipment, consumable and drugs. Funds from the PMGY under primary health care may be developed for the procurement of drugs and essential consumables as well as for contingency expenses for travel costs, of ANMs, repair of essential equipment, repair/replacement of furniture, and for strengthening repair and maintenance of infrastructure in sub-centres, PHCs and CHCs.

* Under the Reproductive and Child Health Care Programme, Rs. 10 lakh per district has been released to the states towards minor repair and maintenance of buildings, especially for operation theatre, labour rooms and for improvements in water and electric supply. Rs. 10 lakh per CHC/district hospital is also released to all states for major civil works to improve facilities for essential obstetric services through construction/repair of operation theatre, labour room/ or to provide/improve facilities for water/electric supply in PHCs, CHCs & district hospitals.

Pilot Project for Hepatitis 'B'

4708. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether according to WHO Report about five crore people in India are affected by Hepatitis 'B';

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

(c) whether the Government have launched any pilot project in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide injections and Medicines of Hepatitis 'B' free of cost in the Government hospitals and dispensaries in each State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (f) Though exact figures are not available, it is estimated by the WHO that Hepatitis-B virus chronically infects approximately 4% of the population, which would come around four crore people.

A pilot project to introduce Hepatitis-B vaccine in selected cities and districts of the country in order to study the impact of administration on infants is under active consideration of the Government but no fixed time frame can be given for a final decision to be taken in this regard.

While there is no provision to supply Hepatitis-B vaccination free of cost to patients in Government hospitals and dispensaries in the States, Government has taken the following steps to prevent the spread of Hepatitis-B :

- Central Government hospital personnel at high risk are being immunised Against Hepatitis-B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.
- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks.
- Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme.
- Health awareness campaigns regarding the danger of using unsterile syringes and needles under National AIDS Control Programme, and
- Guidelines have been issued to State authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.

CGHS Dispensaries

4709. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) name of the areas in Delhi which are not covered by CGHS dispensaries;

(b) whether Government have received any demand from Central Government Welfare Associations through the Members of Parliament to provide CGHS facilities to a large number of Government employees living in these colonies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The information maintained by the CGHS indicates only the areas covered by the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi but does not indicate the names of areas which are not covered by the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi.

(b) The Government have received demands from Central Government Welfare Associations as well as from the Members of Parliament for opening of CGHS dispensaries in different localities of Delhi/New Delhi and a list of such localities is given in the statement.

(c) Though there are proposals to open more dispensaries under CGHS in Delhi in the remaining part of

the 9th Five Year Plan, but pending implementation of the SIU Report of November, 1999, as also due to constraints of resources and manpower, it will not be possible for the CGHS to open dispensaries in Delhi at present.

Statement

Names of the localities where demands have been received for opening of Allopathic Dispensaries :-

1. Hindon Airfield, Ghaziabad
2. Yojana Vihar
3. Prashant Vihar
4. Shastri Nagar, West Delhi
5. C.P.W.D Complex, Tilak Marg
6. Uttam Nagar
7. Shanti Vihar/Kiran Vihar
8. Tilak Lane
9. Chitra Vihar, Trans-Yamuna locality
10. I.A.R.I. Complex
11. Doordarshan Bhavan, Mandi House
12. Lawrence Road
13. Anand Vihar
14. DIZ Area, Gole Market
15. Mandakini Complex
16. Chitaranjan Park
17. Vijay Vihar, Rithala
18. Kirti Nagar
19. Subroto Park
20. Sonapat
21. Vasundhara Enclave
22. Dwarka
23. Vaishali Complex
24. Sector No.16, Faridabad

25. DLF Colony, Qutub Enclave, Gurgaon
26. Vasant Vihar
27. Vasant Kunj
28. Vikaspuri
29. Sahibabad
30. Sultanpuri
31. Sarita Vihar
32. Najafgarh
33. Alipore Village
34. I.P. Extension, Patparganj

[Translation]

Setting up of a Selection Board in C.B.I.

4710. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a selection Board for appointment and fixation of tenure of the officers working in the CBI;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which it is likely to be advantageous to the Government and the CBI;

(d) whether there is resentment among CBI personnel after setting up of this board; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Government, in pursuance of the directions dated 18.12.97 of the Supreme Court in the Vineet Narain case, vide its O.M. No.202/8/98-AVD-II (A) dated 20.5.98, constituted the CBI Selection Board to make recommendations for the selection on deputation, extension of tenure and premature transfer from the organisation of personnel of the rank of Joint Director and

above in the Central Bureau of Investigation. The Government, vide its subsequent O.M. No.202/8/98-AVD-II(B) dated 20.5.98, has also empowered the CBI Selection Board to decide on extension of tenure/premature transfer (premature termination of tenure) of Personnel in the rank of Superintendent of Police and Deputy Inspector General of Police in the CBI and also to select personnel for appointment on deputation to these posts. The CBI Selection Board comprises the Central Vigilance Commissioner as Chairman and Home Secretary and Secretary (Personnel) as members. The CBI Selection Board is required to make its recommendations/decides matter strictly in accordance with the relevant rules, policy and guidelines having bearing on the matter concerned. The constitution of the CBI Selection Board has facilitated selection of officers of high integrity and professional competence.

(d) and (e) No instance of any resentment among CBI personnel has come to the notice of the Government.

[English]

Exobiology Projects in Space

4711. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Space Commission is considering launching a few projects on exobiology including protein synthesis, aerobic cell cultivation and efficacy of yogic exercises to be taken at the International Space Station;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals have been worked out in this regard; and

(c) if so, details thereof and time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Indian Space Research Organisation has initiated preliminary studies in this regard.

(b) Preliminary proposals from scientists from national laboratories/universities have been received by Indian Space Research Organisation and are under evaluation.

(c) The proposal on protein synthesis experiment

aims to grow Metallothionein proteins to get better insights and understanding of their role in the biological systems.

- The experimental proposal on aerobic cell cultivation aims to study the method of improving the productivity in biological reaction in micro-gravity conditions.
- The proposal on conduct of yogic exercises in space is to study the efficacy of such exercises to mitigate physiological effects due to microgravity.
- The experiments on space station are subject to availability of flight opportunities after the International Space Station becomes operational in 2005-2006. The time-frame by which Indian experiments on International Space Station will be conducted is yet to be worked out, as this would require cooperative agreement with international participants of International Space Station.

Hi-Tech Parks

4712. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of Hi-Tech parks, in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh with central assistance;

(b) if so, the details of the places, where such Hi-Tech Parks are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether the Central Government have provided necessary equipment for the above parks; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Census for SSI

4713. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to conduct a large scale sample survey of registered SSI units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of organisations which are likely to be involved in such survey;

(d) whether the Government have set up any committee in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of composition thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the survey is likely to be helpful for the Government in formulating policies for the development of the sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government propose to conduct a Census of SSI units registered upto March, 2001.

(c) The Office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) in association with State/UT Directorate of Industries shall be responsible for the conduct of Census. Co-operation of Industry Associations will also be obtained for the purpose.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A Steering Committee has been set up in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries with 18 other members covering representatives of concerned Central Ministries/Departments, four State Governments, RBI, SIDBI, Industry Associations etc.

(f) The Census will make available information on production, employment, sales, closure, sickness, regional dispersal etc. The information will help the Government in formulation of policies for the development of the SSI Sector.

SBEA

4714. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enact Small Business Establishment Act for development of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Act is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Presently there is no decision to enact Small Business Establishment Act for the development of small scale industries.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Polio Eradication Programme

4715. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of polio cases detected during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the assistance provided by the WHO to eradicate the polio during the period;

(c) whether the WHO had fixed any target for complete eradication of polio by 2000 A.D.; and

(d) if so, the achievement made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The statement is given below.

(b) WHO has been providing technical guidance in implementation of strategies for polio eradication as well as for polio surveillance activities. WHO has also been assisting the Government of India in mobilization of resources from various donor agencies.

(c) and (d) The WHO has revised its target for achieving zero polio incidence by 2002 and certification for polio eradication by 2005.

Statement

Wild Polio cases 1999-01 (as on 7/04/2001)

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	99	00	01
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A & N Islands	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	21	0	0
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Assam	0	0	0
5.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0
6.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
7.	Goa	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
10.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
11.	Manipur	0	0	0
12.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
13.	Mizoram	0	0	0
14.	Nagaland	0	0	0
15.	Orissa	0	0	0
16.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
17.	Punjab	4	0	0
18.	Rajasthan	18	0	0
19.	Sikkim	0	0	0
20.	Tamil Nadu	7	0	0
21.	Tripura	0	0	0
22.	Chandigarh	2	1	0
23.	Kerala	0	1	0
24.	Gujarat	9	2	0
25.	Madhya Pradesh	17	2	0
26.	Delhi	73	3	1

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Haryana	19	4	1
28.	Maharashtra	18	7	0
29.	Karnataka	21	8	0
30.	West Bengal	21	8	0
31.	Bihar	123	50	0
32.	Uttar Pradesh	773	179	6
33.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	0
34.	Jharkhand	-	-	0
35.	Uttaranchal	-	-	0
Total		1126	265	8

[Translation]

Psychiatric Patients

4716. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of psychiatric patients have been continuously increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of patients with mental disorder during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to look into the causes of mental disorders; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the concrete steps being taken by the Government for the prevention of mental disorders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of persons with mental illness is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world wide. The year wise data on persons suffering from mental disorders is not available. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(c) The Government runs various psychiatric institutes all over the country, which imparts training to specialists as well as carry out research activities into the various aspects of mental illness. Various institutions such as Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Departments

of Psychiatry in all the medical colleges have initiated research projects to understand various aspects related to causation of mental disorders. What is well known is that causation of mental disorders is multifactorial. Biological, psychiatric and socio cultural factors interact to produce mental disorders.

(d) The Government has already initiated a pilot programme for providing care for persons with mental disorders in selected districts in the country. The District Mental Health Programme is currently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives.

[English]

Effects of Globalisation

4717. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the drastic effects to the small industries entrepreneurs and workers due to the globalisation as the small scale industries are unable to compete international market due to high cost of productivity;

(b) If so, the solutions to combat the problem;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a separate Ministry for WTO affairs;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to provide special incentives for women entrepreneurs in terms of reservation of infrastructure, facilities, fund allocation, market share, etc.;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the remedial measures taken for the co-ordination of Government and the commercial banks for the successful implementation of Credit Guarantee Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPART-

MENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMAT; VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Globalization and the removal of Quantitative Restrictions have exposed the Small Scale Industries to greater competition.

(b) The Government has put in place several measures to help our industries 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.

(c) The Ministry of Commerce and Industry deals with WTO related issues,

(d) to (f) Preference is given to weaker sections including women under the PMRY which aims at assisting uneducated unemployed youth in setting up self employment ventures.

(g) The Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries was launched in August 2000. The Government have set up the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries for implementing the said Scheme. The Trust co-ordinates with the Government and the Commercial Banks for its successful implementation.

Purchase Policy

4718. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether no provision exist in the latest purchase policy approved by the Board of Directors of Kendriya Bhandar to ask rate quotations in the form of floating tenders amongst the registered suppliers of an item;

(b) if so, the reasons for floating tenders amongst the registered suppliers and the reasons for not making clear the reasons for calling such rate quotations in the tender document/rate quotation letter thereby keeping the suppliers in the dark;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to cancel all such tenders/rate quotations floated so far to maintain status quo ante;

(d) whether approval of the Board of Directors is not always taken in business matters of stationery and other items before or after; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Purchase policy permits calling of tenders at regular intervals.

(b) and (c) The reasons for calling these tenders from amongst the registered suppliers is to get the most competitive rate for items.

(d) and (e) Approval of Board of Directors is taken on policy matters. The implementation/execution of the policy relating to stationery & other items is carried by various authorities to whom the powers have been delegated by the Board.

Higher Rates in Kendriya Bhandar

4719. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether DGS&D has entered into rate contract with manufacturers in respect of many of the stationery and other office automation equipments and those very items are being sold in the Kendriya Bhandar at much higher rates;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to direct the Government offices to buy items which are on rate contract with DGS&D from the manufacturers only;

(c) the details of the items that come under the category of 'other items' and whether the CAG has commented adversely on the Government Order authorising these agencies to make supplies to the Government Departments; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Where DGS&D has entered into a rate contract, Kendriya Bhandar insists on the suppliers on

matching the same price. Where there is no DGS&D rate contract, Kendriya Bhandar makes efforts to get most competitive price by :

- (i) Buying directly from the manufacturers wherever possible.
- (ii) Calling for quotations from the registered suppliers.
- (iii) Obtaining a price guarantee undertaking not to sell at a lower price from the supplier.
- (b) No such proposal is under consideration in the Department of Personnel and Training.

(c) and (d) The 'other items' are not specified/defined.

CAG in its Report No.8 of 1999 Union Government (Defence Services-Air Force and Navy) has inter-alia observed that Government should investigate the reasons for higher rates by NCCF and review the existing instructions. While NCCF is examining the issue of higher rates, the Department of Personnel & Training has initiated review of its existing instructions.

Viagra

4720 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether an Indian substitute for Viagra has been cleared by the Drug Controller of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it compares with the imported stuff in quality and cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Approval has been given to 10 manufacturers for manufacturing Sildenafil Citrate and its formulations, popularly known as 'Indian Substitute of Viagra'.

(c) Quality-wise Indian formulations matches with the imported one, as they have undergone clinical trial, bio-equivalence study and Chemical testing in the laboratory. Cost-wise, Indian formulations are available at price Rs. 12 per tablet for 25 mg., Rs. 18 per tablet for 50 mg., and Rs. 27 per tablet for 100 mg. respectively.

*[Translation]***Stagnation in CSS**

4721. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the notified vacancies of the direct recruitment, departmental examination and selection list in the Section Officer Cadre of the Central Secretariat Services during the last ten years, year-wise;

(b) whether there has been constant decline in the number of vacancies since 1995;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there has been stagnation in the Assistant Cadre due to the reduction in the vacancies; and

(e) if so, the time by which the final decision on the proposal of giving in situ promotion on individual basis like the Section Officer and Under Secretary to do away with stagnation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND

PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) A declining trend has set in from 1997. The vacancies in respect of Section Officers' Grade of the Central Secretariat Services (CSS), which is decentralised grade, are collected by the Department of Personnel & Training from all the 33 cadre controlling authorities of CSS. Based on the information furnished by these cadre authorities, this Department, being the nodal authority, only coordinates the process of recruitment/promotion etc. It may not be possible to give any precise reason for the downward trend in the number of vacancies. However, it may be due to less number of retirements/officers proceeding on deputation. Further, on the recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the Government enhanced the age of superannuation from 58 to 60 years with effect from May, 1998. This also resulted in no retirements after May, 1998 for a period of 2 years.

(d) Reduction in the number of vacancies in the post of Section Officers due to above reasons has resulted in marginal decline in promotional prospects of Assistants.

(e) There is no such proposal to grant in situ promotion to the Assistants. However, Government has since set up a Committee of Senior Officers to look into the cadre structure of Central Secretariat Service, which will, inter alia, assess the magnitude of stagnation in the grade of Assistants of CSS and suggest remedial measures.

Statement

Sl.No.	Year of Select List	Direct Recruitment	LDCE**	S.Q*
1.	1990	39	164	164
2.	1991	45	153	154
3.	1992	28	94	95
4.	1993	54	119	120
5.	1994	50	117	116
6.	1995	55	102	103
7.	1996	45	115	129
8.	1997	26	58	70
9.	1998	14	16	18
10.	1999	18	10	18

*Seniority Quota

** Limited Departmental Competitive Examination

[English]

Survey of SSI

4722. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey of SSI, Agro and Rural Industries has been made;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any modernisation plan for those industries having export potential; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two All India Censuses of registered small scale industries have been conducted so far. The second All India Census was conducted during the period 1989-1991. Sample Surveys are also conducted from time to time. Last survey of registered small scale industrial units was conducted during 1994-95. Another All India Sample Survey is under progress at present. Besides, the National sample survey Organisation is presently conducting a survey on unorganised manufacturing.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has launched a scheme on Technology Upgradation and Management Programme called UPTech in 1998 which takes care of the modernisation and technological needs of clusters of industries including those industries having export potential.

Missile Programme

4723. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of missiles tested successfully during 2000-2001;

(b) whether any of these missiles have been inducted into the Air Force or proposed to be inducted in near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken in that direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) During the year 2000-2001, eight successful flight tests of missiles have been conducted, which include one test each of Agni-II and Prithvi and two tests each of Trishul, Akash and Nag;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Prithvi missiles are being inducted into the Air Force.

Defence Contracts on Incomplete Documents

4724. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many firms whose income tax papers were not complete or found to have submitted incomplete documents were awarded defence contracts by the Ordnance Depots in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of such cases noticed during the last two years, Depot-wise; and

(c) the reasons therefor and remedial steps taken to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Instructions issued by AHQs / MOD stipulate that only those vendors can respond to tenders who produce, along with other documents, a copy of the income tax clearance certificate. Various Formations/Board of officers at different levels, check the fulfilment of this stipulation.

(b) One case of hiring of Civil hired transport by Central Ordnance Depot, Kanpur has been noticed.

(c) On investigation, it was found that it was a result of lapse on the part of certain individuals. Court of Inquiry on the matter has been completed and disciplinary action against individuals found responsible for the lapse is being processed as per recommendations of Court of Inquiry.

Spares for Bofors

4725. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s Bofors which has since been taken over by the Government of Sweden, accorded approval that

India may avail of the arrangements, technology, services and assistance contracted for in the supply contract dated March 24, 1986;

(b) If so, whether the Government have made use of the offer and procured the spares to make the Bofors Gun functional which were lying idle for want of spares;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any progress has been made in the setting up of indigenous production of spares for the upkeep and overhaul of the Bofors Gun system;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Government in a meeting held on 15th June, 1999 reviewed the ban placed on the business dealing with M/s Bofors in the light of the changed situation and inter alia approved that the embargo placed on transactions with the then M/s AB Bofors, Sweden by the Government on 31.1.1990 need not visit the successor company, the present 'Celsius' of Sweden, which is state controlled.

The above directions however, shall be without prejudice to the on going investigations, actions due, measures that may be entailed and reserving to Government the right to be reimbursed amounts illegitimately paid.

Subsequently, three contracts for procurement of spares of 155 mm FH 77b Gun System were signed with M/s Celsius, Sweden.

(d) to (f) The process of indigenisation is on going and a task force has been constituted under aegis of Department of Defence Production & Supplies for indigenisation and development of spares for the gun system by various agencies including Ordnance Factory Board, Electrical and Mechanical Engineer and Public Sector Undertakings. So far 1314 items of spares have been indigenised.

Smart Card System

4726. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances propose to introduce smart-card system to ensure punctuality of its employees in Government offices;

(b) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be put into operation; and

(c) the total annual expenditure expected on the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The system is expected to be operational in the next couple of months.

(c) Apart from the initial cost of procurement amounting to Rs. 1,20,000 approximately the total annual expenditure is expected to be around Rs. 10,000 on account of annual maintenance of the system, after the expiry of the warranty period of one year.

HIV

4727. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that HIV infection has reached epidemic proportions in the country;

(b) if so, whether newly married women reporting HIV positive during anti-natal (during pregnancy) are rising;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct HIV tests compulsory before marriage to restrict HIV infection; and

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

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

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to conduct mandatory HIV test before marriage.

Infant Mortality Rates

4728. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tripura, Assam and some of the

other north-eastern States, Infant Mortality Rates has gone down below the All India average of such mortalities;

(b) if so, in which States, and to what levels it has been brought down in Assam and other northern-eastern States and Sikkim giving comparative figures with respect to All India average for the past three years;

(c) the expenditure incurred on related schemes during the past three years; and

(d) the provision therefore for the year 2001-02?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Except Assam, Infant Mortality Rate in all other north-eastern States is below the all-India average.

(b) The requisite information is given below :

Infant Mortality Rate (Per 1000 live births)

	1997	1998	1999
Assam	76	76	76
Arunachal Pradesh	47	44	43
Manipur	30	25	25
Meghalaya	54	52	56
Mizoram	19	23	19
Nagaland	NA	NA	NA
Sikkim	51	52	49
Tripura	51	49	42
India	71	72	73

(c) Interventions to control Infants Mortality Rate are met from overall Reproductive and Child Health (RCH Programme) Budget. Year-wise expenditure incurred under RCH Programme is as under :-

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Expenditure Incurred
1998-99	542.02
1999-2000	657.48
2000-2001	856.41

(d) Provision for the year 2001-2002 for RCH Programme (Including Immunization Strengthening Project) is Rs. 1180.95 crores, which includes provision for N.E States.

Orientation Programmes

4729. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Haj Committee in association with the Consulate General of India, Jeddah, organised two orientation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of participants therein, location-wise;

(c) whether in some States these programmes were not organised;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue guidelines to State Haj Committees for continuance of such programmes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Orientation Programmes for Training of Trainers were organised at Mumbai on 11-13 September, 2000, for Southern States and at Delhi on 18-20 September, 2000, for the Northern States. The number of participants location-wise is as under :-

Mumbai		Delhi	
Maharashtra	37	Haryana	1
Goa	2	Assam	6
Orissa	30	Orissa	1
Andhra Pradesh	12	Uttar Pradesh	37
Tamil Nadu	14	Bihar	6
Kerala	14	West Bengal	7
Lakshadweep	1	Jammu & Kashmir	16
Karnataka	21	Himachal Pradesh	1
Madhya Pradesh	31	Delhi	7
		Rajasthan	17
		Total :	261

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Trainers, in turn, imparted orientation and training to Haj pilgrims throughout India at district level. However, where the number of pilgrims from a particular district was less than 150 they were joined with the pilgrims of the adjoining districts.

(e) and (f) The Central Haj Committee will continue to issue necessary guidelines, as in the past, to the State Haj Committees for continuation of the programmes, which are now being organised on an ongoing basis every year.

Opening of a River Link

4730. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during his recent visit to Myanmar proposed the opening of a river link between Mizoram and Sittwe in Myanmar;

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

(c) the economic implications of opening this river link?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (c) During the recent visit of the Minister of External Affairs to Myanmar, the two sides, *inter-alia* discussed the proposed Kaladan River project which would link Southern Mizoram with Sittwe in Myanmar through a river and road link. This would provide an alternative route to link the north-eastern states with Kolkata. It would also promote cross-border trade, tourism and other economic interaction between India and Myanmar.

[Translation]

Review of O.M. on Reservation

4731. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 1566 on December 8, 1999 and state :

(a) the number of office memoranda pertaining to reservation reviewed till date;

(b) whether the Government propose to bring a Bill

in respect of the remaining memoranda pertaining to reservation during the current session of the Parliament;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) As a result of review of two of the Office Memoranda, the Constitution was amended vide the Constitution (Eighty-First Amendment) Act, 2000 and the Constitution (Eighty-Second Amendment) Act, 2000 and instructions in pursuance thereof were issued on 20-7-2000 and 3-10-2000, respectively. The Office Memorandum dated 13-8-1997 was meant to continue the reservation for SCs/STs in promotion beyond 15-11-1997 and has no adverse effect on the reservation for SCs/STs. Review of remaining two Office Memoranda is under-way keeping in view the legal and Constitutional aspects in the context of another judgement of the Supreme Court.

[English]

Clearing of Drugs

4732. DR. BALIRAM :

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE :

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

(a) whether DG Health is not clearing new drugs without the consent of DCGI;

(b) if so, DG Health has favoured by clearing 2 New drugs within 2 days of M/s Nicholas Piramal Group;

(c) if so, the procedure adopted whether the expert opinion were obtained for new Drugs;

(d) whether DG Health has violated the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in granting the favour; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No,

Sir. As per the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, the approval for new drugs is given by the Drug Controller of India.

(b) and (c) The application of M/s Nicholas Piramal India was received for import and marketing of 2 drugs on 24.4.2000. After evaluation and recommendations by leading Oncologists in the country, permission was given by the DCG(I) on 10.7.2000.

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

CVC Bill

4733. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Vigilance Commissioner has written to the Government stating that the country will not achieve "zero tolerance in corruption" if the CVC Bill is amended based on the recommendations made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee;

(b) if so, the main objective raised by CVC;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which the final decision for introduction of the legislation is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Vigilance Commissioner has mainly raised following issues in the context of the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee :

(i) Restricting the powers of Central Vigilance Commission in exercise of 'Superintendence over the vigilance administration' occurring in Clause 8 (1) (g) of the Bill;

(ii) Incorporation of the 'Single Directive' in the Bill; and

(iii) Ineligibility of Central Vigilance Commissioner and every other Vigilance Commissioners, on ceasing to hold office, for any diplomatic assignment, appointment as administrator of a Union Territory and such other assignment

or appointment which is required to be made by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.

The Government has taken note of the above issues raised by the Central Vigilance Commissioner.

The recommendations of the Joint Committee of the Parliament will be considered by the Lok Sabha when the Bill, as reported by the Joint Committee, is taken up for consideration.

Utilisation of Funds

4734. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) has been advised to study the utilisation of SC/ST funds in the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa;

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

(c) the progress made in the study so far;

(d) whether similar study would be conducive for the other States;

(e) if so, the steps taken in that regard; and

(f) if not, other measures being taken to ensure proper utilisation of funds allocated for development of SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Under the Central Sector Scheme of Supporting Projects of All-India or Inter-State Nature (Research and Training) for the Development of Scheduled Castes, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai was assigned to conduct an evaluation of Central Scheme of Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes in Karnataka, Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra. The study aimed at assessing the impact of the poverty alleviation schemes taken up with Special Central Assistance on the socio economic development of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries.

The Institute has submitted the draft report.

(d) and (e) Action has been initiated for conducting similar studies in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Uttaranchal through Institutions, engaged in research activities.

- (f) Does not arise.

Impact of WTO on Agriculture Sector

4735. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether our Prime Minister has convened a meeting of the National Development Council to discuss the issued, relating to agriculture and the impact of WTO on the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the main points discussed;

(c) whether "action to be taken to arrest steep fall in prices of agricultural produce" has also been discussed in the meeting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) A meeting of the Chief Ministers is proposed to be convened on April 23, 2001 to discuss some of the issues relating to agriculture including the impact of W.T.O. on the agriculture sector.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Reduced Financial Assistance

4736. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made drastic cut in financial assistance of 6 crores in 2000-2001 to Rs.4 crores in 2001-2002 for the patients in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was an approved outlay of Rs. 327.50 crores for implementation of Plan Schemes of Medical & Public Health Sector of various agencies under the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi during Annual Plan 2000-2001. Against this outlay, an amount of Rs. 266.14 crores had been kept in Revised Estimate (R.E.) for 2000-2001. For the year 2001-2002, an outlay of Rs. 341.21 crores has been approved representing an increase of 28% over the provisions of R.E. for 2000-2001.

Inquiry into Allegations of Corruption in Defence

4737. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a Joint Secretary level one-man Committee to probe into the allegations of corruption in Defence deals as reported in the Indian Express dated March 24, 2001 captioned "for Army, MOD Probe a Sham";

(b) if so, whether this Committee is capable to probe the allegations against its seniors; and

(c) if not, the justification behind constituting the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government has constituted a one man Fact Finding, Enquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (E/PG) & Chief Vigilance Officer to conduct a fact finding enquiry into allegations of influencing procurement of Defence equipment/stores, made against civilian officials of MOD by Tehelka.Com in the video tapes exhibited on 13th March, 2001. The terms of reference of the Committee are to inquire whether the transactions pertaining to the procurement of Defence equipment/store referred in the said video tapes have been carried out in terms of prescribed procedure, and also includes incorporation of appropriate modification in the procurement procedure and in the conduct of officials dealing with such activity.

2. As Chief Vigilance Officer, the officer is competent to investigate into the allegations made against any Officer of the Ministry.

Surprise Visits at CGHS Dispensaries

4738. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

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

(a) whether the Officials of his Ministry with him made surprise visits at some CGHS dispensaries in the capital recently;

(b) if so, the details of the deficiencies noticed by the visiting team in the functioning of these dispensaries;

(c) whether the view of the beneficiaries were also sought;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether similar surprise visits are also proposed to be conducted at other dispensaries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The details of the deficiencies noticed are as under :

(i) Entries in the complaint register are not being made regularly.

(ii) Delay in supply of local purchase medicines are taking place.

(iii) Timings of distribution of Local Purchase medicines need to be clearly indicated.

(iv) Special Courtesy to the senior citizens by way of separate queue at registration counter and also in the OPD when they consult the doctor.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The beneficiaries suggested that the timings of distribution of local purchase medicines may be continued till 1.30 p.m., and the local purchase medicines be given to them on the next working day, separate queues for Senior Citizens both at the registration counter and at the doctor's room be made.

(e) and (f) The element of 'Surprise' will be lost if these are chalked out in advance and made public.

[Translation]

Rate of Per Capita Income

4739. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has received any suggestion to consider rate of increase in the per capita income as the basis for the formulation of the Tenth Five year Plan instead of rate of increase in the annual gross domestic production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The Prime Minister has directed the Planning Commission to examine the feasibility of doubling the nation's per capita income in the next ten years.

(c) The Planning Commission has just initiated the exercises for formulating the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Ban on Sponsoring of Sports/Cultural Events by Tobacco Companies

4740. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation in the current session to ban sponsoring of sports and cultural events by cigarette and other tobacco product companies;

(b) whether it is also proposed to bring in banning of sale of these products to persons below the age of 18;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation to prohibit smoking in public places; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) A comprehensive legislation which, inter-alia, includes provisions for banning of advertisement of tobacco products and sponsorship of sports and cultural events by tobacco companies as well as ban on smoking on public places and sale of tobacco products to minors has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001.

*[English]***CGHS Dispensaries**

4741. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the details of facilities provided in those CGHS dispensaries;
- (c) the total number of CGHS beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to start more CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu particularly in Shivaganga & Ramnad districts; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) All the CGHS Dispensaries in Tamil Nadu are situated in Chennai only and number of the same is given below :-

i) Allopathic dispensaries	14
ii) Ayurvedic dispensary	1
iii) Homeopathic dispensary	1
iv) Siddha	1
v) Polyclinics	2
vi) Laboratories	2
vii) Dental Units	1

(b) Consultation and treatment facilities are provided in the dispensaries. Services of Specialist are available in the polyclinics. In addition, pathological investigation, X-ray, Ultra Sound, and routine tests are conducted in the polyclinics and Pathological labs. The Dental Unit provides dental care services to the beneficiaries.

(c) There are 42,791 CGHS card holders and 1,68,576 CGHS beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) Though there are proposals to open one Allopathic dispensary, one Ayurvedic Unit, One Homoeopathic Unit and one Siddha Unit, under CGHS in Chennai in the remaining part of the 9th Five Year Plan, but pending implementation of the SIU Report of November, 1999, as also due to constraints of resources and manpower, it will not be possible for the CGHS to open more dispensaries in Tamil Nadu at present.

Operationalisation of Website in Hyderabad Passport Office

4742. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Website at Hyderabad Passport Office has become operational;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The web-site would have information regarding:

- * the procedure of availing of different passport related services,
- * the passport application forms (which can be down loaded from the web-site),
- * the status of the passport application forms.

The web-site is scheduled to become operational with effect from May 2001.

CGHS Facilities to Senior Citizens

4743. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

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

- (a) whether the Government have any proposal to allow Senior Citizens of the country to avail facilities of CGHS even if they are not covered under the Health Scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria and extent to which senior citizens can avail the facilities; and
- (c) the time by which the above scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

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

[Translation]

Communicable/Non-Communicable Diseases

4744. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government during the last three years to protect the people against communicable and non-communicable diseases;

(b) the position and assistance in regard to the diseases like Malaria, Cholera, Dengue, Plague, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, blindness, AIDS and cancer during the above period, State-wise;

(b) the number of patients who died of communicable and non-communicable diseases; and

(d) the details of foreign assistance as well assistance from international health organisations received by the Government during the last three years to check these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Government of India has been operating various major Diseases Control Programme such as National Anti-Malaria Programme, National AIDS Control Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme, National Blindness Control Programme, Revised National T.B. Control Programme, National Cancer Control Programme etc. over the years for the benefit of the people of the country. Further, as and when there has been a major outbreak, immediate emergency medical relief measures are also provided to the affected population.

(b) Details of financial assistance provided to the States under the various programmes are given in the Statement-I.

(c) Details of deaths due to Malaria/Dengue, HIV/AIDS are given in the Statement-II. Information in respect of deaths due to other communicable/Non-Communicable diseases are not centrally maintained.

(d) Details of foreign assistance as well as assistance from International Health Organisation received by the Government under the various programmes during the last three years is given in the Statement-III.

Statement-I

Funds released to the States TB Control Programme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	241.11	298.14	105.81
2	Assam	67.16	87.53	93.73
3	Arunachal Pradesh	11.59	2.38	83.05
4	Bihar	581.90	425.38	23.08
5	Goa	3.33	0.00	9.98
6	Gujarat	545.20	185.69	270.89
7	Haryana	53.06	161.02	67.47
8	Himachal Pradesh	92.66	60.00	239.03
9	Jammu & Kashmir	25.68	35.00	92.08
10	Karnataka	327.93	164.24	262.82
11	Kerala	336.30	147.64	84.06
12	Madhya Pradesh	243.29	244.67	87.09
13	Maharashtra	408.59	473.98	1,101.92
14	Manipur	24.84	23.88	133.93
15	Meghalaya	6.89	8.07	7.54
16	Mizoram	12.21	3.26	4.29
17	Nagaland	11.74	2.60	60.70
18	Orissa	96.02	182.46	99.67
19	Punjab	64.09	0.00	98.67
20	Rajasthan	215.54	541.27	627.54
21	Sikkim	11.17	1.78	48.30
22	Tamil Nadu	377.35	494.90	617.24
23	Tripura	10.01	12.54	11.56
24	Uttar Pradesh	536.67	768.94	158.26
25	West Bengal	485.96	546.65	330.76

1	2	3	4	5
26	Andaman & Nicobar	10.75	1.17	0.99
27	Chandigarh	12.20	3.52	18.05
28	Pondicherry	11.75	3.11	3.35
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.44	0.63	0.70
30	Daman & Diu	0.32	0.45	0.56
31	Lakshadweep	0.16	0.23	2.11
32	Delhi	71.16	194.03	108.47
Total		4,896.00	5,055.16	4,803.49

Besides above commodity assistance of RNTCP drugs and sputum positive drugs for NTP area and binocular microscopes were also supplied to the States and UTs.

National AIDs Control Programme Utilisation of Funds

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UTs	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
		Grants Released	Grants Released	Grants Released
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	650.00	1219.67	824.50
2	Arunachal Pradesh	30.00	159.00	111.00
3	Assam	100.00	322.00	375.00
4	Bihar	110.00	55.00	196.00
5	Goa	35.00	98.00	72.73
6	Gujarat	230.00	721.00	347.17
7	Haryana	160.00	270.00	246.50
8	Himachal Pradesh	115.00	318.00	262.50
9	Jammu & Kashmir	25.00	25.00	152.00
10	Karnataka	335.00	801.67	398.65
11	Kerala	65.00	280.00	350.63
12	Madhya Pradesh	315.00	352.31	542.00
13	Maharashtra	800.00	998.35	852.00
14	Manipur	245.00	352.38	415.30

1	2	3	4	5
15	Meghalaya	30.00	70.14	87.50
16	Mizoram	100.00	168.00	179.00
17	Nagaland	227.00	380.00	250.50
18	Orissa	100.00	200.00	358.50
19	Punjab	150.00	312.39	321.50
20	Rajasthan	100.00	150.00	380.00
21	Sikkim	50.00	25.00	66.00
22	Tamil Nadu	800.00	883.09	1108.30
23	Tripura	20.00	50.00	92.00
24	Uttar Pradesh	200.00	851.00	1175.00
25	West Bengal	350.00	425.00	643.15
26	Delhi	110.00	283.00	239.00
27	Pondicherry	40.00	25.00	21.50
28	A&N Islands	20.00	50.00	66.44
29	Chandigarh	60.00	115.00	93.11
30	Dadra & Nagar Haveli		25.00	9.00
31	Daman & Diu	15.00	95.00	9.00
32	Lakshadweep		25.00	9.16
33	MDACS, Mumbai	350.00	670.00	431.65
34	Ahemdabad MC	5.00	75.00	84.61
35	Chennai MC		125.00	101.50
Total		5942.00	10975.00	10872.40

State-wise Expenditure during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 under National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

States/UTs	1998-99 (Exp.)	1999-2000 (Exp.)	2000-2001 (Exp.)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	482.93	663.50	553.25
Arunachal Pradesh	186.61	229.22	305.53
Assam	2170.42	2616.73	2227.29

1	2	3	4
Bihar	403.05	578.66	1217.25
Goa	7.72	4.54	0.47
Gujarat	611.11	349.95	170.53
Haryana	260.39	160.95	73.36
Himachal Pradesh	51.77	92.45	83.49
Jammu & Kashmir	72.57	103.40	80.00
Karnataka	264.47	229.29	234.33
Kerala	102.73	49.63	47.53
Madhya Pradesh	450.49	443.28	821.30
Maharashtra	260.26	181.51	444.65
Manipur	377.34	219.53	236.79
Meghalaya	231.55	212.27	308.54
Mizoram	172.35	190.05	240.46
Nagaland	183.34	308.33	279.95
Orissa	385.14	436.17	513.69
Punjab	290.67	148.45	133.76
Rajasthan	1994.15	1075.71	368.42
Sikkim	8.47	7.90	8.00
Tamil Nadu	240.72	114.91	138.14
Tripura	356.97	379.31	463.95
Uttar Pradesh	1121.92	527.80	547.37
West Bengal	330.90	501.99	601.95
Delhi	37.21	20.10	90.17
Pondicherry	6.15	11.28	23.83
A&N Islands	155.68	111.28	223.75
Chandigarh	44.30	34.55	38.77
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	24.90	34.85	40.61
Daman & Diu	10.08	12.97	15.91

1	2	3	4
Lakshadweep	5.24	5.82	8.96
	11305.48	10055.84	10542.00*
Kala-azar	1000.00	1000.00	
Estt/Research/Publicity	571.10	541.35	624.00
EAC	3517.39	6064.95	8230.00
NDCP	-		4.00
Grand Total	16393.97	17662.14	19400.00

* Including provision for Kala-azar Control.

*Funds Released to State under National Programme
for Control of Blindness*

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total Grants
1	2	3	4	5
World Bank Project States				
Andhra Pradesh	533.50	434.40	417.25	1,385.15
Madhya Pradesh	976.67	740.81	473.00	2,190.48
Maharashtra	449.25	664.68	437.00	1,551.13
Orissa	551.08	420.25	1,087.00	2,058.33
Rajasthan	324.50	314.18	759.00	1,397.68
Tamil Nadu	866.85	1,009.82	523.25	2,399.92
Uttar Pradesh	806.75	789.32	414.50	2,010.57
Sub-Total	4,508.60	4,373.66	4,111.00	12,993.26

Other States

Arunachal Pradesh	9.50	18.00	26.89	54.39
Assam	107.15	86.75	139.14	333.04
Bihar	204.00	165.00	251.31	620.31
Delhi	24.70	42.52	31.27	98.49
Goa	63.15	14.50	38.65	116.30
Gujarat	154.14	396.52	255.22	805.88
Haryana	101.00	170.27	135.50	406.77
Himachal Pradesh	83.53	86.25	109.50	279.28
Jammu & Kashmir	92.00	40.75	94.64	227.39

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	258.01	352.20	241.90	852.11
Kerala	91.57	222.59	210.80	524.96
Manipur	25.91	7.00	37.70	70.61
Meghalaya	26.83	24.00	41.09	91.92
Mizoram	25.75	29.50	36.95	92.20
Nagaland	64.10	14.00	34.70	112.80
Punjab	56.60	199.61	90.60	346.81
Sikkim	38.30	18.25	23.09	79.64
Tripura	50.89	35.39	55.47	141.75
West Bengal	141.70	204.10	187.25	533.05
A & N Islands	7.80	10.67	3.75	22.22
Chandigarh	10.60	11.24	11.00	32.84
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6.70	2.50	3.75	12.95
Daman & Diu	7.70	9.40	3.75	20.85
Lakshadweep	17.70	5.72	3.75	27.17
Pondicherry	5.30	20.82	7.09	33.21
Sub-Total	1,674.63	2,187.55	2,074.76	5,936.94
Grand Total	6,183.23	6,561.21	6,185.76	18,930.20

*Fund released to the States under
Cancer Control Programme*
(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	282.50	203.50	-
2	Assam	-	3.00	-
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-
4	Bihar	30.00	75.00	83.00
5	Goa	-	-	-
6	Gujarat	78.30	175.00	75.00

1	2	3	4	5
7	Haryana	-	-	325.00
8	Himachal Pradesh	-	73.00	75.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	150.00	36.00	-
10	Karnataka	82.50	175.00	475.00
11	Kerala	251.65	686.50	82.50
12	Madhya Pradesh	57.50	170.00	395.00
13	Maharashtra	75.00	175.00	325.00
14	Manipur	-	30.00	-
15	Meghalaya	-	-	-
16	Mizoram	-	-	-
17	Nagaland	-	-	-
18	Orissa	82.50	75.00	75.00
19	Punjab	149.00	51.00	-
20	Rajasthan	300.00	225.00	75.00
21	Sikkim	-	-	30.00
22	Tamil Nadu	86.00	194.00	401.00
23	Tripura	-	-	-
24	Uttar Pradesh	82.50	160.50	85.50
25	West Bengal	460.00	675.00	468.71
26	Andaman & Nicobar	-	-	-
27	Chandigarh	-	-	200.00
28	Pondicherry	-	-	-
29	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
30	Daman & Diu	-	-	-
31	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
32	Delhi	770.00	470.00	1828.50

Statement-II*Number of Deaths due to Malaria during 1998, 1999 & 2000.*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	1998	1999	2000*
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	12	11	6
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	1	0
3	Assam	34	111	41
4	Bihar	34	131	3
5	Goa	19	17	9
6	Gujarat	3	7	0
7	Haryana	0	0	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
10	Karnataka	3	11	12
11	Kerala	7	7	4
12	Madhya Pradesh	26	50	22
13	Maharashtra	32	46	16
14	Manipur	1	8	0
15	Meghalaya	2	5	0
16	Mizoram	56	73	33
17	Nagaland	0	12	0
18	Orissa	349	399	315
19	Punjab	0	0	0
20	Rajasthan	0	0	0
21	Sikkim	0	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	2	2	0
23	Tripura	5	11	0

1	2	3	4	5
24	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
25	West Bengal	77	144	60
Union Territories				
1	A. & N. Islands	0	2	1
2	Chandigarh	0	0	0
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
4	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
5	Delhi	0	0	0
6	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
7	Pondicherry	0	0	0
Total		664	1048	522

* Provisional

Number of Deaths due to Dengue during 1998, 1999 and 2000

S.No.	States/UTs	1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	0
3.	Punjab	0	1	1
4.	Karnataka	3	0	0
5.	Gujarat	0	0	0
6.	Maharashtra	5	12	0
7.	Tamil Nadu	5	2	1
8.	Delhi	5	2	2
9.	Orissa	0	0	-
10.	Rajasthan	0	0	-
11.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	-
Total		18	17	4

Deaths due to HIV/AIDS
(as reported on end December 1999)

Reported deaths due to AIDS

S.No.	State/UT	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andhra Pradesh	1	-	4	4	-	6	-	-
2	Assam	1	-	6	-	-	1	-	1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	A&N Islands	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
5	Bihar	-	-	30	40	-	12	5	7
6	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
7	Punjab	23	12	46	8	5	4	-	-
8	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
9	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8	1	-	-	3	1	2	-
11	Goa	3	-	4	-	-	4	-	3
12	Gujarat	3	-	4	-	-	-	12	-
13	Haryana	-	1	4	-	1	-	-	5
14	Himachal Pradesh	10	2	-	-	29	34	6	-
15	Jammu & Kashmir	40	-	10	-	13	4	-	-
16	Karnataka	14	-	-	21	4	12	9	17
17	Kerala	37	35	32	31	110	82	13	-
18	Lakshadweep	6	13	7	39	71	-	4	-
19	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
20	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
21	Manipur	-	1	2	4	7	-	2	17
22	Mizoram	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	7
23	Meghalaya	6	-	40	-	18	4	1	-
24	Nagaland	-	-	-	1	-	1	12	25
25	Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
26	Pondicherry	10	23	60	40	-	18	71	-
27	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Sikkim	6	-	4	-	24	-	1	-
29	Tamil Nadu	12	2	13	-	-	2	-	119
30	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
32	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total 1722		210	91	267	188	287	185	138	356

Statement-III

A soft loan of US \$ 142.2 million (Rs. 604 crore) has been negotiated with the World Bank for implementation of RNTCP. Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting the Programme for implementing RNTCP in entire State of Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 109.93 crore. DANIDA is implementing RNTCP in a phased manner in 14 districts of Orissa at a cost of Rs. 31.95 crore.

The details of foreign assistance as well as International Health Organisation received for Leprosy Eradication Programme during the last three years is as under :-

(Figures in crores)

Organisations	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
World Bank	39.90	46.88	50.00
WHO	20.00	18.00	16.00
DANIDA	1.10	1.17	2.00
Total	61.00	66.05	68.00

Assistance amounting to Rs. 29,22,000/- has been received from the WHO for activities under Malaria and other Vector borne diseases in the WHO biennium 1998-99. In the biennium 2000-01 assistance amounting to Rs. 74,11,316/- has been received from WHO.

Funds allocated under the World Bank Project and Danish assistance for Blindness Control Programme during the last three years are as follows :-

(Rs. in Crore)

	World Bank	DANIDA
1998-99	53	5
1999-00	60	5
2000-01	65	10

The details of foreign assistance as well as assistance from international health organisations received by the Government for AIDS Control Programme are as follows :-

Rs. in million

IDA Credit (1999-2004) 11550

USAID 1660

DFID 1040

In addition CIDA is providing financial assistance of 12 million Canadian \$.

Under WHO biennium 2000-01 total funds under National Cancer Control Programme were approx. \$ 6 lacs and the same during 1998-99 was \$ 3.53 lacs. In addition an amount of Rs. 5.75 crore was provided as grant-in-aid to Cancer Research Institute Chennai, under JICA during the year 1999-2000.

[English]

Ban on Smoking

4745. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN :

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to ban on smoking in public places and tobacco products advertisements;

(b) If so, whether the Government propose to bring a legislation simultaneously to protect the livelihood of tobacco growers and labourers employed in tobacco industry;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which affected tobacco growers and labourers are proposed to be compensated and rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) A comprehensive legislation which inter-alia includes provisions to ban smoking in public places and advertisement of tobacco products has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001.

The Bill does not have any provisions which directly affect the livelihood of tobacco growers and labourers employed in tobacco industry.

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

Juvenile Justice Act

4746. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Juvenile Welfare Board had ordered an enquiry into the custodial death of a 11 year old boy some two years back as reported in Times of India dated November 16, 2000;

(b) if so facts thereof and the preventive measures taken and action initiated against erring officials;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact laws to keep hardboiled regular police away from juvenile cases;

(d) if so, details thereof and the time by which such laws are likely to be enacted; and

(e) whether the Government plan to encourage NGO's such as Action India Trust, CRY, NAFRE amongst others in handling such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has already enacted a new Act called the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 which has replaced the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986. The provisions of this new Act have come into effect from 1st April, 2001. The new Act *inter-alia* provides for atleast one officer in every police station as 'juvenile or child welfare officer' to handle the juvenile or child in coordination with the police and setting up of Special juvenile police units.

(e) The new Act provides for involvement of NGOs for better implementation of the Juvenile Justice System in the country.

Family Planning Programme

4747. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Family Planning Programme in the country have been focussed on women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have drawn any plans to create awareness among men for the successful implementation of these programmes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the health programme more successful to control increasing population of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The family planning programmes in the country have been focussed on maternal health, safe motherhood and since 1997 on reproduce and child health.

Further the National Population Policy, 2000 adopted by the Government of India in February, 2000 envisages the following schemes for the benefit of the women/girl child :

- Continuation of Balika Samridhi Yojana under which a cash incentive of Rs. 500 is awarded at the birth of the girl child of birth order 1 or 2.
- Continuation of Maternity Benefit Scheme under which a cash incentive of Rs. 500 is awarded to mothers who have their first child after 19 years of age, for birth of the first or second child only.
- Operating Creches and Childcare centres in rural areas and urban slums.
- Facilities for safe abortion will be strengthened and expanded.
- Increased vocational training schemes for girls, leading to self-employment will be encouraged.

(c) The No-Scalpel Vasectomy project is being implemented in the country to promote male participation in the Family Welfare Programme. Under this project 1500 medical personnel all over the country are being trained in the technique of No-Scalpel Vasectomy. Ensuring the avail-

ability of this new technique up to the peripheral level will help increase the acceptance of male sterilization in the country.

(d) The steps taken by Government so far for creating awareness/education among masses for small family norm are as follows :-

(i) Wide publicity is being carried out through electronic and print media, both in Hindi and regional languages on small family norm, spacing, immunization etc. The media unit of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and several Social Marketing Organisations and NGOs are involved in strengthening of IEC efforts.

(ii) Various other information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, including strengthening of Mahila Swasthya Sanghs, State level seminars, cultural shows, exhibition, road-side hoardings etc. are simultaneously pursued. Local specific issues are addressed through a scheme involving the Zilla Saksharata Samities in IEC for the programme. 227 districts are covered under this.

(iii) Convergence of all the Departments in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implemented through the holding of Family Welfare and Health Melas. Series of Melas have been held in the demographically weaker States. The Mela provides convergence of a wide range of health and family welfare services at one place and time. This serves to address the unmet needs among different segments of the population. There has been tremendous response and appreciation from the public.

(iv) For the underserved regions of the country, Primary Health Centre based RCH camps are being held at regular intervals.

DASS Grade-I

4748. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Fast Track Committee of Secretaries recommended that the recommendations of 5th Central Pay Commission for upgrading the scale of Grade-I of DASS need not be accepted and only the replacement scale for Rs. 1640-2900 (pre-revised) (revised 5500-9000) be given to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of above recommendation the DASS Grade-I has been allowed to draw the scale of Rs. 6500-10, 500/-; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Central Government had already approved the revision of pay scale of Grade-I of DASS from Rs. 1640-2900 to Rs. 2000-3200 w.e.f. issue of the Order dated 19th March, 1996. The revision of pay scale was subject to the condition that expenditure involved will be met out of the budget grant of the Government of NCT of Delhi and no assistance would be provided by the Central Government for meeting the expenditure on account of revision of pay scale of Grade-I of DASS. As such Grade-I of DASS were given the scale of Rs. 2000-3200 (pre-revised) (Rs. 6500-10, 500 revised) much before submission of the Report by the 5th Central Pay Commission on 30th January, 1997.

As regards the Fast Track Committee recommendations are concerned, the pay scales of Grade-I of DASS was not included in one of the terms of reference. However as is expected of any expert body looking into the pay scales related matters, the Fast Track Committee while looking into the demand of DANICS and DANIPS to accept the recommendation of 5th Central Pay Commission (which was one of the terms of reference) also looked into the horizontal and vertical relativity of various posts of NCT of Delhi in DANICS and DANIPS Cadre and their feeder grades and recommended replacement scale of Rs. 1640-2900 (pre-revised) (revised Rs. 5500-9000). As scale of Rs. 2000-3200 had already been given w.e.f. 19th March, 1996, its replacement scale of Rs. 6500-10500 has been given to Grade-I DASS.

CGHS Building

4749. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries functioning in Government residential accommodations in Delhi for want of their own proper CGHS buildings;

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

(c) the rent being paid for each such dispensary;

(d) whether land has been allotted by the Ministry of Urban Development for construction of buildings for CGHS dispensaries;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the Government propose to provide buildings for CGHS dispensaries in Delhi which are functioning in the Government Quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) A list showing the names of CGHS dispensaries functioning in Government residential quarters in Delhi is given in statement-I. No rent is being paid for these buildings.

(d) to (f) A list indicating the CGHS dispensaries for which land has been allotted by the Ministry of Urban Development is given in statement-II.

(g) The time schedule for construction of buildings for CGHS dispensaries cannot be indicated as it depends on availability of resources and completion of required administrative formalities.

Statement-I

List of CGHS dispensaries in Delhi functioning in Government residential quarters

1. Pandara Road
2. Kidwai Nagar (Ayurvedic dispensary)
3. Minto Road
4. Paharganj
5. Lodhi Road II
6. Sarojini Nagar II
7. Dev Nagar
8. Chankyapuri
9. President Estate
10. Nauroji Nagar
11. North Avenue
12. South Avenue
13. Constitution House
14. Telegraph Lane
15. Sarojini Nagar Market
16. Andrews Ganj

17. Jungpura
18. Malviya Nagar
19. R.K. Puram I
20. Chitra Gupta Road
21. Inderpuri
22. R.K. Puram V
23. Raj Pur Road
24. Kingsway Camp
25. Sadiq Nagar
26. Ghaziabad
27. R.K. Puram VI
28. Faridabad
29. Munirka
30. Kasturba Nagar II
31. Dakshin Puri
32. Pitam Pura
33. Pragti Vihar
34. Kalkaji II
35. Mayur Vihar
36. Paschim Vihar
37. Sarojini Nagar (Unani dispensary)

Statement-II

Names of CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi for which plots have been allotted by DDA/ Land & Development Office under the Ministry of Urban Development

Possession already taken

1. Ashok Vihar
2. Dilshad Garden
3. Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad
4. Pushp Vihar, Sector VII, MB Road
5. Moti Nagar
6. Mayur Vihar
7. Malviya Nagar

8. Pitampura
9. Noida
10. Shakurbasti
11. Shalimar Bagh
12. Tagore Garden
13. Vasant Vihar
14. Vikaspuri

Possession yet to be taken

1. Alaknanda (Kalkaji II)
2. Patel Nagar/East Patel Nagar
3. Patparganj
4. Rohini
5. Tyagraj Nagar
6. Yumuna Vihar
7. Motia Khan
8. A B Block Janakpuri
9. Model Town/Dhirpur
10. R.K. Puram, Sector XIII

Below Poverty Line

4750. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether recent estimates suggest that the projections on reduction of proportion and number of people below poverty line made in the Ninth Plan have not been realised in the first two years of the Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not realization of the projections; and

(d) the extent to which the structural reforms policies are responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The annual projections of the proportion and number of people below the poverty line have not been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan. However, the Ninth Five Year Plan has projected the percentage of people living below the poverty line to 17.98% by the terminal year of the Ninth Five Year Plan (2001-02).

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Ban on Experiments on Animals

4751. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend the existing Breeding and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules 1998;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to ban the experiments on animals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the likely impact on the research/experimental works as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Breeding of sand Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Amendment Rules 2001 have been published in the Gazette of India vide S.O. No. 134(E) dt. 15.2.2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The question does not arise.

Admission of SC/ST in Medical Courses

4752. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

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

(a) the number of seats offered in different faculties/ disciplines in all the Medical Colleges (receiving the grant-in-aid from the Central Government) in Specialities and super speciality courses during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the above referred courses in different faculties/ courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during the last three years; and

(c) reasons if the above recommendation is not implemented satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Drugs on Internet

4753. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that drugs are being sold and purchased through internet;

(b) If so, whether information regarding manufacturing of synthetic drugs is available on internet; and

(c) if so, steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Internet also provides access to an open ocean of information on various subjects. It is reasonable to expect that information regarding manufacturing of synthetic drugs be available over the internet.

(c) It is technically not possible to block complete access to any information available over the internet.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Sick SSI Units

4754. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government for identification and rehabilitation of sick Small Scale Industries;

(b) whether the Government propose to strengthen State Level Inter-Institutional Committee in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Government has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which inter-alia, include modifications in definition of sick small scale units, reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter Institutional Committees, special rehabilitation cells in banks and State financial institutions and elaborate guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units.

(b) to (d) A number of steps have been taken by Reserve Bank of India to strengthen the State Level Inter-Institutional Committees. These include holding meetings regularly, nominating a senior officer exclusively to chair the meetings of the SLIIC, specific individual cases to be looked into by the sub-committees of SLIICS and formulating a phased programme for rehabilitation of potentially viable units, participation of the local SSI associations in SLIIC meetings.

III Effects of Contaminated Transfusion of Fluid

4755. SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that contaminated transfusion of fluids are administered in many Government hospitals resulting in death of patients;

(b) if so, the number of such cases noticed by the Government during the last two years, till date;

(c) whether an expert committee of the National Human Rights Commission had made certain recommendations for ensuring quality health care products to patients

after contaminated bottles of LVP were detected in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital;

(d) if so, details of the said recommendations; and

(e) the reasons for not executing the same by the all Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) There is no such report during the last two years.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details of recommendations are as under :-

1. Develop policies and procedures for the procurement of medicines and inventory control, receipt, handling storage, quality control, distribution and dispensing etc.

2. Develop policies and procedures for handling of quality related complaints, all medication errors and adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

3. Develop good hospital warehousing practices including rodent control and frame good warehousing practice guidelines. It shall impart training to hospital staff in Good Warehousing Practices and ensure maintenance of record of defective stocks, at one place. It shall prepare guidelines and ensure safe custody of defective samples drawn by Regulatory Authorities.

4. Impart continuing education to hospital staff, including pharmacists, nurses, doctors in the visual inspection of particulate matter before administering I.V. fluids to patients.

5. Develop flow chart for complaint handling procedure and for partnership for networking within manufacturers and Regulatory Agencies for speedy disposal of defective and recalled goods.

6. Prepare guidelines on sampling of stocks including complaint samples, by approved testing laboratories detailing exact quantity to be drawn, fixing responsibility for drawing samples.

National Human Rights Commission has also made recommendation concerning review of Schedule M to the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 for up-gradation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) for manufacture, storage, distribution, warehousing of I.V. Fluids.

In this regard, Government has initiated steps to upgrade the requirement under the existing Schedule M in terms of requirement of premises, plant, equipments and areas for

pharmaceutical products. The draft upgraded Schedule M, vide draft notification No. GSR 8(E) dated 4.1.2001, now includes a separate part having specific requirements on strict control of manufacture of LVPs both in glass and plastics containers, in terms of building & civil work, air handling system (central air conditioning), environment monitoring, sanitation, equipments, water systems, manufacturing & sterilization processes, documentation, areas needed etc.

The Government has circulated the draft notification to the manufactures to elicit their views before finalizing the proposal and amendments to Schedule M under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Setting up of East Breeder Reactors

4756. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up more fast breeder reactors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the first instance it is proposed to set up a 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR). The Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be ready by July 2001 and it is expected that necessary approvals will be obtained by December 2001 so as to start the construction thereafter. Setting up further FBRs will depend upon the successful operation of first 500 MWe PFBR.

Comprehensive Policy Package for KVIC

4757. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced a comprehensive policy package for Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it is likely be helpful for the country;

(d) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has been asked to prepare industry-wise national plans for each of the village industries; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

Anti-India Militant Groups

4758. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has urged UK to take action against anti-India militant groups sheltering over there; and

(b) If so, the reaction of the UK Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) Government has, on a continuing basis, sensitized the British Government on our concerns regarding the activities of organisations which have indulged in terrorism in India and have some form of representation in the UK. There has been an ongoing dialogue with British authorities regarding the action that can be taken against such international terrorist organisations, particularly under the provisions of the UK's Terrorism Act, 2000 which came into effect on 28 March 2001. The response of the British Government has been encouraging. Amongst the organisations prescribed under the Act, UK has included five such organisations : Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, International Sikh Youth Federation, Babbar Khalsa and LTTE.

Surprise Checking of Stores of Hospitals

4759. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a surprise check of various stores of Safdarjung Hospital was conducted BY the CBI in association with officials of the Office of Drug Controller and Bureau of

Indian Standards in the first half of 2000;

(b) if so, the outcome of the surprise checking by the CBI and the action taken thereon;

(c) if the investigations have not yet been completed, if so, the time by which the same is likely to be finalised; and

(d) the corrective steps taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) A surprise check was conducted by CBI on 25.1.2000 to especially check the stock of gauge thans and handloom rolled bandage, etc.

(b) The CBI has registered a regular case in this context vide two FIRs. The details of the same are as under :-

FIR No. RC-DA-1-2000-A-0016

Dated 18.4.2000

Mr. Sandeep Gupta, C/o M/s Pharma Surge Impex, 1/5, Gali No.3, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi.

M/s Pharma Surge Impex, 1/56, Gali No.3, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi.

Some officials of Safdarjung Hospital.

FIR No. RC-DA-1-2000-A-0017

Dated 18.4.2000

Jagdish Lal Maheshwari, 5A, Jain Nagar, Merrut

M/s Zenith Corpn, 5A, Jain Nagar, Merrut

Some officials of Safdarjung Hospital

(c) The Matter is being investigated by the CBI.

(d) The gauge and bandages found of standard quality by Government approved laboratory are put into use.

Setting up of Digitalised Library

4760. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to create a digitalised library of the rich knowledge in Ayurveda in a bid to help patent offices abroad in proper screening of claims on herbal products;

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

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Necessary approval has been obtained for setting up a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) to bring the ancient Ayurvedic knowledge and the use of Medicinal Plants already available in published form in an easily accessible and retrievable form to prevent grant of patents on non-original inventions.

[Translation]

Satellites for Flight Operations

4761. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is seriously contemplating to make use of satellite for flight operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of benefits likely to be derived with the use of satellite; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the existing satellite based systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) have jointly prepared a National Plan for Satellite based Navigation of civilian aircraft under the aegis of a National Steering Committee chaired by Secretary, Civil Aviation.

A Technology Demonstration System has been planned as a first step to demonstrate higher accuracies required for

final approach and landing stages of an aircraft. This is in the final stages of government approval. On successful completion of the Technology Demonstration System, a full operational capability System would be implemented.

(c) When operationalised, this system will provide the necessary accuracies and reliability required for civilian aircraft navigation and the resultant operational benefits would be :

(i) airspace capacity enhancement, i.e., larger number of aircraft could share the same airspace without causing congestion.

(ii) saving in flying time and fuel because the aircraft would be able to take direct route between origin and destination.

(d) At present, the Global Positioning System (GPS) is used world-wide for en-route navigation of aircraft. The Technology Demonstration System is essentially a first step towards a full operational capability space-based augmentation system for augmentation of GPS signals. When operationalised, this will provide navigation to aircraft during final approach and landing.

[English]

Modernisation Fund Scheme

4762. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the scope and coverage of Technology Development and Modernisation Fund Scheme to Agro and Rural Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) All Small Scale Industries including Agro and Rural Industries are covered under the Technology Development and Modernisation Fund Scheme of the Small Industries Development Bank of India subject to meeting the norms of the Scheme.

Surplus Stocks with C.O.D.

4763. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quantity of randomly selected 437 items of CODs, Agra, Delhi Cantt. Jabalpur and CAFVD Kirkee makes a startling revelation of stocks that can last upto 10 years, 10-50 years, 50-100 years and above and inspite of the abundant availability of the stock and sufficient budgetary support, the depot's performance with reference to users satisfaction was far from satisfaction;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter; and

(c) the corrective steps taken to set the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Question refers to a portion of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India published in 2000. Excess inventory as pointed out in the Report which deals only with a limited range of items, could, inter alia, be because on first induction of equipment, the failure rate of various components and spares may be less than forecast by the manufacturer. Moreover, exploitation during peace time is limited and spares inventory has still to be kept in stock. Often on information from the country of origin of an equipment that the production line is going to be wound up, the Army has to go for procurement of Life Time Buy of spares. In view of this no inquiry is proposed.

2. With regard to user satisfaction, it is brought out that for the items which are held in sufficient quantities as explained above, user satisfaction levels are high. The CAG's observations that user satisfaction levels are low in the same Depots pertains to data related to items other than those under discussion. The Army has decided to accept the recommendations of the CAG to improve consumer satisfaction levels.

A.C.P. Scheme

4764. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced the Assured Career Programme Scheme for the Government employees during the year 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of assistants out of total posts

sanctioned in assistant cadre of Central Secretariat Service benefited by the said scheme so far;

(d) whether a percentage of promoted assistants the total sanctioned posts, are likely to be deprived of the Assured Career Programme Scheme inspite of their 12-18 years of service; and

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to promote these assistants in-situ like section officers in order to avoid stagnation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Scheme of the Assured Career Progression which took prospective effect from 9.8.1999, two financial upgradations are allowed to the Central Government employees, first after completion of 12 years of regular service and the second upgradation after 12 years of regular service from the date of first promotion/ financial upgradation subject to fulfilment of prescribed conditions.

(c) The Assistants' Grade of the Central Secretariat Service is a decentralised grade divided into 33 cadres. The dates relating to financial upgradation allowed in various cadres is not maintained/available centrally.

(d) The promotee Assistants normally join service as Lower Division Clerks (LDCs). Such Assistants have, thus, already earned two promotions in their service career (from LDC to UDC and UDC to Assistant) and, therefore, they are not eligible for any further benefit under the ACP scheme which provides for only two financial upgradations during the service career after 12 and 24 years of service respectively.

(e) No, Sir.

Irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar

4765. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a lot of irregularities and corruption are taking place in the sale and purchase of stationery and other items and selection of suppliers in the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to separate

the stationery Department from the main body of the organisation and to corporatise them for direct proper control and supervision of the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of complaints received from the Government department by the Government relating to supply of poor quality good/items, higher rates, lack of consumer satisfaction etc. in the organisation in each of the last three years alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Complaints about irregularities and corruption which are received by Kendriya Bhandar are investigated by Its Chief Vigilance Officer.

(b) and (c) The Kendriya Bhandar being a Consumer Cooperative Society registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act with its own byelaws, the proposal is not feasible.

(d) Complaints of general nature have been received by the Government. No separate statistics of such complaints is maintained. Kendriya Bhandar, had however, received 7 specific complaints from various Government Departments relating to over charging, inferior quality of paper etc. Such complaints were looked into by them and action taken which included imposition of penalty on concerned officials.

AIDS in North Eastern States

4766. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of population in Assam and other North Eastern States exposed to HIV and risks of AIDS in each of these States, indicating the estimates of population; and

(b) the number out of them screened out by way of AIDS detection tests and found carrying HIV and full blown AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) As per data from Sentinel Surveillance, it is estimated that

3.86 million people in the country are infected with HIV as on 2000. The reported number of AIDS cases as on 31st March in the North Eastern States is given in the statement.

Statement

National AIDS Control Programme, India

AIDS cases in India (Reported to NACO)

(As on 31st March, 2001)

S.No.	State/UT	AIDS Cases
1.	Assam	110
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Nagaland	103
4.	Manipur	790
5.	Mizoram	16
6.	Meghalaya	8
7.	Tripura	0

Establishment of Consulate

4767. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought permission from Myanmar to open a new consulate at Mandalay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) In pursuance of its policy of strengthening bilateral cooperation with Myanmar by enhancing economic, cultural and other linkages, the Government has proposed to the Government of Myanmar the reciprocal re-establishment of consulates in Mandalay and Kolkata respectively

National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

4768. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has been

releasing funds to the State Minorities Finance Corporation for the upliftment of minorities;

(b) If so, the total fund allocated by the NMDFC to States during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that NMDFC has stopped releasing of funds to State Minorities Finance Corporations due to non-utilization of earlier released funds;

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

(e) whether the release of funds has since been resumed to them; and

(f) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement attached.

(c) to (f) Release of fund by NMDFC to the State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs) is done subject to their fulfilling required criteria and utilization of fund released earlier. Release of fund to SCAs of the following States was help up in the years indicated due to non-utilization of fund released earlier :

1998-99	Tamil nadu
1999-2000	Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir (SC/ST DC) and Tamil Nadu
2000-2001	Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh (MPBC & MFDC) and Tripura

As the utilization position has improved, SCAs of Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K SC/ST DC) have been released fund during 2000-2001.

Statement

Details of funds released by NMDFC to States during the last three years

(Figures in Rs. lakh)

Name of State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	376.81	589.00	100.00

1	2	3	4
Assam	77.93	28.18	80.47
Bihar	242.55	0.00	326.00
Chandigarh	14.94	9.36	7.51
Gujarat	481.64	633.23	400.00
Himachal Pradesh	91.03	56.90	0.00
Haryana	238.99	225.00	134.78
Jammu & Kashmir			
J & K SC/ST DC*	299.77	0.00	100.00
J & K WDC*	21.25	95.00	77.11
Kerala	699.39	949.50	1209.36
Karnataka	641.89	632.00	600.00
Manipur	124.22	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh			
MPBC & MFDC*	235.18	125.00	0.00
MPHDC*	17.91	55.05	111.00
Mizoram	134.43	244.63	942.43
Nagaland	52.10	124.00	350.00
Orissa	199.70	300.00	0.00
Punjab	175.74	204.00	455.00
Rajasthan	99.12	100.00	30.00
Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tripura	66.79	36.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	855.67	1030.00	1500.00
West Bengal	791.94	641.00	800.00
Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	20.00

* J & K SC/ST DC – Jammu & Kashmir Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation

J & K WDC – Jammu & Kashmir Women Development Corporation

MPBC & MFDC – Madhya Pradesh Backward Classes and Minorities Finance & Development Corporation

MPHDC – Madhya Pradesh Hastship Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam

Purchase of Medicines

4769. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether DADG, Delhi and DADG Headquarters, against whom CBI investigations are pending have been posted;

(b) whether transfers of above DADGs have been down on the request of DG;

(c) whether the case of corruption have been noticed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) No DADG of Delhi, Medical Store Depot or Headquarters of Medical Store Organization has been posted in the Directorate General of Health Services. However, following initiation of disciplinary proceedings against some other officials of the Medical Store Organization, their services have been placed in the Directorate General of Health Services in non-sensitive assignments. This has been done in the interest of administration and not on the request of DG. Action will depend upon the outcome of the inquiry proceedings.

National Institute of Smart Government

4770. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to establish National Institute of Smart Government any where in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal from any State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) A proposal for setting up of the National Institute of Smart Government at Hyderabad was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. A report of the Consultant engaged by the Government of Andhra Pradesh was also received. On the basis of the report of the consultant and further discussions held on the subject, the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has undertaken an internal study to develop a proposal for setting up of such an institute. The report from NASSCOM was received on 14 March, 2001. Further action in this regard has been initiated.

(c) and (d) In addition to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Government of Karnataka have also submitted their views for setting up of the Institute in a brief communication.

International AIDS Vaccine

4771. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA :

SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

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

(a) whether NACO and ICMR have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the US based NGO, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to develop a vaccine appropriate to India under the caption "India joins global offer for AIDS Vaccine", as reported in the Time of India dated March 21, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement so signed;

(c) the total amount likely to be provided by IAVI for the development of the vaccine;

(d) whether latest vaccine from the IAVI is under trial in Kenya;

(e) the number of other potential AIDS vaccines developed in laboratories and the details of those which are under testing; and

(f) the latest position with regard to cure of HIV/AIDS?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Indian Council of Medical Research has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), New York, USA. Under the terms of Memorandum of Understanding, each party will contribute their experiences and resources to vaccine development to include cooperation in basic science research building to collaborative research on different approaches towards development of AIDS vaccine on prevalent HIV subtype C in India.

(c) The amount of assistance is not specified.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A total of 49 clinical trials for 26 different vaccine candidates are in different stages of clinical trials in the world.

(f) There is no cure for HIV/AIDS at present.

Missing of Armymen

4772. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of defence personnel have been reported missing during the last several years;

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

(c) the action the Government are contemplating to search such missing personnel and the results obtained therefrom so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Non-utilization of Funds meant for Modernisation of Armed Forces

4773. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Defence forces have failed to utilise the funds meant for modernization of armed forces and upgradation of existing defence programmes;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to review the procurement procedures to expedite decisions which have a direct bearing on the nation's defence preparedness; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Against a provision of Rs. 58587 crores in Budget Estimates 2000-2001 for the Defence Services, Revised Estimates had been pegged at Rs. 54460.91 crores. This reduction of Rs. 4126.09 crores was made keeping in view the anticipated cash outgo during the financial year 2000-2001 based on the status of various ongoing/ new schemes and projects.

(c) and (d) The Task Force for the Review of Management of Defence and the Group of Ministers constituted to review the National Security System in its entirety have inter-alia examined the question of review of procurement procedures.

Diseases by Inadequate Sanitation, Hygiene and Water Supply

4774. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

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

(a) whether according to WHO, nearly one million people in India die every year due to diseases caused by inadequate sanitation, hygiene and water supply;

(b) if so, whether the Government have gone through WHO's World Water Commission report in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the further reaction of the Government on such remarks made by WHO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) WHO Representative in India has stated that they have no information regarding the alleged death of one million people in India due to inadequate sanitation, hygiene and water. They have stated that there is no "WHO World Water Commission Report" but there is "World Water Vision Commission Report". This report also does not appear to have a reference to deaths in India.

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

[Translation]

Sick SSI Units

4775. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have ascertained the number of sick small scale industries during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

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

(c) the investment made in these industries during each of the above mentioned years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) As per the latest data compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of sick small scale industries as at the end of March, 1999 & 2000 were 3,06,221 and 3,04,235 respectively. The Sector-wise details on sick small scale industries and amount outstanding against them during these years are given in the statement. Information for the year ending March, 2001 is yet to be compiled by the RBI.

Statement

Sector-wise data on sick Small Scale Industries and amount outstanding against them

(Rs. in crores)

Industry	At the end of March, 1999		At the end of March, 2000	
	Total sick SSI Units		Total Sick SSI Units	
	Nos.	Amount Outstanding	Nos.	Amount Outstanding
1	2	3	4	5
Engineering	17529	483.67	16769	470.99
Electrical	8150	202.56	6480	218.98
Textile	24306	425.03	25764	484.81
Jute	757	25.46	674	25.35

1	2	3	4	5
Paper	4128	106.15	3740	120.43
Rubber	1987	68.56	1904	72.57
Cement	988	36.39	876	32.28
Iron & Steel	5013	235.19	5447	264.04
Sugar	354	9.76	375	11.86
Chemicals	18446	364.07	7163	312.53
Metal & Metal Products	7022	291.57	1998	119.26
Veg. Oils	1224	28.95	819	29.11
Tobacco	2637	12.13	412	38.99
Leather	2304	63.48	960	67.32
Gem & Jewellery	203	5.53	225	11.44
Food	44045	132.08	3838	119.24
Vehicles, etc.	2516	34.42	2420	21.79
Miscellaneous	164612	1788.48	224371	2187.44
Total	306221	4313.48	304235	4608.43

Source : RBI

Repatriation of Indians

4776. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saudi Arabia and some other countries have started repatriating Indians working over there by terminating the work contract signed with them;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of Indians repatriated, country-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, there are some reports that with the slowdown in the rate of growth of IT Industry in the United

States some software experts who are there on H1B visa may face the prospects of termination of the existing work contracts.

[English]

Birth and Death Rates

4777. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) whether according to new census conducted in March, 2001, the population of country has touched over 1.02 billion;

(b) if so, the details of the census figures, particularly difference in birth rates of male and female children, State-wise;

(c) whether in view of the recent census report, the Government have chalked out any strategy to control increasing population effectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Sir. According to the new census conducted in the March, 2001, the population of country was 1,027,015,247 persons.

(b) The provisional total population of States/UTs as per new census is placed in the statement attached. The difference in the birth rate of male and female child is not available as per new population census.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has already come-up with the National Population Policy, 2000 to bring down the present birth rate. The following measures are being taken-up to further stabilization of population ;

- (i) An integrated and comprehensive programme of Reproductive and Child Health, which includes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues.
- (ii) Propagation of family planning methods, which include sterilization both for male and female, spacing methods namely, IUD insertions, oral pills and condoms.
- (iii) Fulfilment of unmet needs of contraceptives through provision of integrated service delivery at village level.
- (iv) Information, Education and Communication Programme to create awareness about the benefits of small family.
- (v) Provision of additional inputs in weaker States/ districts.

Statement

Census of India 2001

Provisional Population Totals

Population of States/Union Territories by sex and percentage share of population in total population

State/ UT Code	India/State/ Union Territory*	Total Population			Percentage share in total population
		Persons	Males	Females	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	India ¹	1,027,015,247	531,277,078	495,738,169	100.00
1	Jammu & Kashmir	10,069,917	5,300,574	4,769,343	0.98
2	Himachal Pradesh ²	6,077,248	3,085,256	2,991,992	0.59
3	Punjab	24,289,296	12,963,364	11,325,934	2.37
4	Chandigarh*	900,914	508,224	392,690	0.09

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Uttaranchal	8,479,562	4,316,401	4,163,161	0.83
6	Haryana	21,082,989	11,327,658	9,755,331	2.05
7	Delhi*	13,782,976	7,570,890	6,212,086	1.34
8	Rajasthan	56,473,122	29,381,657	27,091,465	5.50
9	Uttar Pradesh	166,052,859	87,466,301	78,586,558	16.17
10	Bihar	82,878,796	43,153,964	39,724,832	8.07
11	Sikkim	540,493	288,217	252,276	0.05
12	Arunachal Pradesh	1,091,117	573,951	517,166	0.11
13	Nagaland	1,988,636	1,041,686	946,950	0.19
14	Manipur	2,388,634	1,207,338	1,181,296	0.23
15	Mizoram	891,058	459,783	431,275	0.09
16	Tripura	3,191,168	1,636,138	1,555,030	0.31
17	Meghalaya	2,306,069	1,167,840	1,138,229	0.22
18	Assam	26,638,407	13,787,799	12,850,608	2.59
19	West Bengal	80,221,171	41,487,694	38,733,477	7.81
20	Jharkhand	26,909,428	13,861,277	13,048,151	2.62
21	Orissa	36,706,920	18,612,340	18,094,580	3.57
22	Chhatisgarh	20,795,956	10,452,426	10,343,530	2.03
23	Madhya Pradesh	60,385,118	31,456,873	28,928,245	5.88
24	Gujarat*	50,596,992	26,344,053	24,252,939	4.93
25	Daman & Diu*	158,059	92,478	65,581	0.02
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli*	220,451	121,731	98,720	0.02
27	Maharashtra	96,752,247	50,334,270	48,417,977	9.42
28	Andhra Pradesh	75,727,541	38,286,811	37,440,730	7.37
29	Karnataka	52,733,958	26,856,343	25,877,615	5.14
30	Goa	1,343,998	685,617	658,381	0.13
31	Lakshadweep*	60,595	31,118	29,477	0.01
32	Kerala	31,838,619	15,468,664	16,369,955	3.10

1	2	3	4	5	6
33	Tamil Nadu	62,110,839	31,268,654	30,842,185	6.05
34	Pondicherry*	973,829	486,705	487,124	0.09
35	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	356,265	192,985	163,280	0.03

Note 1. See Note 1 below 'Figures at a Glance'.

2. The population of Himachal Pradesh includes estimated population of entire Kinnaur district, where the population enumeration of Census of India 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.

3. The population of Gujarat includes the estimated population of entire Kachchh district, Morvi, Maliya-Miyana and Wankaner talukas of Rajkot district and Jodiya taluka of Jamnagar district where the population enumeration of Census of India, 2001, could not be conducted due to natural calamity.

Widening of Road between Jammu and Poonch

4778. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of widening and upgradation of the road between Jammu and Poonch has been on progress for the last several years;

(b) if so, the length of the said road completed so far;

(c) whether the said road has become non-motorable causing inconvenience to Army and Para-military personnel and civilians residing in Rajouri and Poonch sectors; and

(d) the time by which the road is likely to be completely upgraded and widened?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The widening and upgradation of 240.35 KM long Jammu - Poonch road had commenced in 1995.

(b) Double lane 'Formation' of 133 Kms and Surfacing work of 45 Kms have been completed.

(c) No, Sir. The road is motorable. Army convoys, Civil trucks and other vehicles are plying regularly even as the widening and surfacing works are under progress.

(d) The widening and upgradation of the entire road is scheduled to be completed by 2010.

Backward Christianity Development Board

4779. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute

a 'Backward Christianity Development Board' for development of poor Christians of the country;

(b) whether the Government have received memoranda or requests from various social organisations in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per records available, no such request has been received. The National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has been set up to assist the minorities for taking up various economic activities, with particular emphasis on the economically weaker section.

CGHS Dispensary, Vasant Vihar

4780. DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

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

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Staff Inspection Unit for opening of a CGHS dispensary in Central Government Housing Complex in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have implemented the report of the Inspection Unit; and

(c) if so, the time by which an allopathic CGHS dispensary is likely to be opened in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The Report of the Staff Inspection Unit of November, 1999, on the Norms Study of CGHS (Allopathic) dispensaries does not specifically mention about opening of a CGHS dispensary in Vasatn Vihar, New Delhi.

- (b) Implementation is an ongoing process.
- (c) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

Patrolling of Indian Ocean by Russian Warships

4781. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Russian warships have started patrolling the Indian Ocean for the first time in almost a decade;
- (b) if so, the details in regard thereto;
- (c) whether two destroyers and a tanker from Russia's Pacific Fleet, based in Vladivostok called at Mumbai in mid-February as part of a two-and-a-half month training voyage that will also take them to the former Soviet naval base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which it is likely to help India in protecting the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Two Russian ships accompanied by a tanker visited Mumbai at the invitation of the Indian Navy to participate in the International Fleet Review from 14-20 February, 2001. The ships left Mumbai on 20.2.2001.

Differences between IAS and IPS Officers

4782. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have received any report from the State Governments regarding discontentment between IAS and IPS officers;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Reservation of Items

4783. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether several products exclusively reserved for the Small Scale Industries have been excluded by the Government during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;
- (b) If so, the number of items excluded from the reservation list during each of the above period; and
- (c) the number of products exclusively reserved for the Small Scale Industries at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) 10 items have been excluded from the list of items exclusively reserved for manufacture in the Small Scale Sector from 1998-99 to 2000-2001 as indicated below :

1998-99	9
1999-2000	Nil
2000-2001	1

- (c) At present, 811 items are reserved for exclusive manufacture in the Small Scale Sector.

Use of Intoxicant Drugs

4784. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the psychotropic substances to be Derutropoxsifin Methamphetamine are being used in manufacturing of some controlled medicines;

(b) whether it is a fact that companies manufacturing indigenous viagra are using these psychotropic substances for their brands;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the casualties are taking place in Mizoram every day due to use of desetropropoxcin in the manufacturing of spasmo-pronivan; and

(d) if so, whether the Government are proposed to take effective steps to prevent the misuse of those controlled drugs manufactured by using some psychotropic substances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Dextropropoxyphene (and not Derutropoxsifin) is being used in manufacture of various drug formulations, along with analgesics like Paracetamol and anti-spasmodics like Dicyclomine, which are required to be sold against prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioners.

Methamphetamine has been placed under Schedule X of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to strictly restrict its availability and to ensure that it is sold only against prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioners.

(b) There are no reports about the manufacture of Sildenafil Citrate formulation (Viagra is a trade name of M/s Pfizer) using Dextropropoxyphene or Methamphetamine.

(c) No reports have been received about casualties taking place in Mizoram due to the use of Dextropropoxyphene in Spasmoxyvon.

(d) All the States Drugs Controllers have been specifically instructed to keep a watch that drug formulations containing Dextropropoxyphene are sold only on prescription, with a view to minimize easy availability of these drugs.

[English]

Delayed Payment in SSI

4785. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for mandatory schedule in audited balance sheets for neglecting interest accrued under Delayed Payments Act in Small Scale Industries Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The existing Section 8 of The Interest on Delayed Payments to the Small Scale and Ancillary Industrial Undertakings Act, 1993 (as amended in 1998) already stipulates that where any buyer is required to get his annual accounts audited under any law for the time being in force, such buyer shall specify the amount together with the interest in his annual statement of accounts as remains unpaid to any supplier at the end of each accounting year. A supplier is defined to be an ancillary industrial undertaking or small scale industrial undertaking holding a permanent registration certificate.

Constitution of Advisory Group on Tribals

4786. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission on Population has constituted an Advisory Group on tribals to consider the problems of tribals in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the Group;

(c) whether the Group has convened any meeting;

(d) if so, the details of problems of tribals discussed in the meeting along with the details of suggestions made by the Group to remove these problems; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition of the Group is given below :

- i) Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission-Chairman.

Members

- ii) Shri S.K. Naik, Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- iii) Mrs. Krishna Singh, Member-Secretary, National Commission on Population, New Delhi.
- iv) Mrs. T.K. Sarojini, Adviser (SW&BC), Planning Commission, New Delhi.
- v) Representative of the Department of Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
- vi) Representative of the Department of ISM&H, Red Cross Building, New Delhi.
- vii) Representative of the State Government of Chhatisgarh
- viii) Representative of the State Government of Jharkhand.
- ix) Representative of the State Government of Assam.
- x) Representative of the Ramakrishna Mission, Narayanpur, District Bastar, Chhatisgarh.
- xi) Representative of the Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Jamshedpur, District Singhbhum, Jharkhand.
- xii) Representative of the Utthan, 18-A, Auckland Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad, U.P.
- xiii) Dr. Pankaj Bhatia, Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Jashpurnagar, District Jashpur, Chhatisgarh - 496331.
- xiv) Shri Ashok Bhagat, Vikas Bharti, Bisnupur, District Gumla, Jharkhand.
- xv) Dr. D.C. Tripathi, 15-A, Delhi Adm. Flat, Mahavir Nagar Extension, N.Delhi-110018, Ph.5432489, 5563749.
- xvi) Dr. Pophale, Family Planning and Medical Aid Trust, Indian Merchantile Mansion, 3rd Floor, Opp. C.J. Hall, 7, Regal Cinema, Madam Cama Road, Fort, Mumbai- 400001.
- xvii) Dr. H. Sudarshan, Hon. Secretary, Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra, B.R. Hills, Yelandur Taluk, Chamarajanagar, District, Karnataka.
- xviii) Shri Tarun Coomar, Director, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - Convenor.

- (c) The Group had its first meeting on 30th January,

2001.

(d) and (e) After detailed discussions with regard to the socio-economic-demographic problems of tribal communities, the following are some of the concerns which were brought up :

1. The nutritional standard of tribals, more so specific to reproduction and child health meaning thereby pregnant and lactating mothers and infants require to be specifically addressed.
2. Health and nutritional needs of PTGs need special attention.
3. Health and survival insecurity, which perhaps is one of the major reasons for increased population amongst tribals, especially PTGs, needs to be addressed.
4. Documentation and integration of the tribal system of medicine is urgently required coupled with restoration of lost practices with the objective of improving the tribal health and nutrition. Impacts of innovative programmes are required to be addressed.
5. There is need for synergy amongst the different agencies involved in tribal development particularly in the areas of health and family welfare.
6. As far as possible, local workers are required to be recruited and trained to take care of their own people.
7. Local practioner of traditional medicines and traditional midwives (Dais) are required to be properly trained and equipped.
8. Ensure availability of medicines and nutritional herbs in the natural resources surroundings tribal habitats and prevent destructive over utilisation of natural resources.
9. All these must be achieved within a stipulated time frame.

In order to examine the above issues in detail and to identify the gaps in the existing health care and family welfare programmes available to tribals, the Advisory Group branched out into four small Sub-groups. The recommendations of these Sub-groups will be made available to the Advisory Group when it will again meet to finalise a programme of action.

Representation from Honey Manufacturers

4787. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representation from honey manufacturers about their various grievances;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Representations have been received by the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) from individuals/institutions engaged in bee-keeping activities. The representations are of general nature seeking assistance in the form of funds, marketing support, etc.

For promotion of bee-keeping industry, the KVIC is implementing a UNDP assisted sub-programme which is aimed at developing a comprehensive strategy to increase honey production which will help in enhancing income for bee-hunters, farmers, entrepreneurs. This programme would support the existing programme of the KVIC for the development of bee-keeping through identified clusters and micro entrepreneurs.

Development of Ground Water Resources in NER

4788. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of ground water are pending with the Government for approval;

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

(c) the time since pending alongwith the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which those schemes are likely to be cleared and the effects of delay in clearance on the escalation of prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No Centrally Sponsored Scheme pertaining to development of ground water in North Eastern Region is pending with the Planning Commission for approval.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Central Beekeeping Research and Training Institute

4789. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Beekeeping Research and Training Institute (CBRTI) has taken steps for use of Honey as food product;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether honey is utilised in cosmetic preparations and in medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Honey being a primary food, the KVIC have prepared and circulated a booklet on "Honey as most nutritious food". Trials have been conducted for use of honey in various other forms.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ayurvedic system recommends use of honey with other medicines for effective treatment without any side effect. Medicinal preparations include cough and throat syrups, tonics, eye drops, ointments for burns and wounds. Honey is also used in cosmetics such as body lotions, face creams, moisturizers, shampoos, soaps, for its anti-wrinkle and anti-bacterial properties.

Procurement of Articles by Army HQ

4790. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Procurement Section (OSPI) of Army Headquarter had purchased track suit UNAMSIL brand, Bombay Dyeing bedsheets, CASCO volleyball and volleyball net from the NCCF on July 30, 2000 at a total value of Rs. 13,27,924/-;

(b) whether the NCCF has not indicated the size of the track suits, bedsheets, volleyballs and net with quality numbers in their invoice;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to enquire into the nexus between the NCCF and the OSPI?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A supply order for a total value of Rs. 14,80,169 was placed on 20th September 2000.

(b) and (c) Size and quality of items were not mentioned as the supply was to be made as per sample approved by the user unit. Goods were received by user units after the stores were inspected by an independent Board of Officers constituted for this purpose and certified accordingly.

(d) No investigation is called for as nothing adverse has been reported.

Molecular Scissor

4791. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scientist at the National Institute of Immunology (NII) has discovered a ribozyme that acts as a molecular scissor to target the genetic makeup of the AIDS virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any examination has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it is likely to help in checking the AIDS?

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

As per the annual report of National Institute of Immunology (NII), they are carrying out study on ribozyme, an RNA cleaving DNA enzyme which has been identified as a novel therapeutic molecule to interface with the expression target of HIV gene and host factor genes, that is important for HIV infection and replication.

Scam in Distribution of Loan under PMRY

4792. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation officials have collected certain documents in Nagpur for major scam in the distribution of loans under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra; the Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested one alleged middleman accepting money from one of the 25 applicants whose names were recommended for sanctioning of loans under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana by the District Industries Centre, Nagpur to Punjab National Bank, Kingsway Branch, Nagpur.

(c) The matter is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation and depending upon the final report, action shall be initiated. However, under the guidelines of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, applicants can also directly approach the banks for obtaining loan. These guidelines have been circulated to all the State Governments. The Government of Maharashtra have reported that they have taken steps to improve transparency and provide safeguards under the Scheme.

Downsizing of Ministry

4793. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched any drive to downsize his Ministry and observe austerity measures therein;

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether some posts have been abolished in his Ministry under the said drive;
- (d) if so, the total number of the posts abolished;
- (e) whether the Government propose to reduce the number of posts or employees in the Indian Mission abroad;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry to curtail the expenditure being incurred by the Indian Mission abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A total number of 151 posts in various grades have been abolished in May, 2000.

(e) and (f) Staffing pattern in the Missions/Post abroad are constantly monitored by Ministry taking into account the quantum of work and other related aspects. 24 posts in different grades in various Missions/Posts have already been abolished.

(g) Does not arise; Sir.

(h) Steps taken by the Ministry to curtail the expenditure being incurred by the Indian Missions abroad include, inter alia, 10% cut in the non-plan, non-salary expenditure, complete ban on purchase of new vehicles; review and abolition of vacant posts, 25% reduction in the rates of per diem for local tours/travel and introduction of austerity measures in organisation of conferences/seminars etc.

Revival of SAARC

4794. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether senior officials of SAARC Countries had met in Sri Lanka recently to rescue the body from the

limbo that has afflicted it since the heightening of India-Pakistan tension following the 1999 Kargil intrusion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken particularly by India so far for the establishment of Free Trade Area in South Asia as set out in the Colombo declaration?

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

(b) The SAARC Senior Officials' Meeting was convened by the Secretary General and the Sri Lankan Government (being the current Chairman of the SAARC) to address outstanding issues relating to the budget, administration, housekeeping and scheduling of the Technical Committees, as also other specialized meetings. The SOM successfully finalized the calendar for holding various meetings including the SAARC Technical Committees, the 4th Round of South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), Expert Level Meeting to draft a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Treaty, Inter Governmental Expert Group Meeting on the SAARC Social Charter, and others.

(c) Under the three rounds of SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) negotiations held so far, India's contribution to the promotion of trade and economic cooperation and speeding up the transition to SAFTA has exceeded that of any other country. India notified tariff concessions on over 3000 product lines under the third round of SAPTA in November, 1998 and took the bold initiative to unilaterally lift all Quantitative Restrictions for SAARC countries in August 1998, thereby substantially enhancing access for these countries to the Indian market. Under the Colombo Declaration a Committee of Experts (COE) for drafting a comprehensive SAFTA Agreement was set up. The COE held its First Meeting in Kathmandu in 1999 at which terms of reference of the Committee were discussed.

.. (Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

At this stage, Sardar Buta Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now papers to be laid. Shrimati Vasundhara Raje.

12.0½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Himachal Pradesh Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No.G.S.R.207 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2001, under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3516/2001)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha :-

TENTH LOK SABHA

- (1) Statement No. XX Fifteenth Session, 1995.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3517/2001)

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

- (2) Statement No. XX Third Session, 1996.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3518/2001)

- (3) Statement No. XX Fourth Session, 1997.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3519/2001)

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

- (4) Statement No. XVI Second Session, 1998.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3520/2001)

- (5) Statement No. XIII Third Session, 1998.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3521/2001)

- (6) Statement No. XII Fourth Session, 1999.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3522/2001)

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

- (7) Statement No. IX Second Session 1999.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3523/2001)

- (8) Statement No. VIII Third Session, 2000.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3524/2001)

- (9) Statement No. IV Fourth Session, 2000.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3525/2001)

- (10) Statement No. II Fifth Session, 2000.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3526/2001)

- (11) Statement No. I Sixth Session, 2001.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3527/2001)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Notification No.G.S.R. 202(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2001 declaring packaged drinking water as 'Food' for the purpose of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, issued under section 2 of the said Act.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3528/2001)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Chennai, for the year 1998-99, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the AIDS Prevention and Control Project, Chennai, for the year 1998-99.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3529/2001)

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3530/2001)

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, along with the Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Board of Examinations, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT-3531/2001)

12.01 hrs.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEES - A REVIEW

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the "Financial Committees (1999-2000) - A Review".

12.01½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Eleventh and Twelfth Reports and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (KHUNTI) : Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto:-

- (1) Eleventh Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 8th Report (12th Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Information and Broadcasting – Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in All India Radio and Doordarshan.
- (2) Twelfth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 1st Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)–

Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in South Eastern Railways.

12.01½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Twenty Fourth Report

[Translation]

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA (KHUNTI) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to the Ministry of Information Technology.

12.01 3/4

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Fifth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (JADAVPUR) : I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs (2000-2001) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2001-2002.

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Reports

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : I beg to

present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance.

- (1) Tenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Planning;
- (2) Eleventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs & Expenditure); and
- (3) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Seventieth Report

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Seventieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

12.02 3/4 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

Evidence

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (EAST DELHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Evidence tendered before the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1999.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

Eighty-fourth, Eighty-fifth, Eighty-sixth and Eighty-seventh Reports

[English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (SIVAGANGA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following

reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests :-

- (1) Eighty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Seventy-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Space.
- (2) Eighty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Seventy-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2000-2001) of the Department of Ocean Development.
- (3) Eighty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research.
- (4) Eighty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Biotechnology.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

12.04 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 *

- (i) **Need to set up LPTs at Champua, Telkoi and Dhenkikot in Keonjhar district of Orissa**

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR) : I would like to draw the attention of the Govt. of India to the urgent need for providing Doordarshan facilities in Keonjhar district of Orissa. The people of the district are not able to view the full-fledged Doordarshan programmes as the district is located far away from Bhubaneswar, the Capital of Orissa and also Ranchi, the State Capital of Jharkhand. The people of this border district of Bihar and Orissa are agitating over non-availability of adequate Doordarshan facilities. Unless a Low power transmitter is set up, one at Champua bordering Jharkhand State, one at Telkoi bordering Dhenkanal district in Orissa and one at Dhenkikot, a nearby shrine of Ma Tarini of Ghatgaon, the people of that predominately tribal district will continue to be deprived of the TV facilities.

As such, I demand that Low Power Transmitter be set up, one at Champua, one at Telkoi and one at Dhenkikot in

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House

Keonjhar districts of Orissa without any further delay. I also demand the upgradation of Keonjhar Doordarshan Kendra to a High Power T.V. Centre.

(ii) Need to take steps to solve acute drinking water problem in Eastern and Western Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA (SWAI MADHOPUR) : It is continuously for the third time that there is a famine in Rajasthan. The famine is so severe that it is destroying the lives of the people as well as the ecology of western Rajasthan. The people of some districts of Eastern Rajasthan are suffering on account of acute shortage of drinking water. There are 380 villages in my Parliamentary Constituency where there is shortage of drinking water. The Government of Rajasthan have not taken any steps in this regard to solve the acute drinking water problem. Rs. 5 crore have been allocated to each of the district for drilling, repairing and maintenance of traditional water sources. However, in spite of that the work for increasing the water level in the villages have not been started yet. In my Parliamentary Constituency, out of 1467 villages, for 40 villages Rs. 12 lakh only have been sanctioned.

So, through you, I urge upon the Government to take steps to solve the problem of acute shortage of drinking water and to provide water so that people and the cattle could be saved from dying a starved death.

(iii) Need to provide more facilities at Alwar railway station in Rajasthan

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (ALWAR) : Alwar is an important district of Rajasthan. Daily, thousand of persons commute here by trains from other districts and from the neighbouring States to pursue for their profession and attend other works. The Alwar Railway Station is in a bad shape. Even the basic amenities like drinking water and separate toilet for ladies are not available at the railway station. Apart from that the railway platform is in a dilapidated state and there is always a possibility of accident there. The sanitation arrangement on the station is almost non-existent.

So, I urge upon the Government to provide the basic facilities to the station and to take necessary action for the proper maintenance of the station so that possibility of accidents could be avoided.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Haryana for providing relief to the people affected by hailstorm.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA) : It was on account of the heavy rainfall, cyclone and hailstorm occurred on 29 and 30 March, 2001 in different parts of Haryana that the crops of the farmers have been destroyed. The standing wheat crops of the farmers were destroyed and as a result of this the farmers have suffered loss of crores of rupees.

So, I urge upon the Government to provide special financial assistance to the Government of Haryana for providing relief to the affected farmers and make good their loss.

(v) Need to provide more railway facilities at Panki Railway Station, Kanpur (U.P.)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR) : Panki railway station of Kanpur should be declared as the sub-station of Kanpur city. On the one side of the Panki railway station, there is vast Panki industrial area where the factories of LML Lohia Scooters and Chand Brand Urea are located and on the other side of the station there is the store and sale depot of Indian oil. Panki power house Panki Kalyanpur and Armapur is the residential area of the Ministry of Defence having a population of five lakhs.

I urge upon the hon. Minister to open a computerised railway reservation counter at Panki Station and EMU train running between Kanpur station and Lucknow should be run via Panki as Central Station is nearly 10 k.m. away from Panki Kalyanpur and daily passenger to Lucknow have to go to Central Station. In between there are several metre gauge railway station crossings. The Department of Railways will not have to bear any additional financial burden on account of running the train from Panki rather the railway will get additional revenue.

I would also like to urge upon the hon. Minister to set up one halt station at Dedupur between Chaubeypur and Shivrajpur stations on the metre gauge running between Anwarganj and Farukhabad.

(vi) Need to confer patta right on the SCs cultivating forest land in Sonbhadra district, U.P.

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (ROBERTSGANJ) : In my Parliamentary Constituency, Robertsganj, district Sonbhadra, U.P. the Scheduled Castes and Backward class people constitute 80 per cent of the total population. It is a very backward district where several projects of the Government of India and the private sector are running but the people displaced on accounts of these projects have neither been given appropriate compensation nor have they been given jobs in these projects. They have been cultivating the

agricultural forest land for the past fifteen to twenty years but the land ownership right has not been given to them as yet. The Forest Department is not giving patta right to them under section 20 and 04.

So, I urge upon the Government to confer land ownership and 'patta' rights to the people who have been cultivating and have possession on the agricultural forest land for 20 years.

- (vii) **Need for early completion of Water Projects to solve acute drinking water problem in Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa**

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : Dhenkanal and Angul, the DHQ towns of Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency in Central Orissa, have been suffering from acute shortage of water for the expanding municipalities and growing population. Government of India in 1996-97 has sanctioned two projects of Rs. 13.59 crores and Rs. 15 crores respectively under HUDCO Finance (Loan) and State Government assistance. The Orissa Sewerage Board was to be the executing agency.

While a part of the loan amount has been released in January 1997, the projects have yet to commenced. The water situation in both these towns is precarious this year especially after the devastation of the super cyclone 1999 where the environment and tree cover has been totally destroyed. The State Government of Orissa is unable to put up the margin money as State Government's assistance to the scheme due to resource crunch.

The Central Government which has set up a Task Force for tackling the problems of relief, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction is urged to assist the State Government in commissioning and completing the project in this financial year to solve the acute water crisis.

- (viii) **Need to open a Sainik School at Shekpura in Begusarai Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (BEGUSARAI) : There is no Sainik School in Shekpura district under my Parliamentary Constituency Begusarai for the meritorious students of the area. One Sainik School should be set up in this area to provide quality education to the meritorious students and to prepare them for defence services.

So, through the House, I urge upon the Government to establish a Sainik School at Shekpura as soon as possible.

- (ix) **Need to sanction adequate funds to District Cooperative Bank of Mysore, Karnataka for providing loan to the farmers**

[English]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (MYSORE) : The district Cooperative Bank of Mysore is the main bank which is providing loan assistance to the farmers in that district. But the fund position of that bank is not sound enough to meet loan requirements of the farmers in that district. The Union Ministry of Agriculture was requested to sanction Rs. 50 lakhs to District Cooperative bank to improve its funds position and to maintain a reasonable level of Non-Over Due Cover (NODC) to operate on the credit limit sanctioned by the NABARD, under the centrally sponsored scheme for providing assistance to Credit Cooperative Institutions in the cooperatively under developed States during the year 1999-2000.

I urge upon the Government to sanction adequate fund to District Cooperative Bank of Mysore at the earliest.

- (x) **Need to protect the interests of potato and onion growers in Karnataka**

SHRI R.S. PATIL (BAGALKOT) : For the last two to three months, dumping of potato and onion daily at the Agriculture produce Market of Amargola in Hubli is being repeated every day. Neither there are buyers nor there are facilities for exporting these items. The conditions of potato and onion growers continue to be pathetic without any ray of hope in the near future.

That is not the first time that such a situation has arisen. Last year also the same desperate situation was prevailing at Bagalkot, Dharwar, Gaolag, Haveri, Bijapur and many other parts of Karnataka. But till today this perennial problem of farmers has not been solved. Last year the State Government of Karnataka has purchased potato and it had also announced support price. This year the situation is more serious as potato, onion are rotting at the dumping centres.

Therefore, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to enquire into this very important matter. Also, I request him to immediately announce support price for potato and onion and to open procurement Centres at Bagalkot, Bijapur, Hubli, Dharwar and other places in Karnataka so as to save the potato and onion growers from ruin.

- (xi) **Need to provide financial assistance to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh to ameliorate the lot of handloom weavers**

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL) : The Andhra Pradesh State Government has sent proposals to the Centre requesting allocation of Rs.21.07 crore package to rejuvenate the APCO by introducing new and latest designs in handloom products, technical know-how, infrastructural facilities and so on.

The State Government has already drawn up long-term plans to support weavers as part of which pension had been sanctioned to about 25,000 weavers. The State Government was fully committed to redress weavers' grievances. The Union Government should also help in extending possible training programmes and rehabilitation measures for the weavers as many debt ridden Andhra Pradesh Weavers are taking extreme steps of committing suicide. I, therefore, appeal to the Union Textiles Minister to come to the rescue of the weavers, specially of Andhra Pradesh and allocate Rs. 21.07 crores package immediately.

- (xii) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of U.P. for providing relief to the people affected by hailstorm and drought in Chitrakut and Banda districts.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (BANDA) : It is due to the recent severe hailstorm and the drought on account of the absence of rainfall for the last several months that the standing crops of the farmers have been destroyed in several villages of Chitrakut and Banda districts of Uttar Pradesh. The hailstorm and drought have created havoc for the villagers. It is due to the present severe heat that the villagers alongwith their families and livestock are migrating to other places in search of food, water and fodder.

Immediate steps are required to be taken to provide relief to the people affected by drought, hailstorm and other natural calamities. The further deterioration of the situation can be checked and relief can be provided to the affected people by way of taking immediate steps like installing handpumps and digging wells, introduction of smaller irrigation schemes, deepening of small and big ponds, collection of rain water, providing employment to the people and giving free bore facilities to the farmers. Along with this, short-term and long-term schemes should be implemented to protect the people from famine and natural calamities. For this, the State Government should provides with sufficient financial assistance.

- (xiii) Need to restore Hometown Leave Travel concession benefits for all the Central Government employees**

[English]

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (TIRUPPATTUR) : Leave Travel concession available to the Union Government staff biennially for Hometown and once in four years for Bharat Darshan has been suspended for two years by the Union Finance Minister. Though the measure exempts officials on the verge of retirement, it needs to be further flexible on humanitarian grounds. There are employees of the Union Government working in the National Capital hailing from the Southern States and North Eastern State where family bonds and values are more strong both culturally and traditionally. They need to get to their hometowns at least once in two years. The suspension at this juncture may not only deprive the Central staff a benefit just for two years as announced but in reality a benefit availed just once or twice in a period of four years in many cases. Since a vast majority of the hometown LTC travel are made by rail, hometown LTC may be continued without suspending the same by way of providing Railway Travel warrants. The loss to Railways may also be offset then.

Hence, I urge upon both the Union Finance Ministry and the Railway Ministry to evolve a way out to continue the Hometown LTC benefits for all the Union Government employees.

- (xiv) Need to provide financial assistance to Govt. of Orissa to restore creek irrigation in areas close to the Coast of Bay of Bengal**

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (KENDRAPARA) : The irrigation facilities are totally absent in Rajanika, Raj Nagar, Aul and Patamundai areas of Kendrapara district which are close to the coast of Bay of Bengal in Orissa. The agricultural field in these areas is being irrigated only through creeks linked to rivers namely Kharasrota, Brahmani and Baitarani. But the creeks are now sitting up at the fast rate. Planning Commission has made a provision of fund to deal with the problems of the siltation and Central Government had made the allocation of fund for the purpose in 1996. But after the recent drought and super cyclone in October, 1999 the creek system is virtually in defunct conditions. Since the creek irrigation is the only answer to the provision of irrigation facilities in these areas, I demand that adequate funds be sanctioned to restore creek irrigation by desilting and putting sluice gates so that the tidal water entering into the creek is blocked and used for irrigation purpose.

- (xv) Need to complete excavation at Vaishali in Bihar by Archaeological Survey of India**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : The

excavation works at Vaishali in Bihar were carried out several times before and after independence by the Archaeological survey of India. During excavation several statues, ashpot of Bhagwan Budha, coins, fragments of pots and statues of Mahavir were found which have been kept at Kolkata Museum, Patna Museum and Vaishali Museum.

I urge upon the Government to complete the excavation work and make public the details of the historical monuments found in the course of excavation and a museum should be constructed in Vaishali and the historical monuments found during excavation should be collected in this museum.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again on 19th April 2001 at 11.00 A.M.

12.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Thursday, April 19, 2001/ Chaitra 29, 1923 (Saka)

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