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Wednesday, August 29, 2001

Bhadra 7, 1923 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session

(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 29, 2001/Bhadra 07, 1923 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 6 people have been killed in Haridwar and about 100 people have been wounded...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw your kind attention towards a serious matter. Atrocities are being committed on the Muslims of the country. The incidents of burning of Mosque and the holy book 'Quran' in Bhilwada district and Mande town and destruction of tomb of Jahajpur confirm such atrocities. It is a sad state of affairs that the Muslims are prevented and threatened by the communal powers when they resort to protest in peaceful manner with black arm bands...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, you please raise this issue in the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We, therefore, want to submit that the situation in Rajasthan in serious. It is regretting that even under such circumstances, our hon. Prime Minister gives a statement that temple would be constructed by March. Please tell me, if the temple is constructed there, then what would happen to the mosque? People in Bhilwara asked me that the hon. Prime Minister was talking about the temple, but what was he doing with regard to the mosque? In Lucknow, he talked only about the temple. In this way, his provocative statement has created an atmosphere of anger and resentment in Rajasthan. Does the statement of the hon. Prime Minister not make a direct impact on the people in Rajasthan? Atrocities are being committed on the people in Rajasthan. It is regretting that even the state Government is unable to combat the communal forces there. I would request my friends in Congress Party to go there and see that their Government is unable to combat the communal forces in Rajasthan and what concerns more is that the MLA's of the Congress are hand-in-globe with the communal forces in indulging in riots. The hon. MPs from Rajasthan must be knowing this very well that the Congress has failed to control the communal forces there. I, therefore, request you that a discussion on this important issue may be held by suspending the business of the House. I demand for a discussion on this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 521. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria — Not present. Question No. 522.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, Six people were killed and 100 wounded in Haridwar. People of Haridwar now want to live in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, this is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise it during 'Zero Hour'.

Q. 522 — Shri T.M. Selvaganapathi.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Population Control

\+

*522. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether any meeting of the National Commission on population has been convened recently to facilitate the newly formed Empowered Action Group in controlling the explosive population of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether any State Government has sent proposal/ suggestion in regard to their action plant to stabilise population growth; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting of the National Commission on Population, an Empowered Action Group (EAG) was constituted. The first meeting which was termed as "The First Business Session of EAG" was held on 18th June 2001. the eight States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal were covered in the first meeting on the basis of their low socio-demographic indicators and high population growth rate. Details and the outcome of the meeting are annexed.

(c) and (d) The State which attended the above said meeting made State specific presentations. They were further requested to identify priority areas for their Action Plan to enable the Central Government to initiate necessary mechanisms for support. While the State Governments are formulating their Action Plans, the Central Government has simultaneously initiated the following schemes highlighted in the Annual State and District Action Plans received in response to Community Needs Assessment Approach:—

1. Maternal Health

- Promoting 24 hour delivery service at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs)
- Contractual appointment of additional ANMs
- Contractual appointment of Staff Nurses and Laboratory Technicians
- Providing referral transport to indigent families for obstetrics emergencies
- Training of traditional birth attendants (dais)
- Providing safe motherhood consultant in PHCs, CHCs and sub-district hospitals
- Providing private anesthetists for attending to emergency obstetric cases at First Referral Units (FRUs)
- Integrated financial envelop for providing flexibility to better performing states to enable them to design package of interventions to address problems of maternal health care
- Reproductive and Child Health Camps for improving access of services of specialists like gynecologists and pediatricians
- Development of cadre of nurse midwives in public and private sector
- Training programme for doctors for providing anaesthesia
- In-service training of para-medical staff

2. Child Health

- Immunisation strengthening activities
- Operationalisation of district new born care
- Home based neo-natal care
- RCH outreach services for remote and comparatively weaker districts and urban slums
- Border district cluster strategy
- Integrated management of child illness
- Introduction of Hepatitis-B Vaccine to infants along with primary doses of DPT vaccine
- Development of a cadre of community based mid-wives
- Setting up of adolescent health clinics
- Eradication of polio by 2002

3. Contraception

- Increased choice of contraceptives
- Development of emergency contraceptives
- Community based social marketing of contraceptives
- Ensuring quality care services

4. Publicity and advocacy

- Revised strategy for information education and communication
- Media advocacy for effective participation by all stakeholders in implementation of National Population Policy

5. Involvement of Non-Government Organizations

- Enhancing public private partnership
- Involvement, of voluntary, non-government and corporate sector

6. Strengthening Primary Health Care Services

- Providing additional funds for strengthening sub-centres through Prime Minister Gramodyog Yojana (PMGY)
- Providing delivery kits and essential drugs.
- Revising norms of rent and contingent expenditure

7. Integration of Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM&H)

- Seven Ayurvedic and five Unani medicines have been included in the list of drugs provided to sub-centres, Ayurvedic hospitals and dispensaries in 9 States namely Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, (Chhattisgarh), Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, (Uttranchal), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and in four cities of Delhi, Lucknow, Aligarh and Hyderabad. These medicines are in addition to the allopathic drugs and already being supplied as part of drug kits to sub-centres.
- Encouragement of raising of vanaspati van
- Improving awareness and availability of ISM remedies
- Undertaking ISM related research schemes

8. Convergence of services through Health Melas

Health Melas—aim to demonstrate the need for quality services, with convergency and integrated delivery for all segments of population. People become aware of a number of options before them in terms of the different systems of medicine (allopathy, homoeopathy, ayurveda and unani). People begin to comprehend the linkages between preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health care as well as between the primary, secondary - tertiary health sectors. They get sensitised to the role of Central Government, State Government, elected local bodies, NGOs and professional organisations. The pre-mela demographic and epidemiological surveys provide vast amounts of data about a given city and its rural hinterland.

9. Mini Melas in the form of RCH Camps

In order to make access of services of specialists like gynecologists and pediatricians to people living in remote areas where the existing services at PHC level are under utilised, a scheme for holding camps have been initiated in 1020 PHCs in 102 districts covering 17 states from January, 2001.

ANNEXURE

Action points identified during First Business Session of EAG held on 18.6.2001 under the chairpersonship of Dr. C.P. Thakur, Minister for Health & F.W.

(A) Action Points for States

The EAG resolved to work with the participating State in formulating their action plan for improving the service delivery. It was agreed that the plans will be prepared on the basis of the following:

(i) State presentations demonstrated that services can be improved by making better use of resources such as multi-skilling of paramedical workers, multi use of buildings, improving logistics management, allowing hospitals to retain user charge collections and use the same for facility improvement and so on. In other words, while additional resources may be necessary, the convergency issues must be addressed as first priority. Therefore, proposals for resolving the systemic issues relating to key areas such as human resource management, logistics management, mainstreaming of Indian Systems of Medicine practitioners, integration of vertical societies at State and district levels, regular release of funds to operational levels, joint planning/training for the field staff of the cognate departments, greater autonomy to the districts and within districts, to hospitals and Panchayati Raj Institutions should be integral parts of the plan.

(ii) Within a State incremental investments (that may be provided by the EAG) will be aimed at bridging the intra-state demographic divide. A key objective in this regard would be to ensure, through a systemic re-structuring of manpower in association with physical improvement, that

the distant and sub-divisional hospitals in the backward districts in a State provide the full range of RCH services including 24-hour availability of essential obstetric services.

(iii) The new State Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal may included in their plans proposals for strengthening their planning and monitoring infrastructure.

(B) Action points for other Ministries/Departments

(i) A major proportion of the funds available under the Rural Connectivity Scheme, drinking Water Supply Scheme, the Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana Scheme and other centrally sponsored schemes of the Department of Rural Development, should be directed to the backward districts. Proposals for utilization of the Central Assistance for these schemes will be integral to the State Plan.

(ii) It should be possible to utilize the funds available under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana for primary education to enhance female literacy in EAG districts.

(C) Action Points for Department of Family Welfare

(i) The Department of Family Welfare will review the Community Needs Assessment Approach forms and guidelines to make them short and simple. Financial help and technical assistance will also be made available for fresh training, wherever States expressed such need.

(ii) The Department of Family Welfare will review the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act vis-a-vis the Prenatal Diagnostic Technique Act, to examine whether the provisions of the two may be inconsistent.

(iii) The Department of Family Welfare will also review, in collaboration with the Medical Council of India, the standards laid down for laparscopic litigation so as to enable the MBBS doctors to perform such operations.

(iv) The BAG will help the States to formulate a suitable indemnity insurance scheme for the public sector doctors to protect them against claims arising from failed sterilization operations.

(v) The Department of Family Welfare Link Officers (and the representatives of donor agencies active in the State) will actively participate in the preparation of the State plans. If necessary, the EAG may arrange additional technical assistance for a State to facilitate the plan preparation exercise.

(vi) The EAG will give particular attention to systemic changes. In this regard, the EAG will seek to facilitate the change process by (a) appropriate policy development at the Centre, (b) provision of technical assistance to States, and (c) closer monitoring and accountability. The EAG will facilitate the process of learning through exchange of experiences, within the country.

(vii) The EAG States will be encouraged to introduce improved contraceptives in a phased manner and the EAG will seek to mobilize additional resources for this purpose, if necessary.

(viii) 100% of requirement of condoms in these eight States of EAG for next three years will be met provided the State Governments ensure minimum wastage and maximum availability of condoms to the people, as per their needs.

(ix) Each EAG State may organize 5 Health Melas in 2001-02, for which funds will be made available by Department of Family Welfare.

(x) To ensure ready availability of drugs to the needy and for maintaining strong logistics management system through the computer for various activities of supply Hindustan Latex Limited will provide the support for logistics in these eight States.

(xi) An amount of Rs. 45 lakhs each released under Reproductive and Child Health Services, to the states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa for IEC activities with the condition to utilize 30% of the total amount on media activities and 70% of the amount on sensitization purposes may be utilized to create awareness on the activities of EAG.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has detailed his reply in the answer given to us, according to which, an Empowered Action Group (EAG) under the National Commission on Population was constituted. This Group has covered eight States which are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttaranchal. These are the only States which were covered in the first meeting.

The main issue which the country is facing today is the population pressure. This year alone, we have reached almost one billion mark. According to the estimate of the Census of India, we would be surpassing the population of China and become number one in the world in respect of population. This is the condition today.

The Action Plan which the Minister has detailed was there even earlier. But the question is implementation. The implementation of your Action Plan is not carried out in letter and spirit. This is the problem. The Government brought the Ninety-first Constitution Amendment in which we had to postpone the de-limitation. The population control measures started in 1950. In almost 50 years, we could not achieve anything. Again the Action Plan would remain on paper and we will not be able to achieve anything.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Selvaganpathi, this is a very good question. You have to put a very good supplementary also.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, there are States which actively pursue this programme and are impressively carrying out the population control measures. But, they are being penalised. Population of only four States accounts for 44 per cent of the total population of the country. These are the BIMARU states - the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. They have not really carried out the population control programmes.

I would like to know from the Minister whether he would give any special assistance, priority, and incentive to States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, which have implemented the population control measures effectively.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right in saying that population control programme started in India in 1952. It is a fact that we are one of the first countries to start this programme. It is also a fact eight States are mainly contributing to the increase of population in the country. Based on this data, the hon. Prime Minister has formed this Population Commission. The Empowered Action Group (EAG) is an offspring of that Population Commission. On the basis of the demographic data, this Group has identified these eight States. As the hon. Member has said, the plans have been there. But, this year, we are actually insisting on implementation. Hon. Prime Minister also spoke on implementation in his Independence Day Speech on the 15th August. We have already started implementing those programmes. I hope that the programme of stabilisation of population will be taken up in all seriousness. Apart from implementation, we have also started strict monitoring of this programme in all these eight States, as well as in those districts which are doing well in the States with demographically best profile. We are covering those districts also.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the hon. Member's question is as to whether the Government is going to give any special assistance to the States which are implementing the population control measures effectively.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not receiving the right answer.

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. This is not the reply of your Question. Mr. Minister, Member has asked as to whether any incentive is being given to the state?

[English]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: One thing we have done for them is that they can spend funds allotted to them selectively. They can change from one scheme to the other. We are giving that facility to them. As far as special assistance and other measures are concerned, we will consider it.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for assuring that he would consider my request.

Sir, realising the ill-effects of the pressure of population, States like Tamil Nadu announced a series of measures. One of the important aspects which the EAG did not spell out in its report is education of women. Women's education is a very important aspect in this. Statistics show that a girl child who goes to the school or college marries late and, therefore, childbirth is also delayed. The EAG has not contemplated such type of measures. They have also not considered offering incentives to families which are going in for birth control measures after giving birth to one female child or two female children only. There are families which are going in for birth control after giving birth to only two girl children.

Realising this trend, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has announced a series of measures. In Tamil Nadu, if a Scheduled Castes girl goes to school, she is given a cycle free. If a Scheduled Castes girl goes to a Government college, she does not have to pay any fee. In the case of families which have taken to birth control after giving birth to one girl child, the child is

given a deposit of Rs. 20,000 on the date of birth. That deposit would mature after that girl child becomes a major. In the case of a family which takes to birth control after giving birth to two girl children, a deposit each of Rs. 15,000 is given to those children.

Will the Minister consider giving us a package? Otherwise, we will be really lagging behind; we will be penalised for taking effective population control measures.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a good supplementary.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, nobody will be penalised for taking effective measures. One of the benefits given is, freezing of seats in Parliament based on the 1971 Census. This also was suggested by the Population Commission. We have done that. The States have already got that benefit.

You have said that education is neglected. It is not so. It is also there. One of the functions of the Election Commission, Population Commission and the EAG is to coordinate with different Departments. Explosion in population is not the failure of only the Health Department. This Department is also dealing with economic activities and the Education Department. So, we are coordinating with primary education. Some incentives have been given in this Report also but not so much as is given by Tamil Nadu, as you said. Andhra Pradesh has given better incentives. But we contemplated that by providing facilities, by educating and reaching the people, we will be able to control the population. So, this is the motto of the Population Commission.

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Hon. Minister has furnished quite a lengthy reply, but it is still an incomplete reply. The suggestions and demands of the State Governments find no mention in his reply and moreover, it does not seem that the Government is taking any concrete step for population sterilization. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any suggestion for amendment in the constitution to the effort that the voting right by a person should be withdrawn, if he does not go in for family planning in the national withdrawn, if he does not go in for family planning in the national interest. If such suggestions have been received, then what is the stand of the Government in this regard?

[English]

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Leaders of all political parties were there in the meeting of the Population Commission and all of them agreed that coercive methods should not be adopted. So, on that basis, we are facilitating, providing services and improving the monitoring and implementation. But coercive measures were not envisaged in the Commission's Report which was agreed to by all the leaders.

[Translation]

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to open a registration office in order to check the increase in population. Actually, whenever census is conducted and whenever the census officials visit each and every house for this purpose, they are given wrong information about the actual number of people. Where 13 people live in a House, they are told that only 4 or 5 people are living there, which creates confusion and results in imbalance in the market, as the Government prepare budget according to this census only. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the Government has any proposal regarding opening a registration office or making a separate plan for census.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: There is a proposal and talks are being held with the Registrar General in this regard. We will start this at block level in every village.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA: It is unfortunate that women have to take the responsibility for family planning. Reproductive technology should also include safe and practical devices for family planning. Very often, the Third World countries are dumped with dangerous devices which are implanted in women causing danger to their lives. I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the dumping of these dangerous devices in India and also whether a contraceptive pill has been developed for use by men. I saw some reports in the Press.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Actually, we are trying to see that males also should participate more in family planning and the contraception for males is also being developed in India. The All India institute for Medical Sciences, in collaboration with others, is developing that. We will soon go in for marketing that also.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: In spite of the fact that huge amounts are being earmarked every year for family planning and family welfare programmes, it is a fact that the all-India level performance is quite dismal in the area of family planning. But there is a ray of hope. Two States, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, in spite of their low social indices and low literacy rates, have shown spectacular success in the area of family planning. This

also shows the political will of non-Congress and non-BJP Governments. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government has taken note of this fact. Kerala's example is different because the social index of Kerala was high and the women literacy rate was also high there. But in spite of the literacy rate in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, they have achieved a spectacular success in this area. So, will the Government try to emulate the example of these two States on an all-India basis?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: We are trying to do that. We are always praising both Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in this regard. And Kerala is a model for us. Actually, governance is very important.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, we must congratulate Shri Selvaganathi for having brought up a very good question about population control. Total development is now tied up with population control and population explosion. Over several decades, several schemes have been implemented in this area. To keep the population under check, incentives were given, and disincentives were declared followed by certain coercive measures. We are not for advancing coercive measures. The only alternatives is between disincentives and incentives. Already, there is a political will to implement this in the political field and political disincentive is there. If somebody is having more than two children, he is not entitled to contest elections. This is the disincentives. It will keep the population under check. Similarly, why should not the Government check out a programme to declare disincentives? Now, these are not the days for declaring incentives to keep the population under check. Only disincentives will work. Why should you not implement these disincentives even in the employed class and other sections? It should not only be implemented in the case of individuals and eligible couples but should be there even in *panchayats*, municipalities and also different States where explosion in population is not going to be under control. Disincentives can be there for all institutions also. Is the Government coming up with any such plan or not?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: There is going to be a meeting of the Population Commission again. In that meeting, all the Chief Ministers, leaders from all political parties, representatives of the media and many other persons will be there. So, this mater will be again taken up in that meeting.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: A number of Community Health Workers are working in the village. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has decided to increase the remuneration of the Community Health Guide Workers who are engaged in family planning programme.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: There is a proposal to increase the facilities for them and they are being involved in this programme.

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Sir, through you, I would like to get information from the hon. Minister on two matters. One is, in allopathy, for family planning, there used to be methods of tubectomy and vasectomy. I know their percentage before ten years. I would like to know whether it has improved because three per cent men used to get operated, whereas 97 per cent women used to get operated, when for women it is a major operation and for men, it is a minor operation. If the hon. Minister does not have the information now, he may give it to me letter on.

The other question is, population was growing geometrically because of early marriages. There used to be 13 year old girl, 26 year old mother and 39 year old grandmother, and they used to have deliveries like that. In the same family three generations of women used to have children at one time. This is what is called increase in geometrical proportion. Is the situation same still or changed?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Certainly, there is a decrease in the rise of population in the last decade. I would like to inform the hon. Member that percentage of men taking up operation has still not increased. We are trying to increase it. The new technique is very safe one. Through Health *melas* and through different IUC schemes, we are encouraging men to take up more and more of this operation.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to ask two three questions which are very practical. My first question is why do the poor people give birth to more number of children? In my view, the reason behind this is that these people do not have proper place to live, either in villages or in towns. There is merely one hut or room for an entire family. There is no source of entertainment. Son of a family and his wife are compelled to sleep in one corner of the same room where the entire family is sleeping. They neither have any radio, television, nor any other source of entertainment. If the Government wish to check population growth, then proper accommodation will have to be provided to those people living below the poverty line...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): How many children does Laloo ji have?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Leave aside Laloo ji. There could be an exception at one or the other place. Generally, it has been seen that poor and illiterate people give birth to more number of children. God knows how much amount have the Government spent on its literacy mission. Will the Government make everyone literate while keeping all this in mind...*(Interruptions)* The entire amount of lakhs and crores of rupees are going waste in the name of literacy mission and the Government does not provide separate houses for these people or remove their poverty...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, the Government want to apply all the laws to the poor people only. This law is only for them, which means that this law is being enacted only for the illietrate poor people, not for the affluents...*(Interruptions)* The third point which is of more concern is that a new technology has been introduced in Medical field, through which the doctor after testing the blood during pregnancy of a woman can predict whether she would give birth to a baby boy or a baby girl. And if it is a baby boy the parents continue with the pregnancy, but if it is a baby girl, the parents go in for medical termination of pregnancy. What can be a national crime more serious than this. Why is this happening, what is the Government doing in this regard?

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Sir, the hon. Member has raised all the three important questions. The first one relates to entertainment. Once there was a power breakdown in New York due to which the population boomed up after nine months because earlier people were watching television but due to power break down, they could not watch it and so in the absence of any population control message, the population increased in multiples...*(Interruptions)*. This is a proven fact. So far as entertainment is concerned, we are also taking care of that. Arrangements for provision of televisions in each house will also be made...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Will you provide televisions free of cost?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. THAKUR: Yes, we would provide them free of cost. Second point raised by the hon. Member is regarding accommodation. As I have said earlier that population control is not the work of one single department. Infact we are co-ordinating. Hon. Prime Minister has also announced for construction of houses...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: What would the hon. Prime Minister do, he is not even married...*(Interruptions)* Please talk to us only...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. THAKUR: So far as the question of illiteracy is concerned, we are coordinating with the Department of Primary Education. Many schemes have been formulated and we are, very actively monitoring that the drop out rate of children could be lowered down and all girls and boys may go to school. Third question is a major one, which relates to female foeticide. It is a matter of delight that the Akal Takht has extended its cooperation in this regard. We held a meeting of religious leaders, doctors as also Director Generals of the country with regard to preventing such acts. An overlapping in MTP and this has occurred for which a new Bill would be introduced in the House. The Supreme Court has also given verdict in this regard that the states and the Union should work collectively on this matter for example, we have conducted two three secret cases, wherein we sent our men who went there and asked the doctors for medical termination of pregnancy of their wives otherwise a baby girl would be born. Cases have been filed in these two three matters. We have started work vigorously in this direction.

Reservation for SC/ST in Defence

*524. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for providing reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the recruitment to defence forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Appointments and selection to Armed Forces are made strictly on merit and no reservation on the basis of Caste, Community, area or class is provided.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, part 'c' of the information furnished by the hon. Minister on the Table of the House mentions that the appointments and selections in Armed Forces are done on the basis of qualification and there is no provision of reservation on the basis of caste, community, area or category. So far as the recruitment of soldiers and officers is concerned, I agree with this, but I would like to ask one thing from the hon. Minister as to whether there is any provision of reservation in the recruitment of Mali, Chowkidar, Peon and clerical staff? If not, whether the Government would make sympathetic deliberations on it?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked is not regarding Ministry of Defence, but regarding the Army. The question asked by the hon. Member is not related to this. As all the hon. Members know, reservation implemented in the Ministry of Defence does not apply to Army, Navy and Air Force. There is no point of reservation in the Army.

SHRI MAHESWAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring to the kind attention of the hon. Minister that many soldiers of Himachal Pradesh have sacrificed their lives during the Kargil war and even before that. Keeping all this in mind, the hon. Chief Minister has sent a representation to the Government that the Government may, keeping in mind the great sacrifices of soldiers of Himachal, establish Himachal regiment. If the Government have received any such proposal, I would like to know whether deliberations have taken place on this proposal or not.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think this requirs a separate notice. This does not arise from the main question.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to respond to this question. The hon. Member wishes to know whether I have any information of the sacrifices of lives made by the soldiers of Himachal Pradesh during the Kargil war as also others wars. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am fully aware of all this and the Government do not neglect any state in this regard. So far as the suggestion of the hon. Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh regarding the establishment of Himachal Pradesh regiment is concerned, I have received his letter to this effect. I have also talked to the hon. Chief Minister in this regard. I have convinced him and we would see what can be done.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is a little different from the main question, but I want your permission because the hon. Prime Minister is present in the House. First question was on 'Reservation'.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to ask the Supplementary within the purview of this question.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: This question stands before the entire country today. It is very good that provision has been made in our constitution to give reservation to persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The first Prime Minister of the country Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru recognised this and provided reservations for people belonging to the poor strata of the society. There are also many poor people in the country belonging to the upper castes of the society, who are not living in good conditions. They belong to the upper castes, but since the time of independence, they are living below the poverty line. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether the Government are deliberating on providing reservations in jobs to these upper castes people living below the poverty line. If not, the reasons therefore? Sir, through you, I request the Government that they may, keeping communical harmony in mind, which may otherwise not create discord amongst various strata of the society, make provisions for the people who are living below the poverty line and belong to upper caste so that they may also get some recognition in the society.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter that relates to reservations in Defence.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is for your goodself to decide as to where does the question of the hon. Member relates with reservations in the Army.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: I have a simple question. Hon. Prime Minister is present in the house. This is an important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: This question does not come within the purview of the main question.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently the ground for reservation is not economic. The policy of reservation has been made to bring the deprived dalit people at equal footing with the other people in a short period.

There is a one demand that the ground for such reservation should be 'poverty'. A poor person, irrespective of any caste, colour etc. should get the benefit of religion but the Government have not accepted this proposal so far.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would say that only that party is responsible which has ruled the country most for the last fifty years because of the disproportionate reservations provided by them which badly affected the reservation Policy in 1997 due to which proper protection was not given to people who needed reservations in jobs. The said party made the pretext of reservations for having votes and winning the elections. Reservations should be made for the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people in defence forces. If the Government are deliberant on this matter then by what time will it be implemented? People belonging to scheduled tribes not only fought during the freedom struggle, but also provided protection to the Raja Maharajas with full vigour. Maharana Pratap's army comprised 'Bheels' who belonged to scheduled caste. Whether the Government are thinking of providing reservations in the Defence Forces also?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to this question. No partiality is done on the basis of caste in the Defence forces be it Army, or Navy or Air force. Set criteria for every recruitment has been made. Hon. Member is far from facts on saying that the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people have no place in the army. Perhaps the hon. Lady Member would be aware of the fact that 'Mahar Regiment' and 'Sikh Light Infantry Regiment' totally comprises scheduled caste persons. So far as the scheduled tribe is concerned, recently 'Naga Regiment' has been commissioned comprising only the scheduled tribe people. Perhaps the hon. Members would be aware that 'Ladakh Scout' has been commissioned after the Kargil war, which comprises scheduled tribe people, but the recruitment has not been made on the basis of caste or tribe as such. The Mahar Regiment and Sikh Light Infantry Regiment. Since long comprise of Scheduled Caste people, which would continue also.

Fund Spent on Poverty Alleviation Programmes

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*525. DR. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total amount spent on Poverty Alleviation Programmes in the country during 2000-2001;

(b) whether expenditure on Poverty Alleviation Programmes has been fruitful in reducing the number of persons living below the poverty line;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the programmes effectively?

[English]

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 (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The expenditure incurred under the major rural poverty alleviation programmes during 2000-01 are given below:

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Expenditure (Rs. crores)
1.	Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)	1114.39
2.	Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)	2005.21
3.	Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)	1855.43
4.	Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)	2185.75
5.	National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)	730.83
	Total	7891.61

In addition there are programmes of other Central Ministries which are also directly targeted to the poor; some lead to the creation of rural infrastructure which also benefits the poor. These include the following:

S. No.	Name of the Programme/Ministry	Budget allocation 2000-2001 (Rs. in crore)
1.	Land Resources Department & Rural Drinking Water Department	3000.00
2.	Food Subsidy	12042.00
3.	Subsidy on Kerosene	7360.00
4.	Health & Family Welfare (only 70% of the outlay)	3428.50
5.	Social Justice & Empowerment Sector	1350.00
6.	Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)	1115.00
7.	Mid day meal	1090.00
8.	District Primary Education Programme	969.00
9.	Watershed development through agriculture	55.50
10.	Tribal Development	810.00
11.	Swarnjayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (Urban Poverty)	168.00
	Total	31388.00

(b) to (e) The poverty ratio for the country as a whole estimated in 1993-94 was 35.97 percent which declined to 26.10 percent in 1999-2000. For the rural areas the corresponding figures are 37.27 percent in 1993-94 and 27.09 percent in 1999-2000. The strategy for Poverty Alleviation includes acceleration of economic growth with a focus on employment intensive sectors, access to basic minimum services for improving the quality of life of the people, and direct State intervention in the form of targeted anti poverty programmes. Anti-poverty programmes supplement the growth effort and protect the poor from destitution, sharp fluctuations in employment and incomes, and social insecurity. The specifically designed anti poverty programmes for generation of both self employment and wage employment in rural areas have been redesigned and restructured in 1999-2000 in order to enhance their efficacy/impact on the poor and improve their sustainability. In order to improve the efficacy of the programmes there is greater people's participation in the planning and implementation of the programmes through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Self-help and user groups and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Sir, my question is based on the statement laid on the Table of the House. Most of the schemes are sanctioned by the Government of India and implemented by the State Governments. I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister as to what is the basis for the allocation of poverty alleviation funds. Is it based on the progress? Is there any proposal to allocate more funds based on the performance and progress of the State? If so, have any guidelines been issued to the Finance Commission to release funds?

Recently, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken a lot of measures in the State. With the result, poverty is reduced considerably. The estimated amount to be released to Andhra Pradesh under the Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions has not been released so far. According to the policy or guidelines framed by the Central Government, funds are released uniformly. The Government is not concerned about the level of poverty or population. All the State are getting equal funds. I would like to have a specific answer as to whether the Government would give more incentives to those States which take progressive measures or population control measures or measures for removing illiteracy.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to ask second supplementary also.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Have any guidelines been issued to the Finance Commission to release more funds to the performing and progressive States?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: As the hon. Member surely knows, the Finance Commission is a statutory and constitutional body and determines its own criteria. Over the years, it has been shifting towards giving greater weightage to performance. I think, $12^1/_2$ per cent of the allocations have been related to this. Based on the recommendation, the hon. Finance Minister has also set up the Fiscal Incentive Fund - as you know, he announced it in the Budget - and the total allocation - I speak from memory - is about Rs. 10,000 crore. Those States which are able to meet certain fiscal criteria of improving their situation, will be given more.

Similarly, as you know, in the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and the Accelerated Power Development Programme, allocations are made according to the performance of a particular State. But as far as altering the Gadgil formula and other formula is concerned, this can only be done by the National Development Council. This matter has been under the consideration of the NDC for a long time. But as happens in these matters, it is not been possible to come to a unanimity in this regard.

Many of us feel that yes, for specific programmes, allocation should be tailord towards performance. But there is one difference here that the question relates to programmes that are directed specifically for alleviating poverty. So, under those programmes, naturally the criterion has to be poverty and the distribution of the poor and distribution of the SCs and STs people among different States. As far as poverty alleviation programmes are concerned, allocations are more determined by existing levels of poverty than improvement in poverty.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Many schemes like SGSY, JGSY, EAS, IAY and NSAP — there are and nearly 11 programmes—were formed by the Central Government. The hon. Minister has rightly stated that there is an idea to give more incentive from the Central Government to the performing States. But I would like to have a specific answer from the hon. Minister. Is there any specific proposal to allocate more funds to such performing States? The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also written on this particular aspect.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I take it that this question relates not so much to performance as to the transfer of Centrally-sponsored schemes to the States. This matter is also under consideration. In 1999, the National Development Council set up a Committee under the hon. Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission for the identification of some Centrally-sponsored schemes which should be transferred to the States. Discussions have been going on these matters. It is one of the agenda items to be placed before the NDC in its meeting which the hon. Prime Minister is holding on the 1st of September, 2001.

SHRI A.C. JOS: The answer given by the Minister is totally confusing. Poverty and employment are two sides of the same coin. Unless you have employment, you cannot alleviate poverty. How can you give money to the families without giving employment? As per the statistics, employment generation is going down everyday, over the past three years. Now, the growth of employment in the Central sector and the State sector has come down to 0.8 per cent, especially after the Prime Minister's declaration that ten per cent of the Central Government employment would also be reduced. That means employment is totally going down. This Government has no direction for creation of any employment. I would request the hon. Minister that in order to alleviate poverty and create employment, will the Government focus more on agriculture, land, irrigation projects and food processing industry so as to create more employment in the agricultural sector?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: That is a very important observation. I wish we would think not in terms of one Government or the other; these are national problems. Various schemes, in fact, all the schemes which have been listed have been directed as increasing employment. If you see the *Swarna Jayanti Gram Rozgar Yojana...*

SHRI A.C. JOS: According to statistics, employment generation is going down.

MR. SPEAKER: You are also confusing the Minister.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, he is talking of the National Sample Survey Round. His conclusions differ from mine. I am incharge of the Department that services the National Sample Survey. I can get into a discourse on that But the point I was suggesting was to agree with you that the key is to provide employment. The strategy of successive Governments has been to supplement overall growth by specific programmes directed at those sections and those areas which are not receiving the benefits of general growth and these particular schemes have been listed at 1 to 5 in Table 1 and No. 11 in the second table. These are all directed to doing two things—

firstly, creating employment, for instance, by Food-for-Work programme and secondly, by creating self-employment, so that people can actually participate in the growth process.

The second point to remember is that there is an employment survey of the NSS. Its figures differ from your conclusion. But there is an even more important, and that arises from the 55th Round of the National Sample Survey on poverty estimates. The results depict a national achievement. I do not appropriate it for this Government. It is a national achievement that poverty figures have come down from 37 to 26 per cent. We should not minimise it. Our rank in the Human Development Index has improved by the UN's estimate. Why do we brush that aside just in our anxiety to run down this Government or that Government? It is a collective achievement.

Thirdly, I completely agree with you that in the Tenth Plan period, much greater focus has to be given on agriculture. One of the essential points is what you have identified, that is investment in irrigation itself. For that reason, we have to re-think about the course that agricultural outlays have taken over the last 15 years in which our approach to agriculture has been subsidy-oriented rather than asset creation through irrigation works, and so on. I agree with you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Sir, can the Minister identify the component received from disinvestment process that is being used in poverty alleviation programme?

Secondly, when the country is facing a lot of starvation deaths, what is the Government going to do about that? Are they going to lay some specific report on the floor of the House?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Please do not think that I am appropriating credit for this Government or that because, then, we get into contention. But it is a fact that there has never been a situation in India where as much foodgrain has been made available to the States for distribution as now. The foodgrain is being made available free. It is not reaching certain pockets. Shri Chowdhary was just now mentioning that some starvation deaths have been reported on television in Orissa.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: It is a national shame...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is giving the reply. But you are disturbing him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Is it not disturbing him?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. How can you speak without permission of the Chair?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, words like 'national shame' and so on are strong. Yes, any single death taking place anywhere in the country, whether in West Bengal, Orissa or any other place, is naturally a matter of great concern. It is a matter of shame.

But I would go back to the point that Shri Selvaganpathi was making in regard to the earlier question on population. It is not the shortage of grains being made available. It is not the shortage of funds.

In the table given in the main answer, you will see that Rs. 40,000 crore are being spent every year for alleviating poverty. It is not a small amount. The difficulty is the one to which Shri Selvaganpathi drew attention: Implementation. All of us — the Centre, the State Governments and the Members — have to get together for ensuring speedier and better implementation. This is the real problem.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Chief Minister that whether the Government are making any proposal for saving the lives of pregnant women as also their children in rural areas who die due to mal-nutrition because the root cause of all problems viz. illiteracy, diseases, mal-nutrition and crime is poverty and the facilities announced by the Government do not reach these poor people which ultimately create an imbalance between literacy, poverty and family planning. I would like to know from the Government that as population is also one of the main causes of these problems, whether the Government intend to make compatability between literacy poverty and family planning?

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I agree with the hon. Member on both the points - one, that all efforts should be coordinated, including the efforts on literacy, and second, on the need to control population. These are the roots that contribute to poverty.

[Translation]

First part of the policy was whether any special food programme is being formulated for pregnant women. The hon. Member knows that the hon. Prime Minister had announced this programme on 15th August, 2001. One more scheme by the name of 'Annapurna scheme' was started for those who were not covered under the old age pensioners and other schemes, under this scheme it was decided to give 10 kilograms of foodgrains free of cost to them. A similar scheme would also be formulated for pregnant women. The hon. Prime Minister has announced the same scheme on 15th August.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the Ninth Five Year Plan has fixed targets with respect to poverty alleviation. We would like to know whether these targets are achieved or not. Our information is that these targets are not achieved. If these targets are not achieved, then why are they not achieved? What is the Government going to do to see that these targets are achieved?

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Members Sitting at the back seats should also be given chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down what is going on?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, it is a very important question. An estimate was made in the Ninth Plan. It was not so much a target, as an estimate that if growth takes place at six-and-a-half per cent rate, which had been contemplated, and if its regional distribution was as had been contemplated, then poverty figures would come down from 29 per cent below the poverty line to about 18 per cent below the poverty line. In 1999-2000, the estimate, which was made by the National Sample Survey, puts the figure at 26 per cent and not at 18 per cent. To that extent, Shri Shivraj Patil's concern is completely correct.

There are two-three reasons for it. One is slower growth for which there are many reasons which we have discussed earlier also in this House. Second is the regional disparity that is coming about between States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and the rest of India. The disparity between these regions, which used to be 1:3 in the *per capita* income growth over the Seventh and Eighth Plan has now reached to 1:7. So, one of the main factors that will be attended to in the Tenth Plan in how to focus on energising growth in these regions so as to reduce this regional disparity, other than targeting poverty in a much better way.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Q. No. 526.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, this matter pertains to the poor people. An half-an-hour discussion should be held on this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would like to have a Half-an-hour Discussion on this?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, we will have a Half-an-hour Discussion on this.

MIG-21 Flying Coffins

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*526. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "MIG-21 fighter aircraft now known as 'flying coffins' as reported in the *Times of India* dated May 15, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the airworthiness of MIG-21 fighter planes has been causing serious doubts;

(c) whether the factors responsible for increase in accidents of fighter planes have been ascertained; and

(d) if so, the details 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

Yes, Sir. The Government's attention has been drawn to the news item. The Government does not agree with this kind of sensationalisation of security related issues. The MIG-21 remain fully airworthy. These aircraft continue to carry out all the tasks, as planned during their first induction. In addition, maintenance checks and servicing procedures are regularly undertaken so as to ensure full airworthiness of all aircraft.

2. MIG variants constituting the bulk of our fighter aircraft fleet necessarily account for the bulk of the flying hours of IAF. Factors contributing to air accidents are constantly examined, reviewed and measures consistently instituted to reduce them. Some of these are:

(a) Each accident in investigated by an independent Court of Inquiry, comprising specialists from various fields, so as to determine the cause.

(b) Preventive measures based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry are then adopted in a time-bound manner.

(c) Human error (Aircrew/technical personnel) accounts for a substantial percentage of air accidents. Steps to improve the quality of training continue to be reviewed and implemented.

(d) Constant interaction with HAL and Original Equipment Manufacturers is also maintained to overcome technical defects, the second major contributor to the accidents.

(e) With a view to getting a wider perspective and scientific analysis for preventing accidents, a number of independent agencies including DRDO are involved in examining some cases of accident investigations.

(f) Measures have been/are being implemented to reduce bird hit accidents, another major cause of accidents.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Sir, between 1998-2001, we have had 54 fighter plane crashes. We have identified the reasons for the plane crash. Could the hon. Minister tell us what exactly was the confidential report of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, which revealed various problems besetting the aircraft crashes, and the recommendations he made? I would also like to know whether the Government has taken stock of what has to be done.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, certainly I would share as much of detail as I can share. There was a Committee set up on fighter aircraft accidents. This was done in 1997. It was headed by the then Scientific Advisor to the Raksha Mantri, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Actually, the Committee submitted its report in September 1997. Amongst the various recommendations — I would come to them in a minute — the fundamental tenet of the Committee's deliberation was the recognition that simply investment in one or another is not the answer; that any investment that is made in fighter aircraft calls for parallel investment in a host of other related activities essential to enable the acquired aircraft to operate with full safety.

The substance, therefore, of the proposal was that if there is a whole environment in which the aircraft operate and in every aspect when an acquisition of this nature takes place, what has to be attended to is not simply the acquisition of the weapon system by way of an aircraft but also we need to address ourselves to the total environment, which is a factor that regrettably has not yet received sufficient attention. This Committee had a total of about 84 recommendations. Of the 84 recommendations, 45 have already been implemented; 24 are in the stages of implementation; and 10 of the points have been closed as they are not implementable. Now, five of the recommendations needing expeditious attention have also been attended to.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Air Marshal Tipnis has also cautioned that despite the fact that we would have the presence of the Advanced Jet Trainer in this country, the accidents would be only minimised and they would not be in any way improved. Could the Minister tell us about that?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It will not be advisable for me, Sir, to bring the Office or the name of the Chief of Air Staff into any discussion that we have here or any query that is raised. The Chief of Air Staff is not simply the Chief of Air Staff. I have also said to and it has been routinely said, and I might correct the hon. Member that the Advanced Jet Trainer is under examination for acquisition and not yet acquired. But it is correct, it would be an error to suggest that the acquisition of the Advanced Jet Trainer by itself is any kind of panacea for the air accidents that we experience in the Air Force.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to say to the hon. Minister of Defence that he has given information to this august House

regarding the report of Shri Abdul Kalam Committee. Earlier also Rathore Committee and La Fontain committee were constituted and reports of three such committees have been received. I feel very sorry to say that between 1991 and 1997, 147 aircrafts have been damaged and financial loss of 704 crore rupees has been incurred and the country has lost 63 young and brave pilots. The delegation of MPs of both of the Houses of Parliament met the hon. Prime Minister and despite appointing three committees in this regard, the Ministry of Defence — of course I am not making allegations on the present Minister of Finance, the former Minister of Defence gave reply for five times in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, but no action was taken, due to which our young and brave pilots are being killed. Senior journalists of the country have many a times, brought this matter before the country. I would request the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this matter and provide quality training through instructors for Mig-21 and other aircrafts, which is not being given. That is why we are becoming unsuccessful in this field. Our Air Force stands at fourth rank in the world. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what compensation is given by the Government to the families of pilots who die in such accidents. What are the plans of the Government for Group Insurance Scheme for them and whether the hon. Prime Minister is going to take any appropriate decision by constituting a committee of both the Houses of Parliament?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has said so many things well. It is upon the hon. Member what to say and what not, it is his wisdom and discretion, but it is not good to give such statistics, or do blanket condemnation, one should re-consider this. So far as the committees of the house are concerned, there are two committees, first is standing Committee on Defence and second is consultative committee. The said topic has been discussed in the meeting of consultative committee last Friday itself. The insurance definitely covers accident i.e. Loss of Life and Property. People get money of the insurance as per the rules.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Amendment of Ninth Schedule of the Constitution

*521. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to bring reservation policy for SC/ST under 9th schedule of the constitution for the effective implementation of reservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any memorandum in this regard from various SC/ST organisations; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE 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) Yes, Sir.

(d) Reservation Policy of the Government has been articulated through executive instructions, which have the force of law, as per the Supreme Court Judgement in the Indira Sawhney case. Since there is no Act of reservation, therefore, the question of including the Reservation Policy of the Government in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution does not arise.

Conference on Flight Safety

*523. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual flight safety conference of India Air Force was held at Bangalore on June 26, 2001;

(b) whether the issue of frequent air crashes of I.A.F. aircrafts, particularly of MIG variety was discussed in the conference;

(c) whether training of pilots and proper maintenance of aircraft were emphasised and steps suggested to improve these aspects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) A Flight-Safety conference, of the Training Command of the Indian Air Force, was held in Bangalore on June 25, 2001. Such Flight-Safety conferences are held on a six monthly basis, in each of IAF's seven

Commands. Flight safety issues are also discussed in the Commanders' Conference at the Air Headquarters, which takes place twice annually.

2. Matters relating to accidents, involving different types of aircraft, including MIGs, with specific focus on accidents, pertaining to the aircraft deployed by the Training Command were discussed in the conference at Bangalore. The fundamentals of flight safety, including training of pilots and aircrew and a fail-safe system of maintenance of aircraft were reviewed. Particular stress was laid on ensuring, on a sustained basis, that no compromises in regard to flight safety were allowed at any level. Accident rates of different aircraft were also reviewed, and preventive measures relating to the three major causes of such accidents — human error (by aircrew or technical personnel), technical defects and birds menace around airfields — were analysed with a view to effecting further improvements.

Achievement of REGP

*527. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of the Rural Employment Generation Programme introduced by the Government in the country, State-wise;

(b) the provisions made by the Government to provide marketing and training facilities for the beneficiaries under the said Programme; and

(c) the manner in which the Government intend to create job opportunities in the rural areas through Khadi and Village Industries 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) to (c) The Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) was lunched on the basis of recommendation of the High Power Committee constituted under the then Prime Minister. This Programme is being implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

Under the REGP, the KVIC introduced a scheme Margin Money Scheme (MMS) with effect from 1.4.1995 for viable Village Industries projects. The projects sanctioned under MMS as on 31.3.2000 in the country State-wise is as at statement enclosed.

The Margin Money Scheme (MMS) provides 25% of the project cost for the projects upto Rs. 10 lakhs as margin money grant. For projects above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% of the remaining cost of the project. Special concession is being provided to SC/ST/ EX-servicemen/Women/Minority/Physically Handicapped, OBC beneficiaries and all the beneficiaries of North Eastern Region, Andaman & Nicobar and Sikkim State wherein the margin money grant is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs.

For the development and promotion of Khadi and Village Industries, the Government of India announced a package for the Khadi and Village Industries sector on 14.5.2001. The main features of this package consist of a Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development, focus on core areas and provision of additional working capital.

Statement

Project Sanctioned Under Margin Money Scheme as on 31.3.2000

S.No.	Name of the State	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3552
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	96
3.	Assam	81
4.	Bihar	262
5.	Goa	609
6.	Gujarat	184
7.	Haryana	818
8.	Himachal Pradesh	206
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2481
10.	Karnataka	6229
11.	Kerala	2540

1	2	3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7607
13.	Maharashtra	8194
14	Manipur	156
15.	Meghalaya	1938
16	Mizoram	419
17.	Nagaland	310
18.	Orissa	578
19.	Punjab	3019
20.	Rajasthan	13789
21.	Sikkim	15
22.	Tamilnadu	1298
23.	Tripura	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2221
25.	West Bengal	8090
26	A & N Islands	87
27	Delhi	134
28.	Chandigarh	20
29.	D & N Haveli	1
30.	Pondicherry	827
31	Lakshadweep	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0
	Total	65762

Leptospirosis

*528. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

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

(a) the number of deaths occurred due to Leptospirosis (Rat Fever) during each of the last three years, uptil now, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have deputed any medical/research team to study this problem;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) whether the Government have chalked out any effective programme to eradicate this disease;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for setting up of ICMR Centre on leptospirosis; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (g) Leptospirosis is endemic in many States in India, including Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil and Karnataka. The number of deaths due to leptospirosis in these States during the last three years is given below:

State/UT	No. of deaths due to Leptospirosis		
	1999	2000	2001
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	25	62	NA
Gujarat	32	16	NA
Kerala	93	45	26 (upto 11.7.2001)
Maharashtra	—	59	28 (upto 27.7.2001)
Tamil Nadu	10	1	NA
Karnataka	1	1	NA

NA: Not available

The disease may have occurred in other States/UTs. also but cases or outbreaks have not been notified from these areas.

Government Institutions such as the Indian Council for Medical Research and National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi have sent medical/research teams to investigate outbreaks of leptospirosis to Gujarat and Karnataka in 1997, and Maharashtra, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands in 2000 and Kerala in 2001. The Central Government, through its institutions, has also provided assistance to the State Governments.

Serum samples were collected from the suspected patients residing in the affected areas. Three tests, ELISA, LEPTO-Dipstick, and Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT) were used. The criterion for confirmation of diagnosis was a positive MAT result. Based on these results, the diagnosis of leptospirosis was confirmed.

The following steps are suggested by the medical/ research teams and have been implemented to control the diseases:

- Physicians have been sensitised in affected States.
- Diagnostic support is being provided to the State Governments, wherever required.
- Investigative support is being provided to contain the outbreaks of leptospirosis in any part of the country whenever asked/required.
- To create awareness about the disease, a comprehensive publication has been brought out and circulated to all states, highlighting preventive steps, treatment and steps for awareness creation.
- National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases, which is being implemented in 80 districts of the country on pilot basis, is also useful in detecting epidemics.
- Various State Governments have also launched programmes whereby all doctors are sensitised about early diagnosis and treatment of the problem, along with ensuring adequate stock of medicines during the rainy season when most of the outbreaks occur.
- Anti-rodent activities have also been undertaken by many states in order to reduce the risk of Leptospirosis.

In September 2000, when there was an outbreak of leptospirosis in Kerala, the Government of Kerala had requested the Government of India to send an expert team from the Port Blair Unit of ICMR to conduct an epidemiological study. Accordingly, the National Leptospirosis Reference Centre of ICMR, Port Blair Unit visited the State of Kerala to investigate the outbreak of leptospirosis in Kerala and suggested various measures to contain the outbreak and precautionary measures.

Violence in Sri Lanka

*529. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed serious concern and disappointment over the fresh escalation of violence in Sri Lanka and reiterated its call to all concerned parties in the Island country to resume steps for the commencement of talks for political settlement; and

(b) if so, the efforts made/proposed to be made by India in this regard?

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

(b) Government of India has consistently called for a peaceful, political settlement of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty in a manner that meets the aspirations of all elements in Sri Lankan society.

Security at Ordinance Depots

*530. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present security measures available for all Ordinance Depots of the country;

(b) whether present security measures are adequate to check theft and unauthorised sale of arms and ammunition to anti-social elements and Terrorists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the further measures, to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) All Ordinance Depots are provided with adequate security arrangements.

2. These arrangements include, barbed wire fencing, perimeter walls, search lights, sound communication systems, watch dogs, alarm systems etc.

3. Regular patrolling of perimeters and close liaison with Civil and Military Intelligence agencies is also maintained, apart from character verification of depot employees.

4. Modernisation and up-gradation of security arrangements is an on-going exercise related to changing circumstances, technological developments and security requirements.

Seminars by SISI

*531. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industries Service Institute is conducting a number of seminars and training courses in different parts of the country in the Information technology field;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its objectives;

(c) whether high charges are being levied by the Small Industries Service Institute for such courses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of persons who had availed of the benefits of such courses during each of the last three years; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the government to make such courses relevant and widely available?

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. Training is being provided in Information Technology by 12 Small Industries Service Institute (SISIs) in the country. The topics covered in these include web designing, Internet, E-Commerce, Networking, office automation, computer hardware etc. The objective behind such courses is to develop the skills of persons serving the SSI's or those intending to seek employment in the sector.

(c) and (d) the fee charged for the Seminar/Courses varies according to the duration of the course, expertise of the faculty, infrastructure needed, course material etc. but is always kept at a reasonable rate.

(e) Training courses on Information Technology were introduced for the first time in SISIs in the year 1999-2000. The number of persons trained during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is 3,652 and 4,368 respectively.

(f) Courses are designed keeping in view the needs of the SSI Sector and emerging trends in Information Technology and more field level institutions are being encouraged to take up these courses.

National Programme of Industrialisation

*532. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up 100 rural industrial cluster under National Programme on Industrialisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rural artisan and unemployed youth likely to be benefited therefrom?

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. Perhaps the reference is to the National Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI) announced by the Finance Minister during his Budget Speech for 1999-2000. Under the NPRI, 100 rural industrial clusters are to be set up every year.

(c) The scheme is likely to benefit around 50 families per cluster.

Check on Pre-Natal Sex Determination

*533. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Panel to stop sex text check Centres" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated August 4, 2001;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to set up the panel expeditiously to prevent pre-natal determination tests, effectively in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up a special cell within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare headed by an Assistant Commissioner level officer to assist the Central Supervisory board in monitoring the reports received from State Governments and Appropriate Authorities appointed at State/district/sub-district levels.

District Planning Committees

*534. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the process of development, there are District Planning Committees in every district of respective States;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the District Planning Committees are mostly Chaired by either the Collector or the Zilla Parishad Heads;

(c) whether the Government propose to involve MPs of the Lok Sabha in the District Planning Committees; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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.

Decentralised planning has been advocated since the beginning of the planning era in this country. The need to break national planning into National/State/District & Community levels plans, has been recognised for long. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts marks a step in this direction by providing constitutional status to the Panchyati Raj Institutions. The responsibility for preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and their implementation in relation to subjects listed in the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution has been assigned to Panchayats/Urban Local Bodies. As per Article 243 ZD of the Constitution, the State Governments are required to constitute District Planning Committees (DPSc) to facilitate the process of decentralized planning. The DPCs are expected to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. Not all the States/UTs have constituted DPCs. In some States DPCs are headed by the Chairperson of Zilla Panchayat whereas in some States DPCs are headed by the Ministers incharge of District or State Government Officials. A Statement indicating status of constitution of DPCs and their Chairperson is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The State Legislatures have been vested with powers to provide for composition of the DPCs. As such the State Government/UT Administrations are competent to decide the composition of the Committees.

Statement

Status of District Planning Committees

S. No.	States/UTs	Status of constitution of DPCs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Not constituted
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Not constituted
3.	Assam	Not constituted
4.	Bihar	Not constituted
5.	Chhattisgarh	Not constituted
6.	Goa	Not constituted
7.	Gujarat	Not constituted

1	2	3
8.	Haryana	Only in 3 District. Rest under consideration
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Not yet but it is under consideration
10.	Jharkhand	Not constituted
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	Not applicable
12.	Karnataka	Yes. District Panchayat (DP) President is Chairperson of DPC
13.	Kerala	Yes. DP President is Chairperson of DPC
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Yes. District incharge Minister is Chairperson of DPC.
15.	Maharashtra	Not constituted
16.	Manipur	Yes in 2 distts. out of 4. Adhyksha, DP is Chairperson of DPC.
17.	Meghalaya	Not applicable
18.	Mizoram	Not applicable
19.	Nagaland	Not applicable
20.	Orissa	Yes. Minister incharge is Chairperson of DPC
21.	Punjab	Not yet but is constitution is under active consideration
22.	Rajasthan	Yes. DP President is Chairperson of DPC
23.	Sikkim	Yes. DP President is Chairperson of DPC
24.	Tamil Nadu	Yes. Yet to be operational. Chairperson, DP will be Chairperson
25.	Tripura	Yes. Cabinet rank ministers are Chairpersons.
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Yes. Ministers are Chairpersons.
27.	Uttranchal	Not constituted
28.	West Bengal	Yes in 17 districts. Chairperson, DP is Chairperson of DPC.
29.	A & N Islands	Yes. Chairperson, DP is Chairperson of DPC.
30.	Chandigarh	Not in favour as 90% of population covered by Municipality
31.	D & N Haveli	Yes. DC is Chairperson of DPC
32.	Daman & Diu	Not constituted
33.	NCT Delhi	State PR Act is under suspension
34.	Lakshadweep	Yes. CDC is Chairperson of DPC.
35.	Pondicherry	Elections not held

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

Eradication of AIDS

*535. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the recent survey conducted by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has revealed that India has an estimated 3.86 million affected people with HIV/AIDS;

(b) whether the said survey has shown a high prevalence of over one per cent in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland;

(c) whether the Government have asked the State Governments which have high prevalence of HIV/AIDS cases to go in for a joint war against the deadly disease by launching an intensified drive involving religious groups; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (d) The National AIDS Control Organisation is conducting annual rounds of HIV sentinel surveillance in designated sentinel sties, with the objective to monitor the progress of HIV epidemic in the country. The last round of HIV sentinel surveillance was conducted during August-October 2000 in 232 sentinel sites. Based on the results of this round and pre-determined assumptions, an estimate of 3.86 million HIV infections as in year 2000 was worked out.

The HIV sentinel surveillance data has shown a HIV prevalance of over 1% among ante natal women in the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland which is used as a proxy for the HIV prevalance in the general population.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee took the initiative of convening a meeting on May 22, 2001 of Chief Ministers of these six states which have a HIV/AIDS prevalence of 1% in the general population. In his address to the Chief Ministers, the Prime Minister said that the AIDS epidemic presents a grave challenge and could seriously affect the present as well as the future development of the states. He called upon the Chief Ministers to intensify prevention activities and focus on awareness of young people who are the most vulnerable. These should include programes for school children, street children and other young people to help them adopt a responsible lifestyle. He further stated that religious establishments who can have a strong positive influence over large sections of the society should be actively involved. He reassured the Chief Ministers that the Centre would continue to partner with them in every possible way in the joint war against HIV/AIDS.

Code of Conduct of Bureaucrats

*536. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Vigilance Commissioner has suggested some Code of Conduct for the bureaucrats in the country;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Civil Military Liaison Conference

*537. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether army and civil officials have decided to join forces and fight against subversive activities of the Pak intelligence agency and the growing menace of terrorism in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Civil Military Liaison Conference was held at the headquarters of Meerut Sub Area;

(c) if so, the details of various issues of mutual assistance and problems related to mass and internal security discussed;

(d) the outcome of the discussion thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to create such agencies to check the activities to Pakistani intelligence throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Law and Order, being a State subject, is essentially the responsibility of the State Government. Full co-operation and assistance is, however, provided to the Civil authorities, whenever asked for, in accordance with the 'Instructions of Aid to the Civil Authorities by the Armed Forces — 1970'. In so far as the specific issue of activities of the said foreign intelligence outfit is concerned, a well-coordinated and multi-pronged approach involving both Central and State security agencies has been adopted for tackling such activities.

2. A Civil Military Liaison Conference was held at Headquarters, Meerut Sub-Area on 3rd May 2001. Such conferences are held from time to time. A number of issues, including identification of sensitive areas, co-ordination between the concerned civil and military authorities to deal with security threats, assistance by the army in the context of natural calamities, ex-servicemen's welfare, relief to war widows etc., were discussed.

Emergency Contraception

*538. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of Consortium on National Consensus for Emergency Contraception has been released;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the report;

(c) the time by which the emergency contraception pills are likely to be available in the market;

(d) whether these pills will be inducted in the national family welfare programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The report of Consortium on National Consensus for Emergency Contraception has been released.

(b) The main recommendations of the Consensus are:

(1) The Emergency Contraceptive Pills should be made available as soon as possible in a 2-pill pack, each tablet containing 0.75 mg Levonorgestrel.

(2) The product should be available to cover all sections of society through the existing family planning outlets as well as on prescription.

(3) There should be focused mass media public awareness campaigns through T.V., Radio, Newspapers as well as having a "Telephone Hotline.".

(4) Training should be provided to all family planning providers including Gyncologists, general practitioners, Medical Officers, Midwives, ANMs etc.

(5) Guidelines for service delivery providers should be prepared under technical supervision.

(6) A National Monitoring Cell should be created.

(c) The Emergency contraceptive Pills will be made available only after approval for manufacturers and marketing which is under the process of approval.

(d) and (e) An Action Group has been constituted to work out modalities of introduction of emergency contraceptive pills in the National Family Welfare Programme. The Group has, amongst its members gynaecologists, public health specialists, trainers, manufacturers of contraceptive pills, IEC experts and women activists.

Safai Karmachari Commission

*539. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Safai Karmachari Commission constituted for the welfare of the safai Karmacharis is unable to discharge duties due to the neglect and non-cooperation of the Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of resources provided to the said Commission by the Government.

(d) whether the Government inspects the works of the said Commission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Commission for Safai Karmacharis has been reconstituted in February, 2001. Requisite resources are being provided to the Commission by the Government for discharging its functions.

(d) and (e) National Commission for Safai Karmacharis has been set up in accordance with the provisions of the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis Act 1993 and the functions and the powers of the Commission are mentioned in Chapter 3 of the said Act. The Annual Reports of the Commission alongwith Action Taken Memorandum are to be laid before both the Houses of Parliament by the government and accordingly, the first two reports of the Commission have already been laid on the Table of both the Houses of the Parliament.

UPSC

*540. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Public Service Commission has revised syllabus of various subjects for Civil Services Examination during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the present pattern of the Union Public Service Commission Examination; 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) to (d) The Union Public Service Commission update and revise the syllabi prescribed for various subjects in examinations held by them from time to time, as a regular and continuous process so as to ensure the standard of syllabi prescribed for the examinations. As part of this process, the syllabi of 50 subjects for the Civil Services Examination were revised and incorporated in the scheme of the Civil Services Examination during the last five years. A list of these subjects is enclosed as Statement.

2. An eight Member Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh has been constituted by the Union Public Service Commission in July, 2000 to review the existing scheme of the Civil services Examination. The broad terms of reference for this Committee are to examine the present scheme of the Civil Services Examination and the systems for working that scheme in the light of past experience and current requirements and recommend such changes/innovations in the said scheme, systems and methods as may be required for identifying the best and most suitable persons for appointment to various services/posts which form part of the scheme. The committee has not submitted its final report.

Statement

Revision of Syllabi

	Subjects
1.	Accountancy
2.	Agriculture
3.	Anthropology
4.	Arabic
5.	Assamese
6.	Bengali
7.	Botany
8.	Chemistry
9.	Chinese
10.	Civil Engineering
11.	Economics
12.	Electrical Engineering
13.	English
14.	French
15.	General Studies
16.	Geography
17.	Geology
18.	German
19.	Gujarati
20.	Hindi
21.	History
22.	Kannada
23.	Kashmiri
24.	Konkani

25. Law
26. Malayalam
27. Management
28. Manipuri
29. Marathi
30. Mathematics
31. Medical Science
32. Nepali
33. Oriya
34. Pali
35. Persian
36. Philosophy
37. Physics
38. Political Science
39. Psychology
40. Public Administration
41. Punjabi
42. Russian
43. Sanskrit
44. Sindhi
45. Sociology
46. Statistics
47. Tamil
48. Telugu
49. Urdu
50. Zoology

Letter From Members of Parliament

5411. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether replies to letters written to the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Personnel on the affairs of the Kendriya Bhandar which sell stationery and other items to the Government departments and where corruption and corrupt practices are rampant are not being replied for months together thereby defeating the whole purpose of writing letters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to improve the governance of the Kendriya Bhandar in so far as in the purchase of stationery and other items by the government ministries/departments/offices/corporations/ undertakings etc.;

(c) whether a number of letters are pending as on date and the date of receipt of those letters by the Prime Minister and the MoS (PP);

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken against those who are responsible for the same; and

(e) the time by which all such letters are likely to be replied?

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) Letters received from M.Ps and reference received from Prime Minister's office and other V.I.Ps are accorded highest priority and all efforts are made to ensure that the replies are sent to them as early as possible. This Department had received a large number of letters from M.Ps raising a number of issues concerning Kendriya Bhandar, NCCF etc. Many of these letters are on issues that have arisen due to the concessions given in the Office Memorandum issued by this Department in July, 1981 (as amended from time to time). Divergent views have been expressed for review/modifications of this Office Memorandum including complete withdrawal of the same.

This being a policy matter having wider implications, is being examined in consultation with the Ministries of Finance and Ministry of Consumer Affairs. The views expressed by the M.Ps would be kept in mind while taking a final decision in the matter. In view of this some replies to the letters received from the M.Ps have been delayed. It is expected that replies to all such pending letters would be sent shortly.

Various steps have been taken by Kendriya Bhandar to improve its governance and to bring transparency in day to day functioning and some of them are set out below:

(i) A computer software programme has been installed in Head office to monitor the sales

summary of every store every day to ensure that they are selling the goods according to the codes.

(ii) Kendriya Bhandar has initiated a process for obtaining indemnity from the suppliers regarding price guarantee to ensure that the customers get the best price.

(iii) Prepaid suggestion post cards have been kept in all the Store to get prompt feed back from the customers. Action is taken on complaints/ suggestion received from the customers. In case of serious complaints, employees have been charge sheeted and suppliers have been suspended or de-registered depending upon the gravity of the offence.

(iv) Where-ever possible limited tenders are invited from the registered suppliers to generate competition among them.

(v) The supply/quality of grocery goods from the suppliers is subject to laboratory test and given ratings based on certain norms prescribed by the Society which are stricter then the norms laid down by the P.F.A. Such rating is taken into consideration while considering tenders of those suppliers for subsequent period. Warning is issued to those who fall below the prescribed rating.

Smuggling Syndicate

5412. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diplomats in the Indian Embassy in Tashkent had sent a number of letters in May, 2000 to his Ministry giving details about the smuggling syndicate being run by Uzbek nationals who come to India on tourist visas;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the diplomats in Indian Embassy in Tashkent had also advised the Government to monitor and control their activities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on those letters?

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

(b) The Embassy of India in Tashkent brought to the notice of the Government about misuse of visas by tourists coming to India from Uzbekistan and other CIS countries and indulging in undesirable activities like gold and drugs smuggling and prostitution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Embassy requested the Government to sensitize all concerned agencies against the reported undesirable activities.

(e) Detailed instructions to conduct thorough checks on suspected CIS tourists coming through Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, were issued to Customs and Immigration Authorities, Delhi Police and other concerned agencies on 20.7.2001.

Monitoring of Central Projects

5413. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether project management division of his Ministry has been entrusted with the task of monitoring of central projects costing Rs. twenty crore and above;

(b) if so, the number of projects on the monitor of the Ministry as on 31 March, 2001;

(c) whether it is a fact in spite of Inspection of Standing Committee working in each Ministry except railways, the escalation cost of these projects has gone by 15.5% of their original cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) steps taken or being taken by his Ministry for vigorous appraisal of the projects?

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) to (d) As on 31st March, 2001, 466 projects, each costing Rs. 20 crores and above, were on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. The cost of these projects with respect to the originally approved cost, has increased from Rs.

1,23,359.7 crores to Rs. 1,67,745 crores, resulting in a cost overrun of 36%. With respect to the latest approved cost, it has escalated from Rs. 1,43,345 crores to Rs. 1,67,745 crores, showing an increase of Rs. 24,000 crores, i.e., 17%. A detailed break-up of sector-wise cost overruns of projects w.r.t. the original and latest approved costs is given in the enclosed statement.

(e) The steps taken for closer monitoring of the projects include:

(i) review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government;

(ii) indepth critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and the administrative Ministries and follow up with the State Governments (for acquisition of land and provision of infrastructure facilities like water and power, ensuring law & order at project sites, etc.) consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays;

(iii) Setting up of an Empowered Committee in the concerned administrative Ministries for resolution of problems;

(iv) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving problems of inter-ministerial nature;

(v) making available matching funds on yearly based on updated cost to complete the projects in the advanced stages of implementation along with the revised completion schedule;

(vi) reviews by the Ministers-in-charge, the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Secretariat; and

(vii) In order to bring accountability in the execution of projects, Standing Committees have been set up in 25 Ministries/Departments excluding Railways, for projects costing Rs. 50 crores and above, which have reported time & cost overruns. These Committees are headed by Additional Secretary or Joint Secretary of the concerned Ministry with representatives from Planning Commission, Department of Expenditure and Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. The Standing Committees, set up as per the guidelines of the Planning Commission issued in August, 1998, have the mandate to go into the details of time and cost overruns and to identify the respective responsibility areas and to suggest remedial action. The reports of the Standing Committees form part of the revised cost estimates of projects which have time and cost overruns and the same are submitted, along with the note for Revised Cost Estimates, to the Public Investment Board (PIB) and the Note for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

Statement

S.No.	Sector	No. of Proj-ects	Total cost (Rs. crs)			Proj. with cost overrun				Cumulative Expenditure upto March, 2001 (in Rs. crores)
			Orig-inal	Antici-pated cost	Cost over-run (%)	No.	Orgi. cost	Antic-ipated cost	% Incr-ease	
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Atomic Energy	24	4370.0	9913.1	126.8	4	3548.7	9091.8	156.2	2086.06
2.	Civil Aviation	9	348.5	423.0	21.4	5	191.0	265.5	39.0	210.33
3.	Coal	54	10835.0	11841.0	9.3	10	4488.2	6002.9	33.8	6683.05
4.	Finance	1	118.3	301.8	155.2	1	118.3	301.8	155.2	268.19
5.	Fertilisers	6	681.0	821.4	20.6	1	350.0	509.4	45.5	183.71
6.	I & B	4	168.4	215.8	28.2	1	34.2	81.6	138.9	78.31

1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7.	Mines	4	3807.5	3807.5	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1732.15
8.	Steel	7	1460.0	1608.8	10.2	3	1113.3	1328.1	19.3	1167.80
9.	Petroleum	45	31640.4	31482.8	-0.5	3	2390.0	2584.0	8.1	4035.58
10.	Power	31	30445.5	48870.3	60.5	14	21810.3	40247.0	84.5	19027.02
11.	Health & FW	3	159.9	780.9	388.2	3	159.9	780.9	388.2	104.83
12.	Railways	193	26443.8	38446.3	45.4	132	18140.6	30199.5	66.5	11891.17
13.	Surface Transport	68	6659.7	9528.7	43.1	29	3791.7	6786.1	79.0	5242.46
14.	Telecommunication	8	1004.0	1004.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	706.61
15.	Urban Development	9	5217.9	8699.8	66.7	7	5159.5	8642.0	67.5	1028.86
	Total	466	123359.7	167745.1	36.0	213	61295.7	106820.5	74.31	54446.13

Health Care Programme

5414. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARDAGI:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought any additional funds for the effective implementation of various Health care schemes in the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has also sought World Bank assistance for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have given its approval in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) An Integrated Health, Nutrition and Family Welfare Services Development Project seeking World Bank assistance of Rs. 800 crores has been received from Government of Karnataka. It is under consideration.

DRDO Project

5415. SHRI R.R. PRAMANIK:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last decade the Defence Research and Development Organisation has taken up 180 projects out of which only 99 projects have been completed successfully;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to complete the remaining projects immediately to avoid escalation cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) The 180 projects were undertaken for the three Services at different points of time during the last decade and these projects were of different time durations. The remaining on-going projects are in various stages of execution.

(c) The projects are periodically subjected to multi-layer reviews to identify and solve the problems, which otherwise may lead to escalation in time and cost.

Upgradation for MIG-21

5416. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether indigenously upgraded MIG-21-93 aircrafts have since rolled out from Nasik unit of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; and

(b) if so, the special and innovative features of this aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Prototype development of upgraded aircraft has been completed, but such aircraft are yet to roll out of the Nasik Unit of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The upgraded aircraft will have advanced avionics and improved weapon delivery systems.

Special Clinics for Smokers

5417. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state·

(a) whether World Health Organisation propose to set up special centres at ten places in collaboration of the Ministry in the country which would help the smokers quit their habit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tobacco Cessation Clinics, on a pilot-basis, are proposed to be set up in various hospitals which will offer both counselling and pharmacotheraphy to help smokers to quit their habit. These clinics are being set up at the following locations:

- Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences, Delhi.
- Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.
- Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh.
- King George Memorial Medical College, Lucknow.
- Vaidya Hospital, Goa.
- JN Cancer Hospital, Bhopal.
- Indira Gandhi Institute of Cardiology, Patna.
- A.H. Regional Cancer Centre, Cuttack.
- Bhagwan Mahavir Cancer Hospital, Jaipur.
- HM Patel Centre for Medical Care and Education, Karamsad, Gujarat.

The estimated expenditure will be approximately Rs. 10-11 lakhs per clinic for a period of one year.

Leprosy

5418. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent Indo-British study funds that susceptibility to leprosy could be genetically linked prove to the disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In a study report published in UK based Journal Nature (Genetics) Vol. 27, 2001 page 439-441, it has been indicated that a genetic linkage has been observed on 10 P13 of the human genome on 224 families mainly from Vizag in Andhra Pradesh and Kumbhakonam in Tamil Nadu consisting of 245 independent affected sib-pairs with Paucibacillary type of leprospy. It is already well known that there is greater risk of contracting the infection among people living in close contacts. This study result does not differentiate whether it is due to close contact or by genetic susceptibility.

(c) The National Leprosy Elimination Programme (NLEP) is covering all districts of the country for providing free MDT services. Intensive Care Detection Drive is also undertaken in the States to detect the leprosy patients early and put them on Multi Drug Theraphy (MDT). The risk of contracting infection in close contact will be negligible once a patient is given MDT. The potent MDT regimen reduces the load of infection remarkably in the patients soon after treatment. It is indicated by WHO that single dose of Rifampicin alone kills 99.9% of the bacilli.

Medical Malpractice

5419. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Avoiding medical malpractice" appearing in 'Times of India' July 30, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) if so, the steps are being taken by Government to see that the doctors do not refuse to treat people in accidents and emergency situations and follow a code of ethics; and

(d) the further steps are being taken so that the Indian Medical Association does act on public complaints against doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the Code of Medical Ethics prescribed by the Medical Council of India a physician should respond to any request for his assistance in an emergency or whatever temperate public opinion expects the service. The Medical Council of India and State Medical Councils are competent to take disciplinary action against the physicians for violation of Code of Ethics. The Indian Medical Association does not have any power to take action against doctors for violation of Medical Ethics, but it is constantly impressing upon the doctors to strictly follow the Medical Ethics.

Reviewing of MCI Act

5420. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the Government have been considering to reconstitute the Medical Council of India;

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

(c) the composition of the new Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Joint Parliamentary Committee in its Report dated 28th July, 1989 on the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987 recommended for several amendments to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 including the broad basing of the Medical Council of India. The Government have not yet taken a final decision in the matter as the comprehensive amendments to the draft amendment Bill recommended by the Joint Parliamentary Committee is being deliberated upon in consultation with the State Governments, Universities Medical Council of India, medical institutions and all concerned departments in the light of the various new developments which have taken place in the field of medical education and the judgements of the Honourable Supreme Court of India on related issues delivered in the meantime.

[Translation]

Malaria Eradication Programmes

5421. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount earmarked/released/utilised to the various States under the Malaria Eradication Programme during each of the last three years uptill now;

(b) whether some State Governments have requested the Union Government to increase the allocation; and

(c) if so, the decisions taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A Statement showing the status of distribution of central assistance provided to the States during the last three years under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under NAMP, the Central assistance is released to the States on the basis of their actual need and the demands are met as per the pattern of assistance under the Programme.

Statement

States/UTs-wise Distribution of Central Assistance Provided During the year (1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01) Under NAMP

(Rs. in Lakh)

Name of the States/UTs	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	482.93	322.86	644.11
Arunachal Pradesh	186.61	303.27	293.79

1	2	3	4
Assam	2170.42	2267.01	2657.87
Bihar	403.05	481.35	87.20
Goa	7.72	10.93	0.97
Gujarat	611.11	489.04	211.23
Haryana	260.39	259.03	78.34
Himachal Pradesh	51.47	46.11	89.06
Jammu & Kashmir	72.57	52.73	84.29
Karnataka	264.47	662.66	233.38
Kerala	102.73	117.72	75.93
Madhya Pradesh	454.49	893.40	711.54
Maharashtra	260.26	282.97	286.74
Manipur	377.34	403.05	235.70
Meghalaya	231.55	306.70	303.58
Mizoram	172.53	309.56	235.26
Nagaland	183.34	240.83	278.91
Orissa	385.14	329.67	547.63
Punjab	290.67	288.96	148.32
Rajasthan	1994.15	1146.16	286.86
Sikkim	8.47	11.65	0.12
Tamil Nadu	240.72	392.31	133.91
Tripura	356.97	375.89	480.94
Uttar Pradesh	1121.92	622.18	544.11
West Bengal	330.90	296.36	454.47
Delhi	37.21	75.40	100.46
Pondicherry	6.15	10.32	13.55
A & Islands	155.68	116.46	231.76
Chandigarh	44.30	47.25	44.79
D & N Haveli	24.90	25.94	18.12
Daman & Diu	10.08	16.42	9.90
Lakshadweep	5.24	5.81	5.57
Total	11305.48	11210.00	9518.41

1	2	3	4
Kala-azar	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
EAC	3517.39	6064.95	7389.73
Estt./Publicity/Research	571.10	541.35	1271.41
Grand Total	16393.97	18816.30	19179.55

[Translation]

Passport Charges

5422. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed different rates for issuing Passport ranging from Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 3000/- depending upon the time taken to arrange it;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue Passports to its applicants within a stipulated period at normal charges;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) In recognition of the genuine need of some passport applicants for out-of-turn issue of passports, the Tatkaal Scheme has been implemented with effect form 1.1.2000. The Tatkaal Scheme is applicable only in cases of genuine urgency where either police verification is not required or where a passport can be issued on post police verification basis along with the submission of a verification certificate issued by an officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary and above to Government of India. Passports under this Scheme are issued on payment of an additional fee of Rs. 1500/- for a passport to be issued within ten days of receipt of application and Rs. 1000/- for a passport to be issued between 11 and 35 days of the receipt of application.

(c) to (e) It is the Government's endeavour to issue passports on payment of normal passport fee in 5-6 weeks provided a clear Police Verification Report has been received and the application is complete in all other respects and no out-of-turn service is to be provided.

Electropathy/Electro-Homoeopathy

5423. SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States in the country in which practice of Electropathy/Electro-Homoeopathy is banned;

(b) whether Government are aware that High Court of Delhi had recently asked the State of Delhi to frame rules in regard to practice of Electropathy/Electro-Homoeopathy in the State;

(c) whether the Delhi Government has approached the main Government for guidelines in the matter;

(d) whether the Government are considering to recognise Electropathy/Electro-Homoeopathy as alternate system of medicine in the country;

(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) Electropathy/Electro-homeopathy System of Medicine has not been recognized by the Government as such details of names of the States in the country in which practice of Electropathy/Electrohomeopathy is banned, is not available.

High Court of Delhi in its order dated 18.11.1998 in CWP 4015/96 & 8468/97, has directed Central/State Governments to consider making legislation on various issues on electropathy & other Alternative Systems of Medicine. The Standing Committee of experts which was constituted by the Government to examine the claims of recognition of electropathy/electrohomoeopathy & other alternative methods of treatment and also to examine the feasibility of making legislation as directed by High Court of Delhi, has recently submitted its report. A decision on the recommendation of the Committee will be taken by the Government after detailed examination.

Task Force on Poverty Alleviation

5424. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Task Force has been formed to study the impact of various poverty alleviation programme in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Task Force has submitted any report to the Planning Commission; 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) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has not set up any Task Force to study the impact of various poverty alleviation programmes in rural areas.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Kidney Failure

5425. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) makes life convenient for kidney failure patients;

(b) the names of the Government hospitals and private hospitals in India where this system is administered and the fee charged for the same;

(c) whether the fee charged from CGHS beneficiaries is re-imbursed to them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Peritoneal Dialysis is an established form of treatment of kidney failure patients. One of the types of peritoneal dialysis is continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis wherein the patient can conduct the dialysis at home without need for any equipment.

(b) and (c) Peritoneal Dialysis is done in many government and private hospitals in Delhi like Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Batra Hospital, Apollo Hospital, Moolchand Khairati Ram Hospital, Anand Hospital, Kailash Medical & Research Centre, G.M. Modi Hospital & Research Centre, Jaipur Golden Hospital, Dharamshila Cancer Hospital, etc. Outside Delhi also it is done in many hospitals like Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science and Research, Chandigarh, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science and Research, Lucknow, Christian Medical College, Vellore and Apollo Hospital, Chennai, etc. In Central Government hospitals such treatment is available free of cost. The treatment undertaken by CGHS beneficiaries in recognised Private Hospitals is reimbursible as per CGHS approved rates which is Rs. 1000/- including the medicines and sundries.

(d) Does not arise.

CGHS Facilities

5426. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS beneficiaries are allowed to avail of medical treatment in any nearest CGHS dispensaries in case of emergency on production of CGHS Card, Identity Card;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether its beneficiaries can send their complaints to Consumer Redressal Cell and Medical Council of Delhi for lack of Doctors/employees serving in CGHS dispensaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the name of the Body/institution where such complaints can be registered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The CGHS beneficiaries are allowed to avail medical treatment facilities at any of the nearby CGHS dispensary in case of emergency on production of their CGHS Card.

(b) The Govt. of India has already issued instructions in respect of serving employees and pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS to enable them avail medical

services while on tour, leave or in unforeseen emergency at out stations from any CGHS dispensary/recognised hospital or in case of a non-CGHS area, from an Authorised Medical Attendant and recognised private hospital.

(c) to (e) as per National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi's orders dated 9th February, 1996 in Revision Petition No. 219 of 1995, to complaints of the CGHS beneficiaries, cannot be entertained by the Consumer Redressal Cell as the CGHS beneficiary is not a 'consumer' within the meaning of Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and the services rendered under CGHS to the beneficiary do not constitute 'service' as defined under the said Act. Similarly, the Medical Council of Delhi is also not competent to look into the complaints of CGHS beneficiaries as this is a body controlled by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

(f) The CGHS has a 3-tier grievance redressal machinery to deal with the grievances/complaints of the beneficiaries with the first at dispensary level and the second at the city level. The third, which functions at the All-India level from the CGHS Headquarters includes representatives from the Deptt. of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances as also from the JCM.

Purchase Policy of Kendriya Bhandar

5427. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new purchase policy in the Kendriya Bhandar envisages purchase of items marked ISI alone;

(b) if so, the details of the items that carry ISI mark in the stationery department and whether instead of purchasing ISI marked items, non-ISI items are purchased more;

(c) if so, the steps taken to buy only ISI marked items;

(d) the rules, regulations, laws relating to the purchase and tender policy;

(e) whether these have been made public; 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) No Sir. Purchase policy states that as far as possible approved quality products indicated by Agmark, ISI etc. will be purchased.

(b) The list of fast moving items being sold in the stationery Department having ISI mark is enclosed as statement. Wherever customers demand the product by brand name irrespective of ISI mark, the same is being purchased to meet customers' requirement.

(c) No comments in view of (b) above.

(d) While inviting the tenders, a clause in tender enquiry for ISI specification is incorporated as under:

"If the items mentioned in the tender forms are available with ISI mark in the market, the tenderer should preferably quote if his product carries ISI mark in case marked product is not available nor ISI specifications have been laid down, the tenderer should submit specification of the product"

(e) The tender document is available for sale and the interested supplier may purchase the same if they wish to participate in the tender.

(f) No comments in view of (e) above.

Statement

List of ISI marked Items Being Sold Through Stationery Counters

S.No.	Item	Brand
1	2	3
1.	Penyle	Trishul 5 Ltr. Tiger 5 Ltr. Killer 5 Ltr. Bengal 5 Ltr.
2.	Napthene Balls	Tiger Trishul
3.	Liquid Soap	Homacol Tiger Snowhite
4.	Washing Soap	Kranti
5.	Cleaning Powder	Super Damak Manjula

1	2	3
6.	Household Insecticide	Finit
7.	Fire Extinguisher	Cascade
8.	Staple Pin	Toyo
9.	Electrical Switches	Cons, Anchor
10.	Geyser	Crown

Nine Point Action Plan

5428. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether following recent agitations in Assam, Manipur and other North-Eastern States on the Ceasefire Area Extension accord a nine-point Action Plan for the overall development of the North-East is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision, if any taken in the matter?

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, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Norms For Post Operation In the Diseases

5429. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently revised norms for post operation follow-up treatment for Neurosurgery, Cardiac Disease, Cancer, Kidney Pleontatum etc. in various hospitals including AIIMS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the follow-up treatment for diseases continue for life and to seek renewal every now and then will be quite cumbersome;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to exclude this clause for treatment in Government Hospitals including AIIMS; 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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

High Level Committee on I.T.

5430. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any High Level Committee to monitor and guide the software and I.T. industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have given adequate representation to the States like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with respect to the size of the I.T. industry and their contribution to the total production and exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A High Level Committee, viz., "National Advisory Committee on Information Technology" has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister for Information Technology, comprising of the members from industry, academic and R&D organisations in IT sector, to identify emerging technology areas and suggest measures/policies/actions for building expertise, human resource development and fostering Research and Development activities with the objective of creating wealth, accelerating economic growth and generating employment opportunities so as to make India a super power, particularly in the area of Information Technology. The Committee has also to suggest measures for rapid development and spread of IT applications such as E-Governance, E-Commerce, Distance learning, Digital library, etc.

(c) The representation in National Advisory Committee on Information Technology has not been given on State-wise considerations. The doyens of industry who have done extremely well and the Chairmen of the various industry organisations/associations, such as NASSCOM, CII, MAIT, ESC and ASSOCHAM have been included.

(d) List enclosed as statement.

Statement

List of Members of the National Advisory Committee on Information Technology

1.	Minister of Information Technology	Chairman
2.	Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology	Member
3.	Shri F.C. Kohli, Deputy Chairman, Tata Consultancy Services.	"
4.	Shri N.R. Narayana Murthy, Chairman & CEO, Infosys Technologies Ltd.	"
5.	Shri Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro Corporation	"
6.	Shri Subash Chandra, Chairman, Essel Group of Companies	"
7.	Shri B. Ramalinga Raju, Chairman, Satyam Computers Services Ltd.	"
8.	Shri R.S. Pawar, Chairman, NIIT Ltd.	"
9.	Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, CMD, BPL Telecom Business Group	"
10.	Prof. Ashok Misra, Director, IIT, Mumbai	
11.	Shri Phiroz Vandrewala, President, NASSCOM	"
12.	Shri Satish Kaura, Chairman, Samtel India Ltd.	"
13.	Shri Chirayu R. Amin, President, FICCI.	"
14.	Shri Sanjiv Goenka, President, CII	"
15.	Shri Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman Bharti Telecom	"
16.	Shri Vivek Singhal, Chairman, ESC	"
17.	Shri Vinay L Deshpande, President, MAIT	"
18.	Shri Raghu Modi, President, ASSOCHAM	"
19.	Joint Secretary (IP Cell), Ministry of Information Technology	Convenor

[Translation]

Construction/Purchase of Buildings Abroad

5431. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of buildings taken on rent by the Indian Missions/Embassies abroad, country-wise;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the names of the countries to whom the Government has made a request with regard to the construction or purchase of the buildings for its Missions/ Embassies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) A statement giving details of the total number of buildings taken on rent along with total expenditure incurred thereon during the years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, country-wise, is enclosed. This information in a summarized table is given below.

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
Total No. of bldgs. taken on rent.	1900	1967	1944
Total expenditure incurred thereon. (in Rs. Crores)	130.53	139.66	142.16

(c) Requests have been made by the Government of India for plots of land in Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, Vietnam and Yugoslavia. The Government has already acquired plots of land in Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, China, Mauritius, Nepal,

Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago and Uzbekistan for construction of Embassy buildings. As far as purchase of built-up properties is concerned, properties have been identified in Tehran (Iran) and Damascus (Syria) for purchase of Ambassador's Residence and Chancery premises, respectively. Proposals for purchase of Permanent Representative's residence in New York, Consul General's residence in Chicago and Cultural Centre in Washington are currently under preliminary examination.

Statement

S.No.	Name of Country	Name of Missions/Posts	Total No. of leased properties in the years			Total rentals paid during the years		
			1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ivory Coast	Abidjan	8	8	8	3697368	3705460	4712635
2.	U.A.E.	Abu Dhabi	26	28	29	20434375	21764653	23063156
3.		Dubai	31	31	31	15879000	15927000	17744000
4.	Ghana	Accra	11	11	10	2747192	4318696	4108883
5.	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	11	11	11	3051864	3388075	4745227
6.	Algeria	Algiers	9	9	10	11665064	10962696	8605333
7.	Kazakhstan	Almaty	13	13	14	19250633	6853117	8893786
8.	Jordan	Amman	7	7	7	1274099	1746797	1870452
9.	Turkey	Ankara	9	8	9	3045000	2284620	3571601
10.		Istanbul	8	8	8	7889005	7272320	7098084
11.	Madagascar	Antananarivo	6	6	6	1963831	1812453	1840133
12.	Turkmesnistan	Ashgabat	10	13	13	4740622	10454827	9068907
13.	Greece	Athens	6	6	5	2517826	2259397	1662616
14.	Iraq	Baghdad	9	9	10	1113957	1104471	1219278
15.	Bahrain	Bahrain	20	20	20	14101371	13310964	14449094
16.	Azerbaijan	Baku	0	6	6	106761	13913673	8893188
17.	Thailand	Bangkok	23	23	24	9446488	9969904	9539969
18.		Chiangmai	4	4	4	1223802	1366153	1401824
19.	Lebanon	Beirut	15	15	15	6158328	5992139	7559068
20.	Yogoslavia	Belgrade	9	9	8	8271491	7350796	8075399
21.	China	Beijing	37	38	39	19672327	25729091	26844600

1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.		Hong Kong	8	8	9	16070904	15845455	18987293
23.		Shanghai	10	10	10	22057193	21906334	21894047
24.	Germany	Berlin	11	33	36	11942764	29424255	41263715
25.		Bonn	37	35	9	33098295	20521548	3660209
26.		Frankfurt	9	8	8	7208000	4900000	4138000
27.		Hamburg	5	5	5	6813701	6550081	5130358
28.	Switzerland	Berne	6	6	6	7220191	7515919	7315038
29.		Geneva CGI)*	–	–	–	–	–	–
30.		Geneva PMI)	32	33	35	60082210	54958187	59386546
31.	Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek	13	13	15	6854464	3667731	4322685
32.	Colombia	Bogota	9	9	9	7113501	7587459	8189504
33.	Brazil	Brasilia	10	12	12	11895610	14696330	11671347
34.		Sao Paulo	6	5	5	8047410	8166775	8975067
35.	Slovak Rep.	Bratislava	9	9	9	8686700	10095700	9329300
36.	Brunei	Brunei	11	12	12	13435953	13908477	13935905
37.	Belgium	Brussels	13	13	14	9333743	9614314	10239202
38.	Romania	Bucharest	10	10	10	9016753	9505586	10429806
39.	Hungary	Budapest	7	7	6	5766657	5203063	4343184
40.	Argentina	Buenos Aires	10	10	11	11858000	13501000	14691000
41.	Egypt	Cairo	34	34	33	7149092	7548968	9415230
42.		Port Said	5	5	0	982429	934690	0
43.	Australia	Canberra	0	0	0	0	0	0
44.		Sydney	13	13	13	10885467	11941586	11746479
45.	Venezuela	Caracas	6	7	8	3659678	4624825	6657772
46.	Sri Lanka	Colombo	38	39	38	6923207	6105918	7173059
47.		Kandy	9	9	9	759797	1395342	1420480
48.	Denmark	Copenhagen	6	6	6	2643582	2502613	2353012

1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
49.	Senegal	Dakar	7	7	7	2322845	2366218	2162994
50.	Syria	Damascus	16	16	16	6854512	6573049	6231356
51.	Tanzania	Dar-es-Salaam	13	14	13	9880819	11232613	10436117
52.		Zanzibar	4	4	4	1568323	1550340	1647099
53.	Bangladesh	Dhaka	80	81	81	27667000	15516000	15117000
54.		Chittagong	14	14	14	1666489	1838846	2014002
55.		Rajshahi	7	7	7	404974	399301	742676
56.	Qatar	Doha	22	22	17	14510704	14615059	11139453
57.	Ireland	Dublin	6	6	6	3754984	3416921	3263407
58.	Tajikistan	Dushanbe	11	11	17	4951595	4727756	7288301
59.	Botswana	Gaborone	11	11	10	5925098	5861915	5431532
60.	Palestine	Gaza	5	5	5	4712574	4085215	5285016
61.	Guyana	Georgetown	9	9	9	5424019	5421319	5430940
62.	Netherlands	Hague	9	9	9	7005580	7093327	7111441
63.	Vietnam	Hanoi	18	18	18	15279756	15466271	13178929
64.		Ho Chi Minh City	5	5	5	4293104	5679508	5901750
65.	Zimbabwe	Harare	7	7	7	503063	594904	738176
66.	Cuba	Havana	8	8	8	5246731	6254620	7666798
67.	Finland	Helsinki	7	7	7	6538878	6395276	5506694
68.	Pakistan	Islamabad	60	64	70	12198424	20700244	16745556
69.	Indonesia	Jakarta	7	10	7	4356000	4974000	4416000
70.		Medan	2	2	2	85136	0	18828
71.	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	0	0	0	0	0	0
72.		Jeddah	40	40	39	30288741	26496587	33553050
73.	Uganda	Kampala	8	8	8	3917909	2877015	5292838
74.	Nepal	Kathmandu	35	34	34	4387812	3608620	3611632
75.	Sudan	Khartoum	4	4	4	3438944	3604870	3393121

1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
76.	Ukraine	Kiev	14	13	13	17431208	18651666	18723666
77.	Jamaica	Kingston	8	8	8	4974661	6014144	6242435
78.	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	3	3	3	1640970	1757044	1815623
79.	Kuwait	Kuwait	22	22	21	15644831	12373855	11581247
80.	Nigeria	Lagos	1	1	1	1128600	1110015	1110015
81.	Peru	Lima	4	4	4	1730413	1886571	2067919
82.	Portugal	Lisbon	7	6	7	4168107	3487588	3596600
83.	U.K.	London	12	12	12	15870118	30872400	32479758
84.		Birmingham	13	14	14	13013919	12159910	10776000
85.		Edinburgh	9	9	8	8350905	8045788	6202529
86.	Angola	Luanda	8	8	8	5776004	5454802	5336932
87.	Zambia	Lusaka	3	3	4	563115	519083	759339
88.	Spain	Madrid	12	13	11	7013306	6479491	7093556
89.	Seychelles	Mahe	4	4	4	2552707	2749401	2330193
90.	Maldives	Male	18	18	19	11255682	12595649	13188780
91.	Malta	Malta	3	3	3	1477778	1586110	1430000
92.	Philippines	Manila	11	11	11	5692495	6667687	6206125
93.	Mozambique	Maputo	8	9	9	3555094	3804277	4176416
94.	Mexico	Mexico City	5	5	5	2876540	3143734	3601833
95.	Belarus	Minsk	8	8	8	5649349	5660960	5483811
96.	Russia	Moscow	94	105	105	65188440	66358367	75666110
97.		St. Petersburg	3	3	3	8538651	8337822	447795
98.		Vliadivostok	8	8	8	7793261	5153227	5817188
99.	Oman	Muscat	27	27	27	15003331	16825721	22456246
100.	Kenya	Nairobi	1	1	1	906726	1641514	1832085
101.		Mombasa	7	7	4	1188000	1190000	772600
102.	Cyprus	Nicosia	6	6	6	1708027	1610258	1383971

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
103. Norway	Oslo	4	5	5	2929844	3287769	3588494
104. Canada	Ottawa	6	8	7	2569695	3828258	4190339
105.	Toronto	15	16	16	15744144	17736766	21127293
106.	Vancouver	16	17	17	10648089	11776665	14073095
107. Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	3	3	3	703258	1075400	2319000
108. Panama	Panama	8	7	8	7318241	7676809	7170774
109. Suriname	Paramaribo	8	8	8	2288944	2493117	2793802
110. France	Paris	9	10	8	8571736	10684821	8047848
111. Cambodia	Phnom Penh	9	9	9	6786695	6238934	7271310
112. Mauritius	Port Louis	17	17	17	9666266	8751722	9585940
113. Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby	7	6	6	10752973	5498830	3618326
114. Trinidad & Tobago	Port of Spain	4	5	5	1302290	1834351	2537786
115. Czech Republic	Prague	13	14	14	1655620	17727767	19466451
116. South Africa	Pretoria	12	12	11	5441588	6708338	6560160
117.	Cape Town	4	4	4	3700000	4400000	3752000
118.	Durban	15	15	14	10663000	11562000	10026701
119.	Johannesburg	11	11	11	9380547	10249113	9384931
120. DPR Korea	Pyongyang	5	5	5	1180002	1231288	1287362
121. Morocco	Rabat	8	8	8	2166234	2144876	2086990
122. Italy	Rome	24	25	26	26428495	26312389	26274196
123.	Milan	5	5	5	5858250	6087487	6034064
124. Yemen	Sanaa	10	10	10	5481791	5706628	5970832
125. Chile	Santiago	4	4	4	1493945	1452415	1494135
126. Korea Rep.	Seoul	14	9	9	14693424	12385423	13983777
127. Singapore	Singapore	11	12	11	20050630	20534171	23338888
128. Bulgaria	Sofia	9	9	9	6079977	8095351	6493848
129. Sweden	Stockholm	14	14	14	14041005	14554288	12789623

1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
130.	Reunion Island	St. Denis	4	4	4	3379021	3273568	2967727
131.	Fiji	Suva	5	8	10	178757	5581477	3910998
132.	Uzbekistan	Tashkent	15	15	15	10924252	10076717	8046861
133.	Iran	Tehran	34	34	32	12523131	12280040	14294163
134.		Shiraz	4	4	4	623581	587430	746548
135.		Zahidan	4	4	4	780529	503501	1065978
136.	Israel	Tel Aviv	21	21	21	27914995	26712195	27100095
137.	Bhutan	Thimpu	0	1	1	0	21600	35100
138.		Phuntsholing	6	6	6	195230	216800	232700
139.	Japan	Tokyo	10	11	11	19029256	22215653	25360006
140.		Osaka-Kobe	6	6	6	15098624	16717823	18226248
141.	Libya	Tripoli	13	14	15	7039382	14760769	7397719
142.	Tunisia	Tunis	7	6	5	1431855	1299573	1130980
143.	Mongolia	Ulan Bator	6	6	6	2706960	3265502	4007132
144.	Austria	Vienna	14	14	14	9843805	10476650	11959569
145.	Lao PDR	Vientiane	3	3	3	2737981	2856839	3314289
146.	Poland	Warsaw	12	12	12	12958136	14751466	13848327
147.	U.S.A.	Washington	42	42	43	19730178	22832000	27632181
148.		Chicago	13	13	13	22382686	23588454	24898984
149.		Houston	11	11	11	14391022	15254249	16487287
150.		New York PMI CGI	8	9	11	4040489	8516317	9889313
151.		New York PMI	5	15	15	19524822	22268358	23808424
152.		San Francisco	10	10	10	7576746	11385962	10737805
153.	New Zealand	Wellington	8	8	8	4788000	5172000	4755000
154.	Namibia	Windhoek	3	2	2	664954	601500	490282
155.	Myanmar	Yangon	16	17	17	2956181	3672080	3797304
156.	Armenia	Yerevan	4	6	6	1170438	8546065	5302292

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
157. Croatia	Zagreb	8	9	9	7472026	7569650	7300622
	Total	1900	1967	1944	1305291677	1396635550	1421550848
	Total (Rounded off to)			(Rs. crores)	130.53	139.66	142.16

Remarks

1. The above information includes all properties leased for the office and residential purposes in respect of the representatives/ personnel of various Ministries in Central Government.
2. *CGI Geneva is a part of PMI Geneva, the properties and the expenditure are combined.

Pak Designs

5432. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has spread coal powder on ice bergs as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated May 30, 2001; and

(b) if so, its likely impact on Indian territory and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government have seen media reports about Pakistan carrying out experiments for artificial melting of glaciers. These reports have so far not been confirmed.

Experiments of this nature are known to have been conducted by some countries for scientific purposes. The present state of knowledge indicates that such experiments do not have any significant large scale impact on the melt process since such processes are influenced by a complex range of factors.

Government are vigilant and capable of formulating an appropriate response if the need arises.

[English]

Afghan Refugees

5433. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Afghan refugees are staying in India;

(b) if so, since when, alongwith their number;

(c) whether India is drawing some financial aid from U.N.O., in this regard;

(d) if so, since when, and the quantum thereof;

(e) whether the Government are willing to keep some more Afghan refugees in India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) On account of continuing civil conflict in Afghanistan a large number of Afghan nationals are presently living in India. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs records there are 12083 registered Afghan nationals residing in India. In keeping with our traditional policy of friendship towards the people of Afghanistan, all Afghan nationals, including those of Indian origin, who came to India with valid travel documents/passports are being allowed to stay unhindered; they are being granted six monthly visa extensions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) and (f) In a press conference on 28th May, 2001, External Affairs Minister had said that all those who do not subscribe to the idea of the Taliban and leave Afghanistan and ask India for temporary shelter would be provided with a shelter.

[Translation]

Transgression of Maritime Boundary

5434. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is transgressing India's maritime boundary in Arabian Sea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) whether the Government have since raised this issue on some international forum; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The India-Pakistan maritime boundary in the Arabian Sea has not been formally delimited. On certain occasions fishermen from both India and Pakistan have been transgressing into the other's waters.

Indian naval forces monitor all activities in the Arabian Sea that have a bearing on India's security.

(c) to (e) Pakistan insists that the demarcation of the land boundary in Sir Creek must be completed before the delimitation of the India-Pakistan maritime boundary in the Arabian Sea can begin. Government have proposed to Pakistan that pending the formalization of the land boundary in the Sir Creek, delimitation of the India-Pakistan maritime boundary from seawards by commencing at the Exclusive Economic Zone limit and proceeding landwards may be considered.

Under the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, which are the cornerstones of India-Pakistan relations, Government are committed to resolving all outstanding issues peacefully, through direct bilateral approaches.

Indo-Iraq Ties

5435. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our Prime Minister in a letter written to the President of Iraq had shown India's keenness in the reconstruction of Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the bilateral relations have improved after the said letter and the details of the initiatives taken at the diplomatic level in this regard?

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

(b) MOS(EA) had carried a letter from our Prime Minister to President of Iraq during his visit to Iraq from September 22-25, 2000, and he was accompanied by a high level business delegation.

(c) As a follow up to this visit, meeting of Indo-Iraq Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on November 25-26, 2000, coinciding with the visit of Vice President of Iraq, Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan, from November 27-December 1, 2000. Following two Agreements were signed during the visit of Iraqi Vice President:

(ii) Agreement on Economic, Technical, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation.

(iii) Agreement between Oil and Natural Gas Commission—Videsh Limited (ONGC-VL) and the Iraqi Oil Exploration Company for exploration in the Exploration Block No. 8 in Southern Iraq.

Economic interaction between India and Iraq has strengthened within the framework of Indo-Iraq Joint Commission. In this context, Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications visited India from July 4-9, 2001 at the invitation of our Minister of Communications. Decisions in principle were taken to set up Joint Working Groups in the areas of Communications and Railways.

Repatriation of Alleged Assassin of Music Baron

5436. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main accused in the murder of music baron Gulshan Kumar staying in Britain has now decided to settle down there and has sought asylum from the Government of Britain;

(b) if so, whether the Government have held any talks with the Government of Britain for his repatriation; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to

(c) Government of India is aware that Mr. Nadeem Akhtar Saifi was in the UK from July, 1997 till March 14, 2001, as India's request for his extradition was under consideration of Government of UK. The concerned Divisional Court in London disallowed the extradition request in December 2000. India's application for permission to appeal this decision was turned down by the House of Lords in March 2001 and Mr. Nadeem Akhtar Saifi was released. Government of India are neither aware of his movements since then, nor about any asylum request by him to the UK authorities.

[English]

Reservation for Minority Communities

5437. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce bill in Parliament seeking reservation for Minority Communities in Service in Government and Non-Government Department/Organizations; and

(b) if so, steps 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) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Admission of MLT Students

5438. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been mentioned in the Safdarjung Hospital advertisement No. DAVP 7551(3) 2001 that the students belonging to the Eastern Region (Bihar, Orissa and Bengal) are not being given admission for Apprentice Training in the MLT;

(b) whether the students having educational qualifications and diploma in all the trades relating to vocational education from Bihar are denied admission for higher studies in other States and Chandigarh also;

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

(d) the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government to remove this disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir. It was envisaged in the Advertisement that preference is given to the candidates of 10+2 vocational MLT pass out from CBSE from Northern Region and Eastern Region, eligible candidates from Delhi, UP, Chandigarh, J&K, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and then current pass-out from Eastern Region-Bihar, Orissa & Bengal - with vocational MLT in Intermediate if seats remain vacant.

(b) and (c) "Health" being a State subject under the Constitution of India, the information in respect of States/ Union Territories are not maintained in this Ministry.

(d) In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.

MPLADS

5439. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the name of the Member of Parliament and name of the scheme etc., are not displayed in the sign board in the scheme being run under the MPLADS; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the erring officer so as to check recurrence of such incidents 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) and (b) The present Guidelines on MPLADS stipulate that in order that local people become aware that particular works have been executed with MPLADS funds, signboards carrying the inscription of "MPLADS WORK" with the name of MP shall be prominently and permanently erected at the sites. As and when any complaint regarding non-compliance of this provision is received, the concerned District Authorities are advised to take remedial action. Besides, this Ministry, from time to time, advises the District Authorities to adhere to the above provision of the Guidelines.

[English]

GSLV Strap-on Attachment Systems

5440. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) placed an order for one set of GSLV strap-on attachment systems in January 1996 which was required for use in GSLV scheduled to be launched in December, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time of receipt of the system by VSSC, the source, the cost and the reasons for non-utilisation of in-house facility and placing an order to an external agency?

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) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) placed an order for one set of GSLV strap-on attachment system in January 1996, which was required for use in the first GSLV, rescheduled to be launched during 1997-98. This GSLV launch took place finally in April 2001.

(c) The order was placed on M/s KELTEC, a Kerala Government Undertaking, at a cost of Rs. 13.7 lakhs. The supply of the system consisting of more than 600 items, started from July, 1997 and was completed in November 1998. It was decided to place the order on an external agency, taking into account the workload in the internal facilities and also the large number of strap-on attachment systems required for the GSLV vehicles.

E-Exposure

5441. SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Sircam worm has had the run of his Ministry computers as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated July 26, 2001;

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

(c) the counter measures taken/proposed to be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) In July, 2001, a few of this Ministry's computers were infected with Sircam virus. Immediate steps were taken to remove the virus from the computers with the help of latest versions of anti-virus software packages. No damage as a result of this Sircam attack on a few computers of this Ministry has so far come to light.

(c) The increase in virus attacks has been noted and this Ministry has reinforced mechanisms to check entry of computer worms/viruses on the main servers. Latest version of virus scanner has been installed in MEA mail server under the domain of NIC. All the incoming mails are checked for viruses before they are released to the user. In addition, computers in the Ministry being used for e-mail/internet purposes have also been installed with latest version of Antivirus software to check virus attacks.

Satellite Communication Policy

5442. SHRI JAGANNATH MALLIK:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Satellite Communication Policy of the Government contemplates, as a promotional measure for the Indian Space industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the prevailing US sanctions stand against sale of US-built satellites or other satellites having US-built satellite parts to any entity in India;

(d) whether any American Company has applied to the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) to make an investment in setting up a subsidiary in India on its foreign registered US-built satellites;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the preventive measures 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) Yes, Sir. The Satellite Communication Policy of the Government contemplates orderly growth of Satellite Communications activities in India with increased private sector participation. It also allows INSAT capacity to be leased to non-governmental private sector service providers. Further, private Indian Companies are allowed to establish and operate Indian Satellite Systems. Foreign satellites will be allowed only if similar capacity and capability does not exist on Indian Satellite Systems.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) PanAmSat India Inc. has applied to FIPB for setting up a subsidiary in India to market its services.

(f) Does not arise.

Rakesh Mohan Committee

5443. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth in infrastructure development during the last three years;

(b) the salient features of Rakesh Mohan Committee Report; and

(c) the action taken on the report?

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 rates of growth in infrastructure sector under the last 3 years are as follows:

(%)

Sectors	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
Electricity Generation	6.6	7.2	3.9
a. Thermal including Nuclear	5.7	9.4	6.3
b. Hydro	11.0	-2.5	-7.8
Core Industries			
Coal	-2.0	3.1	3.3
Steel	1.3	14.9	7.0
Crude Oil	-3.4	-2.4	1.6
Refinery Throughout	5.2	25.3	20.4
Cement	5.7	14.3	-0.5
Railways			
a. Railway Revenue-earning goods traffic	-2.0	8.4	3.7
Ports			
Cargo handled at major ports	0.0	8.0	3.3
Telecommunications			
a. Net switching capacity	36.1	40.2	6.4
b. Net Tele. connections	16.4	29.7	20.5

(b) and (c) Some of the salient features of Rakesh Mohan Committee (The Expert Group on Commercialisation of Infrastructure Projects) and the action/decision taken on the same are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Action/Decision Taken on the Recommendations of the Rakesh Mohan Committee (Expert Group on Commercialisation of Infrastructure Projects)

Recommendation	Action/Decision Taken
1	2
The Regulatory Frame Work	
a. The present restrictions in FII guidelines be removed for investment in infrastructure projects; or separate guidelines similar to FII guidelines without investment limits be issued. Similar guidelines and tax regime should govern any offshore fund set by a domestic asset management company registered with SEBI or by a domestic institution.	The Union Budget (1996-97) permits FIIs to invest in unlisted companies in the same manner as they were allowed to invest in listed companies. SEBI has issued guidelines to this effect as well. This makes it possible for FIIs to invest in infrastructure. Special tax regime exist for FIIs and offshore funds in respect of specified incomes (mainly income from units, securities etc). Section 10(23G) of the Income-Tax Act also opens an attractive new route for foreign investments in the infrastructure projects.
b. An autonomous regulatory body be set up for each infrastructure sector, on the lines of SEBI. The funding of the regulatory agency could be from the fees provided by the sponsor/operator. Government funding should be avoided to the extent possible.	Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). Tariff Authority for Major Port (TAMP) and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) have been set up. Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has indicated that the recommendation merits acceptance. However, all regulatory bodies set up so far are dependent on Government funding. Since fees are essentially proportionate to the service rendered, it is unlikely that fees alone can make an agency self supporting. In fact, these often do not cover even the revenue expenditure of the agencies. It should be the endeavour of regulatory agencies to discover the hidden potential for raising resources so that Government funding is kept to the minimum. Once regulatory agencies assess their financial requirements and are in a position to raise these resources independently, financial autonomy could be considered. Till such time Govt funding is likely to continue.
c. Overarching legislation for project formats such as Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT), Build-Own-Operate (BOO) and the like governing projects across all sectors on the lines of Philippines, be enacted.	Ministry of Surface Transport has formulated Model (BOT) Concession Agreement for Road Projects and Model BOT License Agreement for Port Projects.
Telecommunications	
a. MTNL and DOT seek global presence through joint ventures with foreign companies for provision of telecom services in international markets.	Export oriented consortium of Public Sector Undertakings of Department of Telecom Services for seeking global presence through joint ventures with foreign companies

1	2
	for provision of telecom services in international markets can be formed.
b. All telecom licence fees be transferred to an Infrastructure Fund for providing debt and equity to infrastructure projects. Telecom can have the first option to utilise a portion of this fund.	The recommendation is for creating a fund out of license fee receipts to provide capital to infrastructure projects. While no action has been taken to create a telecom infrastructure fund, the Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd. has been set up with seed money from the Government and financial institutions. Separately, the Department of Telecom is pursuing a proposal to constitute a fund out of part of the license fees, to be used as additional resource for meeting the Department's commitments on non-remunerative projects like rural telephones etc.
Roads	
a. A Highway Infrastructure Savings Scheme be set up on the pattern of the National Savings Scheme.	As per the provision of the Government Savings Bank Act, 75% of funds collected under National Savings Scheme are passed on to the States and remaining 25% is retained by the Centre. For developing a Highway Infrastructure Savings Scheme, several issues are to be decided at the beginning. These are, the agency for execution, cost of collection of funds, devolution pattern between States and Centre etc. It is important to note that any competing saving scheme will be strongly resisted by the States. An option could be to ask States to earmark a portion of the funds being allotted to them for highway development.
b. Substantial portions, if not all, of the revenues from taxes on motor vehicles and transportation fuel be earmarked for road development.	The Union Budget of 1998-99 has introduced a tax of Re 1 per litre on petrol, which will generate Rs. 790 crore annually. This will be used for road development and to augment the corpus of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). In Union Budget 1999-2000, a cess of Re 1 per litre on High Speed Diesel (HSD) was imposed for similar purpose.
Industrial Parks	
a. Industrial parks be treated as infrastructure projects. Same incentives including tax/tariff relief as are available to power, telecom or roads be extended to them.	Industrial parks have been treated at par with infrastructure in Union Budget (1996-1997) and are now being put in the same category of incentives.
b. Industrial parks be made eligible for funds from financial institutions.	Industrial parks have been made eligible for funds from financial institutions.
Ports	
a. Port authorities be permitted to raise resources from the primary market by debt and equity and from financial institutions.	Major Port Trusts do not have a corporate structure and hence they cannot raise resources from primary market in the form of equity. Major ports are permitted under Sec. 66 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963, to raise loans (with approval of the Central Government).

1	2
b. Major Port Trust Boards be delegated powers to incur capital expenditure upto Rs. 500 million to facilitate speedy creation and operation of assets.	The Ministry of Surface Transport has delegated powers to major Port Trust Boards for incurring capital expenditure upto Rs. 50 crores for creation of new assets and upto Rs. 100 crores for replacement of old assets. Such expenditure is permissible provided the port authorities sign MOUs with the Government of India and (ii) the expenditure is met out of internal resources only.
c. Ports with private participation to continue to be exempted from corporate taxes.	Major Port Trusts are not liable for paying corporate tax, being Trusts. Tax exemption for infrastructure projects, including port projects is available under Sec. 80 of the Income Tax Act. This Section provides 5 years full tax exemption and 30% rebate in payable corporate tax during the subsequent five years, during 15 years period after making the facility operational.
Power	
a. A Central Electricity Regulatory Commission outside the Government's operative control.	The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has been constituted on 25th July 1998.
b. Autonomy of regulatory agencies both at the Centre and State levels.	So far 15 States (Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh) have either constituted or notified the constitution of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) SERCs of 9 States viz. Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi have issued tariff orders.
c. Restructuring of SEBs into compact viable corporatised units that separate to a feasible degree the generation, transmission and distribution functions etc.	The State Power Utilities in respect of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have been unbundled/corporatised. Other States are in the process of delinking generation, transmission, distribution as separate entities/profit centers.

Ban on Drugs

5444. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the drugs banned in the country and abroad;

(b) whether the said drugs are freely available in the country;

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

(d) whether certain banned drugs are also being prescribed for medical purpose in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A list of the drugs banned by the Government of India under Section 26-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is enclosed as statement. There is no uniform policy followed internationally for banning of drugs. Each country prohibits specific drug formulations after taking into consideration their usage and the benefit/risk ratio in the context of the needs of the country.

(b) and (c) Government have received no such reports regarding the above mentioned drugs. It is an offence under the said Act to market/sell prohibited drugs, which is punishable with imprisonment.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Statement

Upto Date list of drugs prohibited for manufacture and sale through Gazette Notification GSR 578 (E) Dated 23-7-83 Amended from time to time.

(Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary part II, Section 3, Sub Section (i), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Health Notification).

New Delhi, dated 23/7/83

G.S.R. 578(E):- Whereas the Central Government is satisfied that the use of the drugs specified in the Table below is likely to involve risk to human being or the said drugs do not have the therapeutic value claimed or purported to be claimed for them or contain ingredients and in such quantities for which there is no therapeutic justification and it is necessary and expedient in the public interest so to do:-

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred by Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 1940), the Central Government hereby prohibits the manufacture and sale of the said drugs, namely:-

TABLE

1. Amidopyrine
2. Fixed dose combinations of Vitamins with anti-inflammatory agents and tranquilisers.
3. Fixed does combinations of Atropine in Analgesics and Antipyretics.
4. Fixed dose combinations of Strychnine and Caffeine in tonics.
5. Fixed dose combinations of Yohimbine and Strychnine with Testosterone and Vitamins.
6. Fixed dose combinations of Iron with Strychnine Arsenic and Yohimbine.
7. Fixed dose combinations of Sodium Bromide/ Chloralhydrate with other drugs.
8. Phenacetion
9. Fixed dose combinations of anti-histaminics with antidiarrhoeals.
10. Fixed dose combinations of Pencillin with Sulphonamides
11. Fixed dose combinations of Vitamins with Analgesics.

[B]12. Fixed dose combinations of any other tetracyclines with Vit.C.

[E]13. Fixed dose combinations of Hydroxyquinoline group of drugs with any other drug except for preparations meant for external use.

[CCC]14. Fixed dose combinations of Corticosteroids with any other drugs for internal use.

[CCC]15. Fixed dose combinations of Chlroamphenicol with any other drug for internal use.

[***]16. Fixed dose combinations of crude Ergot preparations except those containing Ergotamine, Caffeine, Analgesics, anti-histamines for the treatment of migraine, headches.

17. Fixed dose combinations of Vitamins with Anti TB drugs except combinations of Isoniazide with Pyridoxine Hydrochoride (Vitamin B6).
18. Pencillin Skin/eye ointment.
19. Tetracyclin Liquid Oral preparations
20. Nialamide.
21. Practolol.
22. Methapyrilene, its salts

[C]23. Methaqualone

[&]24. Oxytetracyline Liquid Oral preparations.

[&]25. Demeclocyclin Liquid Oral preparations.

[T]26. Combinations of Anabolic Steroids with other drugs.

[CC]27. Fixed dose combinations of Oestrogen and Progestin (other than oral contraceptive) containing per tablet estrogen content of more than 50 mg (equivalent to Ethinyl Estradiol) and of Progestin content of more than 3 mg. (Equivalent to Norethisterone Acetate) and all fixed dose combination injectable preparations containing synthetic oestrogen and progesterone.

*28. Fixed dose combination of Sedatives/hypnostics/ anxiolytics with analgesics-antipyretics.

*29. Fixed dose combination of Pyrazinamide with other anti-tubercular drugs except combination of Pyrazinamide with Rifampicin and INH as per recommended daily dose given below:-

Drugs	Minimum	Maximum
Rifampicin	450 mg	600 mg
INH	300 mg	400 mg
Pyrazinamide	1000 mg	1500 mg

*30. Fixed dose combination of histamine H2-receptor antagonists with antacids except for those combinations approved by the Drugs Controller, India.

*31. The patent and proprietary medicines of fixed dose combinations of essential oils with alcohol having percentage higher than 20% proof except preparations given int he Indian Pharmacopoeia.

*32. All Pharmaceuticals preparations containing Chloroform exceeding 0.5% w/w or v/v whichever is appropriate.

**33. Fixed dose combination of Ethambutol with INH other than the following:-

INH	Ethambutol
200 mg	600 mg
300 mg	800 mg

**34. Fixed dose combination containing more than one antihistamine.

B**35. Fixed dose combination of any anthelmintic with cathartic/purgative except piperazine/santonin.

**36. Fixed dose combination of Salbutamol or any other bronchodialator with centrally acting anti-tussive and/or antihistamine.

**37. Fixed dose combination of laxatives and/or anti-spasmodic drugs in enzyme preparations.

G**38. Fixed dose combination of Metocolpramide with systemically absorbed drugs except fixed dose combination of metoclopramide with aspirin/ paracetamol.

**39. Fixed dose combination or centrally acting antitussive antihistamine having high atropine like activity in expectorants.

**40. Preparations claiming to combat cough associated with asthma containing centrally acting antitussive and/or antihistamine.

**41. Liquid oral tonic preparations containing glycerophosphates and/or other phosphates and/ or central nervous system stimulant and such preparations containing alchohol more than 20 proof.

**42. Fixed dose combination containing pactin and/or kaolin with any drug which is systemically absorbed from GI tract except for combinations of Pectin and/or kaolin with drugs not systemically absorbed.

***43. Chloral Hyderate as a drug.

b44. Dovers powder I.P.

b45. Dover's power Tablets I.P.

A46. Antidiarrhoeal formulations containing kaolin or pectin or Attapulgite or Activated Charcoal.

A47. Antidarrhoeal formulations containing Phthalyl Sulphathiazole or Sulphaguanidine or Succinyl Sulphathiazole.

A48. Antidiarrhoeal formulations containing Neomycin or Streptomycin or Dihydrostreptomycin including their respective sales or esters.

A49. Liquid Oral antidiarrhoeals or any other dosage form for paediatric use containing Diphenoxylate or Loparamide in Atropine or Belladonna including their sales or esters or metabolities Hyoscyamine or their extracts or their alkaloids.

A50. Liquid Oral antidiarrhoeals of any other dosage form for paediatric use containing halogenated hydroxyqinolines.

A51. Fixed dose combination of anti-diarrhoeals with electrolytes.

C52. Patent and proprietary oral Rehydration Salts other than those conforming to the specified parameters.

D53. Fixed dose combination of Oxphenbutazone or Phenylbutazone with any other drug.

HD54. Fixed dose combination of Analgin with any other drug.

D55. Fixed dose combination of dextropropoxyphene with any other drug other than anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS).

D56. Fixed dose combination of a drug, standards of which are prescribed in the second Schedule to the said Act with an Ayurvedic Siddha or Unani drug.

F57. Mepacrine Hydrochlroide (Quinacrine and its salts) in any dosage form for female sterilization or contraception.

F58. Fenfluramine and Dexfenfluramine.

'59. Fixed dose combination of Diazepam and Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride.

The Principal Notification GSR 578 (E) dt. 23.7.83.

C Added b GSR 4(E) dated 31.01.1984

& Added b GSR 322(E) dated 03.05.1984

T Amended by GSR 863(E) dated 22.11.1985

cc Amended by GSR 743 (E) dated 10.08.1989

ccc Amended by GSR 1057(E) dated 03.11.1988

* Added by GSR 999(E) dated 26.12.1990

** Added by GSR 69(E) dated 11.02.91

xxx Added by GSR 304(E) dated 7.06.1991

@ Added by GSR 444(E) dated 30.4.1992

b Added by GSR 111(E) dated 22.2.1994

A Added by GSR 731(E) dated 30.9.94

B Amended by GSR 848(E) dated 7.12.94

C Amended by GSR 57(E) dated 7.2.95

D Added by GSR 633(E) dated 13.9.95

E Amended by GSR 793(E) dated 13.3.95

Amended by GSR 93(E) dated 25.5.1997

F Amended by GSR 499(E) dated 14.08.1998

G Amended by GSR 394(E) dated 19.05.99

H Amended by GSR 405(E) dated 3.06.99

I Amended by GSR 169(E) dated 12.3.01

Drugs Prohibited for manufacture, sale and distribution under other Notifications.

	Drugs Formulation	Effective date	Notification
	1	2	3
1.	Cosmetics Licensed as toothpastes/tooth powder containing	With imemdiate effect	GSR 444(E) dt. 30.4.92
2.	Parenteral Preparations containing fixed close combination of streptomycin with Pencicillin	Jan 1, 1998	GSR 93 (E) dt. 25.2.97
3.	Fixed dose combination of Vitamin B 1, Vitamin B6 and Vitamin B 12 for human use	Jan 1, 2001	GSR 702(E) dt. 14.10.99
4.	Fixed dose combination of haemoglobin in any form (natural or synthetic)	Sept. 1, 2000	GSR 814 (E) dt. 16.12.99
5.	Fixed dose combination of Pancreation or Pancretipase containing amylase, protease and lipase with any other enzyme	Sept. 1, 2000	GSR 814 (E) dt. 16.12.99
6.	Fixed dose combination of Nitrofurantoin and Trimethoprim	Jan 1, 2002.	GSR 170 (E) dt. 12.3.01
7.	Fixed dose combination of Phenobarbitone with any anti-asthamatic drugs	Jan 1, 2002	GSR 170 (E) dt. 12.3.01
8.	Fixed dose combination of Phenobarbitone with Hyoscin and/or Hyoscyamine	Jan 1, 2002	GSR 170 (E) dt. 12.3.01
9.	Fixed dose combination of Phenobarbitone with Ergotamine and/or Belladona	Jan 1, 2002	GSR 170 (E) dt. 12.3.01
10.	Fixed dose combination of Haloperidol with any anti-cholinergic agent including Propentheline Bromide	Jan 1, 2002	GSR 170 (E) dt. 12.3.01

1		2	3
11.	Fixed dose combination of Nalidixic Acid with any anti-amoebics including Metronidazole	Jan 1, 2002	GSR 170 (E) dt. 12.3.01
12.	Fixed dose combination of Loperamide Hydrochloride with Furazolidone	Jan 1, 2002	GSR 170 (E) dt. 12.3.01
13.	Fixed dose combination of Cyproheptadine with Lysine or Peptone	Jan 1, 2002	GSR 170 (E) dt. 12.3.01

Annual Property Return

5445. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government officials are required to file their annual property returns, both movable and immovable;

(b) if so, the level/group beyond which the officials are required to submit such return;

(c) the yardsticks or norms to ensure and ascertain whether the officials have included all of their assets acquired by them during the year; and

(d) the manner in which a corrupt official who accumulates assets beyond known source of income, but does not reflect this in his/her return is detected and apprehended, other than through complaints received by the Government?

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) In accordance with the provisions of the Conduct Rules no Government servant shall, except with the previous knowledge of the prescribed authority, acquire or dispose of any immovable property. Further, every officer holding a Group 'A' or Group 'B' post is required to submit an annual return of immoval property inherited, owned or acquired by him.

A Government servant is not required to submit any annual return in respect of movable property. However, every Government servant is required to report his transactions in movable property where its value exceeds Rs. 15000/- (in the case of Group 'A' or Group 'B' officers) or Rs. 10,000/- (for Group 'C' and Group 'D' officials), within one month from the date of such transactions.

(c) The Conduct Rules cast a duty upon the Government servants to furnish the requisite information as prescribed under the Rules. A Government servant who fails to submit the return/report or who furnishes wrong information or incomplete information renders himself/herself liable for disciplinary action.

(d) In doubtful cases it is open to the prescribed authority to investigate into the correctness of the returns submitted by the Government servant.

Foreign Office Establishment

5446. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign office establishment has grown enormously over the years as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 06, 2001;

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

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The Ministry of External Affairs is conscious of the need to economise and all expenditure at Headquarters and Missions/Posts abroad is subject to check by Audit authorities. The Ministry reviews, on a

regular basis, the manpower requirements of Headquarters and of Missions/Posts abroad keeping in view the dynamics of foreign policy objectives in different parts of the globe. Eleven Missions have been closed down in the course of the last decade with a view to cutting down on expenditure. 175 posts in different grades have been abolished in Missions/Posts abroad during the course of the last one year.

The Ministry has also been actively pursuing a policy of purchase/construction of properties abroad with a view to curtailing expenditure on hiring of residential accommodation. The Ministry has also taken various steps, in line with Ministry of Finance guidelines, to economise expenditure, viz. a 10% cut in the non-plan/ non-salary expenditure, 25% reduction in rates of DA for local tours by officers abroad and a complete ban on purchase of new vehicles.

Working of Master General of Ordnance Services

5447. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG in their Report No. 7 A of 2000 (Defence Services) on page 11 and thereafter brought out the fact of the improper working and functioning of the Master General of Ordnance Services Branch resulting into procurement of spares worth Rs. 180.72 crore by circumventing the established procedure;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons for deviating from the laid down procedures; and

(d) the number of cases causing pecuniary loss to the Government have come to fore with details and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Spares worth Rs. 153.63 crores were procured, of critical items of an equipment, based on a study carried out by Army Hqrs., keeping in view Operation Vijay. Procurement was made in accordance with the laid down procedure and after obtaining the approval of the Competent Authority. In addition, sanction for procurement of spares amounting to Rs. 27.09 crores was accorded by the Government based on Life Time Buy study of an equipment carried out by Army Hqrs. Action to procure these spares is at various stages of contracting.

(d) No such cases has come to the notice of the Government.

Financial Assistance For Education

5448. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any action plan to provide financial assistance for imparting education to the children engaged in garbage removal, tannery and sanitation work in the country;

(b) if so, the financial assistance proposed to be provided to each child; and

(c) the number of children likely to be covered under this scheme during the year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations covers children of scavengers, tanners, flayers and sweepers having traditional link with scavenging. The scheme provides financial assistance to the eligible children as per rates given below:-

Hostellers	
Class III-VIII	Rs. 200 p.m.
Class IX-X	Rs. 250 p.m.
Day-scholars	
Class I-V	Rs. 25 p.m.
Class VI-VIII	Rs. 40 p.m.
Class IX-X	Rs. 50 p.m.

An annual adhoc grant of Rs. 500 is also admissible to all hostellers and day scholars. Besides this, additional amount is paid to students with disability.

(c) During the year 2001-02, the scheme is expected to benefit about 4.50 lakh students.

Social Welfare Activities

5449. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Social Development Fair, 2001 in order to provide platform for Government and Non-Government agencies in social welfare activities, was held in New Delhi in the middle of May 2001; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken at the meet especially for Poverty Alleviation and Population control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Fifth Social Development Fair 2001 had been organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation from May 15-21, 2001 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi in which, among others, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had also participated. The Ministry through its Corporations, National Institutes and NGOs displayed information about the schemes, programmes, projects and services meant for the welfare of weaker and marginalized sections like SCs, Minorities, the disabled, the aged, destitute children etc. Information relating to various measures undertaken for population control and schemes relating to Poverty Alleviation were also disseminated during the Fair.

Period of Commuted Pension

5450. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from various Organisations for reducing the period of commuted pension from 15 years to 12 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be expected?

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. Organisations have represented requesting the Government to restore commuted portion of pension after 12 years.

(c) and (d) The Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended restoration of commuted portion of pension after 12 years instead of the present 15 years. The recommendation was examined, and taking into account the financial implications of various recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the Government decided not to accept the recommendation relating to restoration of commuted portion of pension after 12 years.

National Cancer Institute

5451. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

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

(a) whether Karnataka Government has urged the Union Government to consider Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, a premier cancer centre in India as a "National Cancer Institute"; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Under the National Cancer Programme there is no scheme to declare any organisation as National Cancer Institute. The Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore has already been recognised as Regional Cancer Centre. It is the only Regional Cancer Centre in the State of Karnataka and is receiving financial assistance from Ministry @ Rs. 75.00 lakhs every year. In addition to above, this Ministry had also released Rs. 1.00 crore for purchase of Brachy-Therapy machine to the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Bangalore during the year 1999-2000.

R&D Fund for New Drugs

5452. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether there is any controversy between his Ministry and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers regarding

administrative control of R&D fund for development of new drugs;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the controversy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Pharmaceutical Research and Development Committee (PRDC) constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, CSIR, with a view to recommending measures to strengthen the Research and Development capability of the Pharmaceutical Industry in the country and to identify the support required by Indian Pharmaceutical Companies to undertake domestic R&D, in its report submitted to the Government, has, inter alia recommended the establishment of Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund (PRDSF) to promote research in the Pharmaceutical Industry in the country. The issue is under inter-ministerial consultations.

False E-mail Message

5453. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of giving false information and creating terror amongst the people through E-mail has come to the notice of the Government; and

(b) the details of measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Internet penetration being low and restricted mainly to cities, provoking population through e-mail as medium has not acquired a magnitude which can be called alarming; and hence, no intervention is contemplated at this stage.

[Translation]

Employment Under PMRY

5454. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any annual target has been fixed for providing employment to the youth under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the number of youths provided loans under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) the amount generally provided to a beneficiary under this Scheme and the time limit for repayment of the loan; and

(d) the average time taken by the banks to disburse the loan amount after it is sanctioned by the District Industries Centres?

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) As per the reports furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, State-wise details of the number of youths provided loans under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given in the attached statement.

(c) The guidelines of the Scheme provide for a composite loan amounting upto Rs. 1.00 lakh per beneficiary for the business sector, upto Rs. 2.00 lakh per beneficiary for the Service and Industry Sectors and upto Rs. 10.00 lakh for partnership projects. The schedule for the repayment of loan amount can range between 3 to 7 years.

(d) Implementing banks have been instructed by the Reserve Bank of India to dispose of applications upto a credit limit of Rs. 25,000/- within a fortnight and for those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.

Statement

State/UT wise number of beneficiaries for the last three years i.e. 1998-99; 1999-2000 and 2000-01 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

(Based on the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India)

S.No.	State/UTs	Cases sanctioned by banks		
		1998-99 Nos.	1999-2000 Nos.	2000-2001 Nos.
1	2	3	4	5
NORTHERN REGION				
1.	Haryana	7888	7192	8106
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2340	2300	2269
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1473	1275	957
4.	Punjab	9733	9573	9483
5.	Rajasthan	14005	15210	15041
6.	Chandigarh	105	67	61
7.	Delhi	691	860	958
NORTH EASTERN REGION				
8.	Assam	10267	9175	3673
9.	Manipur	828	963	370
10.	Meghalaya	368	544	415
11.	Nagaland	165	79	27
12.	Tripura	974	1056	391
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	205	413	407
14.	Mizoram	163	244	251
15.	Sikkim	87	58	50
EASTERN REGION				
16.	Bihar	10852	10745	10491
17.	Orissa	8684	8353	8902
18.	West Bengal	3780	3608	2600
19.	Andaman & Nicobar	94	129	138

1	2	3	4	5
CENTRAL REGION				
20.	Madhya Pradesh	31169	29593	27905
21.	Uttar Pradesh	44682	44152	44143
WESTERN REGION				
22.	Gujarat	11437	10723	8905
23.	Maharashtra	37106	35210	29177
24.	Daman & Diu	25	17	22
25.	Goa	369	481	283
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	37	36	22
SOUTHERN REGION				
27.	Andhra Pradesh	24218	16688	13651
28.	Karnataka	17351	18228	12424
29.	Kerala	16031	16816	12963
30.	Tamil Nadu	15723	13945	13902
31.	Lakshadweep	33	33	15
32.	Pondicherry	453	381	292
	All India.	271336	258147	228294

[English]

Cultural Centres

5455. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open some more cultural centres in different countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The Government is considering proposals including those received from Indian Missions in about 65 countries ... the opening of Cultural Centres/Cultural Wings or strengthening of existing Cultural Wings. The decision regarding these proposals will be finalised based on the assessment of the functional requirements in these countries and the availability of adequate funds for the purpose.

[Translation]

SSI In Rajasthan

5456. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of SMALL AND INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the area-wise total number of Small Scale Industries in Rajasthan at present;

(b) whether the Government have taken new steps to encourage the existing units of Small Scale Industries in various cities, backward and tribal areas of Rajasthan; and

(c) 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) As reported by the Government of Rajasthan, the total number of Small Scale Industries by the end of July, 2001 in the North-Eastern, South-Eastern, Southern and Western regions of Rajasthan are 1,02,665; 25,980; 24,739 and 70,311 respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. While development of Small Scale Industries in the States is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments, the Central Government has been helping the States including Rajasthan in their endeavour of developing these industries by implementing various schemes such as Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Integrated Infrastructure Development, Consultancy facilities and Service facilities for technological upgradation, entrepreneurship development etc. The Central Government has sanctioned four Integrated Infrastructural Development centres at Jodhpur, Nagaur, Tonk and Udaipur in Rajasthan. The Central Government has also announced a comprehensive policy package on 30th August, 2000, which includes incentives such as enhanced fiscal and credit support, better infrastructure and marketing facilities and technological upgradation. These incentives would continue during the year 2001-2002 as well. The Government of Rajasthan is also implementing a number of schemes, to encourage the Small Scale Industries in the State, which include marketing support incentives for quality certification, interest subsidy, etc. In the State's Plan budget, 12.44% of the funds are earmarked for support to the SSI units in tribal areas. However, there is no exclusive scheme for the SSI units in cities/backward areas of the State.

[English]

Guidelines for Post Graduate Studies

5457. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India have prescribed any minimum percentage of marks for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in the qualifying examinations for admission to the post graduate medical studies;

(b) if so, the existing guidelines prescribed for admission to the post graduate studies; and

(c) the reasons for revising the existing guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Medical Council of India after considering a reference received from the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Government of Madhya Pradesh have recommended to the Central Government for lowering the qualifying marks for the reserved category candidates in admission to the Postgraduate medical courses to 40% from the existing 50% for all candidates including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, prescribed in the Postgraduate Medical Education Regulation, 2000. The recommendations of the Medical Council of India have been accepted by the Central Government.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to States

5458. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of financial assistance provided by the Planning Commission during 1999-2000 and 2001-2002;

(b) the State-wise details of separate outlays provided for different schemes, special area programmes, projects with foreign assistance, National Rural Road Programmes, Irrigation and Power Projects; and

(c) the details of area where these schemes are being implemented?

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 State-wise details of financial assistance provided by the Planning Commission during the Annual Plans 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 including the details of separate outlays provided for different schemes, special area programmes, externally aided projects, Rural Roads Programme, Irrigation etc are attached as statement I and II. Regarding

the allocations for Annual Plan 2001-02, these are being finalised at the on-going Deputy Chairman-Chief Minister level discussions for Annual Plan 2001-02.

(c) The Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Area Programmes aims to achieve the accelerated development of various socio-economic sectors of Sates i.e. Primary Health, Primary Education, Rural Drinking Water, Rural Electrification, Nutrition, Rural Shelter, Rural Roads, Externally Aided Projects, Roads & Bridges, Slum Development, Hill Area Development, Border Area Development, Irrigation, Shifting Cultivation in North East States etc. These programmes include Pradhan Mantri's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Pradhan Mantri's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), Border Area Development Programme (BADP), ACA for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) ACA for Roads & Bridges etc.

Statement I

Total Central Assistance to States Allocated for Annual Plan: (1999-2000) (Rs. Crore)

Items	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Himachal Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim	Tripura	Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Goa	Gujarat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Total Central Assistance	574.17	1616.11	809.71	2631.98	506.08	421.77	384.67	394.76	329.92	656.12	3210.50	2390.27	90.11	1433.77
1. Normal Central Assistance	447.34	1088.46	538.18	1066.28	325.38	270.33	315.39	313.47	202.70	414.50	842.83	1420.17	62.18	420.58
2. CA for EAPs	10.00	166.77	48.14	25.00	38.00	30.00	10.00	0.00	40.00	15.00	1848.71	236.14	0.00	503.18
3. Other Central Assistance of which	116.83	360.88	223.39	1540.70	142.70	121.44	59.28	81.29	87.22	226.62	518.96	733.96	27.93	510.01
Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	7.50	25.00	35.00	50.00	37.86	10.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	60.00	265.00	200.00	20.20	275.00
Basic Minimum Services	71.57	188.53	109.14	180.15	68.64	63.62	47.43	67.19	49.76	59.92	196.34	419.04	3.63	113.54
Slum Development Programme	1.10	3.12	1.10	7.25	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	35.75	26.68	1.10	20.13
Shifting Cultivation	2.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	5.00	1.20	2.75	3.00	0.00	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Border Area Development Programme	13.00	7.20	4.00	33.52	4.00	4.52	8.00	4.00	5.50	12.47	0.00	7.00	0.00	9.87
Hill Area Development Programme	0.00	50.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Western Ghats Development Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Tribal Sub-Plan	0.00	24.49	5.15	7.78	6.10	-	0.00	0.00	0.86	8.33	21.87	51.24	0.00	31.47
ACA for Roads and Bridges	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Plan Assistance	0.00	0.00	69.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Central Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	850.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One-time ACA	21.66	61.39	0.00	25.00	20.00	41.00	0.00	6.00	10.00	84.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	60.00

Total Central Assistance to States Allocated for Annual Plan: (1999-2000) (Rs. Crore)

Items	Haryana	Karnataka	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa	Punjab	Rajasthan	Tamilnadu	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Total (10 SCSs)	Total (15 NSCSs)	Total (25)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Total Central Assistance	1022.31	1612.41	873.80	2184.32	1501.88	2031.11	742.73	1648.12	1574.80	6175.76	3315.58	8325.29	29807.47	38132.76
Normal Central Assistance	208.37	447.42	508.15	918.35	744.78	523.41	239.43	584.25	670.14	1984.76	986.79	4982.03	10591.61	15573.64
CA for EAPs	694.87	802.14	166.56	650.00	345.82	1061.21	241.29	554.88	654.13	2800.00	1918.90	382.91	12477.83	12860.74
Other Central Assistance of which	119.07	332.85	199.09	615.97	411.28	446.49	262.01	508.99	250.53	1391.00	409.89	2960.35	6738.03	9698.38
Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	70.00	175.00	30.00	200.00	150.00	135.00	200.00	170.00	50.00	300.00	60.00	245.36	2300.00	2545.36
Basic Minimum Services	26.96	144.43	110.57	265.34	152.19	190.31	40.37	153.05	137.88	575.81	234.30	905.95	2733.76	3639.71
Slum Development Programme	5.65	21.74	10.25	20.88	58.31	6.78	9.94	14.79	27.11	44.12	37.68	19.17	340.91	360.08
Shifting Cultivation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	15.00
Border Area Development Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.70	91.93	0.00	12.00	38.05	96.21	168.55	264.76
Hill Area Development Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.01	240.86	22.23	50.90	285.10	336.00
Western Ghats Development Programme	0.00	15.51	13.08	0.00	20.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.70	63.70
Tribal Sub-Plan	0.00	6.17	2.19	99.75	29.81	52.40	0.00	29.22	2.59	1.21	17.63	52.71	345.55	398.26
ACA for Roads and Bridges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.00	0.00	87.00
Special Plan Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	217.00	0.00	369.00	242.00	611.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Special Central Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	850.00	30.00	880.00
One-time ACA	16.46	0.00	33.00	0.00	0.00	37.00	2.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	269.05	228.46	497.51

Statement-II

Total Central Assistance to States Allocated for Annual Plan: (2000-01) (Rs. Crore)*

Items	Arunachal Pradesh	Assam	Himachal Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir	Manipur	Meghalaya	Mizoram	Nagaland	Sikkim	Tripura	Andhra Pradesh	Bihar	Goa	Gujarat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Total Central Assistance (1+2+3)	609.50	1686.56	810.89	1963.26	565.86	393.59	401.26	424.59	263.81	633.70	3661.06	2369.04	127.92	1462.40
1 Normal Central Assistance	447.34	1088.46	538.18	1066.28	325.38	270.33	315.39	313.47	202.70	414.50	842.83	1457.55	62.18	422.39
2. CA for EAPs	10.00	172.31	46.77	69.00	59.16	10.00	10.00	5.25	5.00	15.00	2095.02	86.86	0.00	467.50
3 Other Central Assistance of which														
Pradhan Mantri's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)	152.16	425.79	225.94	827.98	181.32	113.26	75.87	105.87	56.11	204.20	723.21	822.63	65.74	572.51
Pradhan Mantri's Gramodaya Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	68.17	179.57	70.61	171.58	48.56	40.59	40.41	41.13	28.11	50.83	142.06	287.25	0.78	64.79
Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	35.00	75.00	60.00	80.00	40.00	35.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	25.00	190.00	260.00	5.00	18.41
Slum Development Programme	30.00	40.00	44.00	50.00	35.00	6.00	2.00	5.00	1.00	30.00	265.00	200.00	50.00	350.00
Shifting Cultivation	1.10	3.12	1.10	7.25	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	35.75	26.68	1.10	20.13
Border Area Development Programme	1.20	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	1.60	3.60	3.60	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hill Area Development Programme	13.00	7.20	4.00	34.85	4.00	4.52	8.00	4.00	5.50	12.47	0.00	7.00	0.00	9.87
Western Ghats Development Programme	0.00	50.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
ACA for Roads and Bridges	1.69	9.00	6.23	7.10	3.03	0.98	0.76	1.04	0.40	1.12	79.40	41.70	5.66	79.31
Special Plan Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special Central Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One-time ACA	2.00	60.00	40.00	77.20	47.13	23.47	0.00	30.00	0.00	82.18	11.00	0.00	0.00	30.00

* Prior to Re-Organisation.

Total Central Assistance to States Allocated for Annual Plan: (2000-01) (Rs. Crore)*

Items	Haryana	Karnataka	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa	Punjab	Rajasthan	Tamilnadu	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Total (10 SCSs)	Total (15 NSCSs)	Total (25)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Total Central Assistance (1+2+3)	655.52	1753.36	882.98	2134.01	1946.79	1915.09	871.21	1460.53	1644.18	5891.10	2780.19	7753.02	29555.38	37308.40
1. Normal Central Assistance	208.37	479.61	508.15	938.41	744.79	538.91	239.43	584.25	670.14	2085.93	986.79	4982.03	10769.73	15751.76
2. CA for EAPs	339.54	747.37	177.17	502.48	645.00	887.13	268.96	419.93	654.13	2055.46	1333.65	402.49	10682.20	11084.69
3. Other Central Assistance of which	107.61	526.38	197.66	693.12	557.00	489.05	362.82	456.35	319.91	1749.71	459.75	2368.50	8103.45	10471.95
Pradhan Mantri's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)	16.78	75.13	69.08	113.77	99.13	98.55	40.40	96.40	104.79	348.91	167.02	739.56	1725.64	2465.20
Pradhan Mantri's Gramodaya Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	20.00	95.00	3.00	300.00	125.79	175.00	3.00	130.00	46.69	358.76	110.55	410.00	1841.20	2251.20
Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	10.00	250.00	30.00	200.00	150.00	150.00	200.00	104.00	20.00	350.00	40.00	243.00	2369.00	2612.00
Slum Development Programme	5.65	21.74	10.25	20.88	39.04	6.78	9.94	14.79	27.11	44.12	37.68	19.17	321.64	340.81
Shifting Cultivation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	15.00
Border Area Development Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.70	29.17	0.00	12.00	38.05	97.54	105.79	203.33
Hill Area Development Programme	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.01	240.86	23.23	50.90	285.10	336.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Western Ghats Development Programme	0.00	15.51	13.08	0.00	20.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.70	63.70
ACA for Roads and Bridges	42.18	55.00	37.25	53.47	122.07	18.37	61.28	61.99	86.37	110.06	43.42	31.35	899.53	930.88
Special Plan Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	230.00	0.00	300.00	230.00	530.00
Special Central Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
One-time ACA	13.00	14.00	35.00	5.00	0.00	40.35	38.50	20.00	0.00	55.00	0.00	361.98	261.85	623.83

* Prior to Re-Organisation

Signing of UN Charters and Conventions

5459. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the conventions, charters or documents of UNO which India has not signed or endorsed, fully or partially;

(b) the reasons therefor in each case; and

(c) the time by which the same are likely to be signed or endorsed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There are a large number of multilateral treaties to which the Secretary General of the United Nations is a depository. The treaties concluded within the framework of the United Nations cover the whole spectrum of human interaction.

The subject matter of these treaties/agreements fall within the jurisdiction of various Ministries/Deptts. of the Government of India. The required information is being collected from them and shall be made available as soon as possible.

[English]

UPSC

5460. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 4609 on April 18, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Civil Services Examination was conducted by the UPSC in 1999 and out to 411 candidates selected 127 belonged to OBC and that 43 candidates were selected in the open merit list;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of 43 candidates selected in the merit list, only 6 of them are taken on general merit list and the rest are put on the OBC list;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of the OBC and SC selected candidates are yet to allocated Civil Service stating the reasons for delay in the allocation of service to these selected candidates; and

(e) the time by which the allocation of service to these candidates is likely to be made?

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) On the basis of Civil Services (Main) Examination (CSE), 1999, there were a total of 411 vacancies (234 Unreserved, 97 OBC, 53 SC & 27 ST) to be filled in various services/posts. In accordance with the provisions of Rule 16 of CSE Rules, the UPSC have recommended a list of 127 candidates belonging to OBC category, 63 candidates belonging to SC category & 30 candidates belonging to ST category for appointment to the various

services/posts. This list included a total of 43 candidates belonging to reserved category 30 (127-97) candidates belonging to the OBC category, 10 (63-53) candidates belonging to SC category & 3 (30-27) belonging to ST category) who rank above the last general candidates recommended in the list and have qualified without availing themselves of any of concessions/relaxations admissible to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (General Merit List) respectively.

2. The candidates are allocated to a service based on their merit position, preferences expressed by them and vacancies available in the relevant categories. A reserved candidated included in the general merit list of the UPSC who can be allocated to a service/post of his/her higher preference without the benefit of reservation, is not adjusted against a reserved vacancy. A candidate who has claimed the benefit of reservation, is given the benefit of such reservation and adjusted against a reserved vacancy in a service/post if he/she is allocated to the service/post of his/her higher preference, only on the basis of his/her reserved status. This is in accordance with the ratio laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Ritesh R. Shah (JT 1996(2) SC 495); M. Neethi Chandra (1996 6 SCC 36) and Dr. Anil Kumar (1998 9 SCC 405).

3. Of the 43 candidates (30 belonging to the OBC category, 10 belonging to SC category & 3 belonging to ST category) recommended in the General Merit List, only 7 candidates (6 belonging to OBC category & 1 belonging to ST category) could be allocated to a service/post of their higher preference without the benefit of reservation and as such not adjusted against a reserved (i.e. OBC or ST) vacancy. As no other reserved candidate could be adjusted against unreserved vacancy this inflated the reserved list by 36 candidates (24 belonging to OBC category, 10 belonging to SC category & 2 belonging to ST category).

4. Rule 18 of the Civil Service Examination Rules provides that a candidate who has accepted the allocation to a service on the basis of an earlier examination shall be eligible to be allocated to those services/posts which were higher in the order of preference in his application form for the examination on the basis of which he had been last allocated to a service. Further, some of the candidates did not complete their medical examination and their candidature was cancelled. Therefore, 14 candidates belonging to OBC Category, 8 candidates belonging to S.C. category and 3 candidates belonging to S.T. category were not entitled to be allocated to any service. Thus, only 10 candidates belonging to OBC category, 2 candidates belonging to S.C. category could not be allocated to any service due to non-availability of vacancy.

Unani Dispensaries

5461. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of patients visiting CGHS Unani Dispensaries-Units in Delhi/New Delhi had decreased to a considerable extent during the last three years;

(b) if so, the average per day attendance of patients visited during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the purchase of poor quality/substandard medicines by Unani Medical Store Depot of CGHS is one of the main reasons for this;

(d) if so, steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve standard of medicine in Unani System of CGHS;

(e) whether the Government have any proposal to set up Unani System of medicines in Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A marginal decline in the average daily attendance of patients in the CGHS Unani dispensary/Units has been noticed during the last 3 years.

(b) The average daily attendance of patients for the last 3 years in CGHS Unani dispensary/Units is given as under:-

		1998	1999	2000
1.	Sarojini Nagar, dispensary	68 per day	64 per day	52 per day
2.	South Avenue Unit	29 per day	30 per day	24 per day
3.	Darya Ganj Unit	50 per day	46 per day	46 per day
4.	Naraina Unit	36 per day	33 per day	27 per day

(c) The CGHS Unani Medical Store Depot at Delhi procures the available listed medicines from the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) which is a Government Undertaking. The remaining items are purchased by entering into annual rate contract with the firms registered under CGHS. The medicine supplies

are tested by the Inspection Committee comprising of experienced Unani Physicians who supervise and ensure purchase of good quality medicines.

(d) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

(e) and (f) One dispensary and 3 units under Unani system of medicine are already functioning under CGHS Delhi.

Requests for opening more Unani dispensaries/Units under CGHS are considered depending upon demands from the beneficiaries and subject to justification and availability of resources.

Border District

5462. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the district of Patan is declared the border district in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the action taken to improve the infrastructure in the said district; and

(c) the fund allocated to Gujarat for the above purpose?

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, Sir. Border areas have been identified only for the limited purpose of implementation of the Border Area Development Programme. Under this programme, Special Central Assistance is released to those State Governments which have blocks with International land borders. Although the Government of Gujarat is allocated funds under Border Area Development Programme (BADP), only six blocks of Kutch district, namely, Bhuj, Lakhpat, Mandvi, Abdasa, Bhachau, Rapar, and two blocks of Banaskantha district, namely, Vav and Santalpur are covered, as only these border blocks ahve inernational land borders. No blocks in Patan district have an international land border, hence, funds are not allocated under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) to the blocks of Patan district.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indo-Nepal Foreign Secretaries Meet

5463. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting has taken place between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Nepal recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) India-Nepal Foreign Secretary Level Talks were held on January 30 and 31, 2001 in Delhi.

2. The two sides reviewed the progress in implementing the understandings reached during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in July/August, 2000 and agreed to expedite pending issues. In this context, it was reiterated that existing institutional mechanisms for dialogue and interaction between the two countries would be utilised fully in order to achieve quicker progress on issues under discussion.

3. The two sides reiterated their determination to expand and diversify their bilateral trade, economic co-operation and investment ties. It was agreed that operational difficulties in the implementation of the existing Agreements would be reviewed and addressed in a prompt and constructive manner. The two sides agreed to intensify their co-operation to control unauthorised trade.

4. The two sides also reiterated their determination to work closely and fight the scourge of terrorism. They renewed their commitment not to allow their respective territories to be used for activities directed against or prejudicial to the security of the other.

5. 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.

6. Other aspects of bilateral relations were also discussed, including, demarcation of the boundary, motor vehicular transportation and water resources.

National Defence Academy Entrance Exam

5464. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDA entrance examination is held only in English and not in any other Indian language;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider holding of this premier examination for armed forces at least in Hindi also; and

(d) if so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) In National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination conducted by Union Public Service Commission the question papers are printed only in English. The question papers for the examination are of objective type (multiple choice) and the process of answering the same does not involve use of any language medium.

Union Public Service Commission conduct the National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination for admission to various Defence Academies strictly as per the notice for the examination which is finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Defence. The question of introduction of Hindi and other languages included in the 8th schedule of the Constitution as medium of various examinations conducted by Union Public Service Commission including NDA examination was considered by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee appointed by the UPSC. Efforts are on to arrive at a consensus on this sensitive issue, based on the recommendations of the Committee.

Physiotherapist and Occupational Therapists

5465. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a separate Council for Physiotherapist and Occupational therapists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which a separate Council is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) In order to regulate the various paramedical disciplines including Physiotherapy and Occupational therapy, there is a proposal before the Government to establish regulatory framework.

[Translation]

Services Consultancy Corporation

5466. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation discharges its responsibility by assisting in the construction of hospitals in the country;

(b) if not, the responsibilities assigned to this Corporation;

(c) whether this Corporation had assisted in the construction of various projects during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the names of these projects and the income earned by the Corporation during each year of the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) During the year 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001, Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited has assisted for designing and management in various projects including construction of Hospitals in the country. A statement showing the names of such projects and the income earned by the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (I) Limited during these years is attached.

Statement

Year		Name of the Projects
1		2
1998-1999	(i)	Bhopal Memorial Hospital Trust Hospital, Bhopal
	(ii)	Indian Oil Corporation Hospital, Mathura
	(iii)	Institute of Rotary Cancer Hospital, New Delhi
	(iv)	Institute of Cytology & Preventive Oncology, Noida

1		2
	(v)	National Institute of Biologicals, Noida
	(vi)	National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore
	(vii)	Nurses Residential Complex, New Delhi
	(viii)	Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis & Allied Diseases, New Delhi
	(ix)	North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, Shillong
	(x)	Central Research Institute, Kasauli
1999-2000	(i)	Bhopal Memorial Hospital Trust Hospital, Bhopal
	(ii)	Indian Oil Corporation Hospital, Mathura
	(iii)	Institute of Rotary Cancer Hospital, New Delhi
	(iv)	Institute of Cytology & Preventive Oncology, Noida
	(v)	National Institute of Biologicals, Noida
	(vi)	National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore
	(vii)	Nurses Residential Complex, New Delhi
	(viii)	Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis & Allied Diseases, New Delhi
	(ix)	North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, Shillong
	(x)	Central Research Instittue, Kasauli
2000-2001	(i)	Bhopal Memorial Hospital Trust Hospital, Bhopal
	(ii)	Institute of Rotary Cancer Hospital, New Delhi
	(iii)	Institute of Cytology & Preventive Oncology, Noida
	(iv)	National Institute of Biologicals, Noida
	(v)	National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore
	(vi)	Nurses Residential Complex, New Delhi
	(vii)	Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis & Allied Diseases, New Delhi
	(viii)	North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, Shillong
	(ix)	Central Research Instittue, Kasauli
	(x)	Cooperative Academy of Professional Education, Cochin
	(xi)	National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences, Bangalore

The income earned by the Corporation during each of these years is as under:

Year	Income earned
1998-1999	Rs. 5,07,97,726.70
1999-2000	Rs. 8,20,96,533.00
2000-2001	Rs. 10,13,62,965.00

[English]

World Bank Loan to Health Projects of Karnataka

5467. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Health Projects sanctioned by the World Bank for extending loan to Karnataka;

(b) the amount released or proposed to be released during 2001-2002, so far;

(c) whether the World Bank loan is also likely to be used for the upgradation of teaching Hospitals in Karnataka: and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) The ongoing projects of the World Bank do not support upgradation of teaching hospitals in Karnataka.

Setting up of Heavy Water Nuclear Reactor

5468. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Advanced Heavy Water Nuclear Reactor of 220 megawatt capacity;

(b) if so, the place where this reactor is proposed to be set up;

(c) the estimated amount to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

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) It is proposed to set up a prototype Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) of 235 MWe capacity. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1175 crore at constant price levels of 2000-2001. The project is expected to be completed in eight years after the receipt of financial sanction. No decision has yet been taken as regards the location of the plant.

[Translation]

Setting up of Blood Banks

5469. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make provision for setting up of Blood Banks in the hospitals of all the cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be made available in all the hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However the Government is setting up at least one Blood Bank in those districts which do not have Government Blood Bank, so that each district of the country has at least one Government Blood Bank.

[English]

Review Committee for Backward Castes

5470. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government have set up any Review Committee with regard to providing reservation to Other Backward Castes in promotion in Government service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted any report to the Government so far; and

(d) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Shooting in "Vikrant"

5471. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hollywood film producer has approached Indian Navy for shooting in "Vikrant" for the film on "Pearl Harbour";

(b) if so, the amount likely to be earned therefrom; and

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

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

(b) and (c) In view of reply at (a), the question do not arise.

Bee-Keeping

5472. CH. TEJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on bee-keeping by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and other such agencies during 1999-2000 and 2001 as on July 31, 2001;

(b) whether a survey has been carried out about the protection of bee-keeping industry in various States of the country particularly Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan; and

(c) 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) The amount spent on bee-keeping by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during 1999, 2000 and 2001 is as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	KVIC Budgetary Source
1999-2000	58.00
2000-2001	8.00
2001-2002 (upto 31st July, 2001)	4.00

Apart from this, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Development of Bee-keeping for Improving Crop Productivity' till 2000-2001. The total funds spent under the Scheme are as under:-

Year	Total funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
1999-2000	181.764
2000-2001	50.00
2001-2002	250.00 (allocation)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Studies were taken up to see the adoptability of apis mellifera bee colonies which are not natives of India. The KVIC identified institutions for development of apis mellifera and apis cerana bee colonies in these States. Training was imparted to beekeepers on prevention of the sac brood disease. The programme of multiplication and distribution of disease free stock and rapid multiplication of disease free bee colonies by adoption of modern techniques was also conducted.

Ratio Between Officers and Staff

5473. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio between the staff, secretaries and the officers in 1980s, 1990s and till date; and

(b) the Government's total expenditure in respect of salaries and other facilities given to these secretaries and officers for 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) and (b) The information is being collected.

Military Nursing Service

5474. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the members of the Military Nursing Service (MNS) are Commissioned Officers;

(b) if so, the details of the Government order which they have been so designated;

(c) whether the above Government Order is being updated periodically;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the MNS personnel are wearing the uniform with the Rank Insignia of Army Commissioned Ranks like Lieutenants, Captains, Majors etc.;

(f) if so, whether it is a fact that they are being denied Basic Pay, Rank Pay and all related allowances and perequisites which are being paid to Commissioned Officers, General Cadre Army Officers etc.; and

(g) the reasons therefor and corrective measure being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Military Nursing Service (MNS) officers are commissioned under the authority of (The Indian) Military Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943 (Ordinance XXX of 1943).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) MNSS is an auxiliary force. Pay and allowances of MNS Officers are governed by Indian Nursing Service Ordinance, 1943. Therefore, they are not being paid pay and allowances equal to Commissioned Officers, General Cadre Army Officers etc. Presently MNS Officers have been granted pay and allowances as per recommendations of Vth Pay Commission.

[Translation]

Training to Youth For SSI

5475. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether there is any scheme to impart training to unemployed youth for setting up small scale industries in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the salient features of this scheme, State-wise and Location-wise; and,

(c) the number of unemployed youth benefited by this scheme so far?

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 Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), unemployed youth throughout the country including in Madhya Pradesh are imparted training to set up self employed units. The salient features of the PMRY Scheme in the attached statement.

(c) Based on the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India, 17.97 lakh unemployed youth have been sanctioned laons by the banks between 1993-94 to 2000-01 under the PMRY.

Statement

The salient features of PMRY are as under:-

Sl.No.	Parameter	
1	2	
1.	Age	(i) 18 to to 35 years for all educated unemployed.
		(ii) 18 to 40 for all educated unemployed in North-East States.
		(iii) 18 to 45 years for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, Ex-servicemen, Physically Disabled and Women.
2.	Educational Qualification	VIII pass. Preference will be given to those who have been trained for any trade in Government recognised/approved institutions for duration of at least six months.
3.	Family Income:	Neither the income of the beneficiary along with the spouse nor the income of parents of the beneficiaries shall exceed Rs. 40,000/- per annum.

1	2	
4.	Residence	Permanent resident of the area for atleast 3 years. (Relaxed for married women. In case of married women the residency criteria applied to her husband or in laws)
5.	Defaulter:	Should not be a defaulter to any nationalised bank/ financial institution/ cooperative bank. Further, a person already assisted under other subsidy, linked Government schemes would not be eligible under this scheme.
6.	Activities Covered:	All economically viable activities including agriculture and allied activities but excluding direct agricultural operation like raising Crop, purchase of manure etc.
7.	Project Cost:	Rs. 1.00 lakh for business sector. Rs. 2.00 lakh for other activities, loan to be of composite nature. If two or more eligible persons join together in a partnership, project upto Rs. 10.00 lakh are covered. Assistance shall be limited to individual admissibility.
8.	Subsidy & Margin Money:	(i) Subsidy will be limited to 15% of the project cost subject to ceiling of Rs. 7,500/- per entrepreneur. Banks will be allowed to take margin money from the entrepreneur varying from 5% to 16.25% of the project cost so as as to make the total of the subsidy and the margin money equal to 20% of the project cost.
		For North Eastern States:
		(ii) Subsidy @ of 15% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15,000/- for north-eastern States. Margin money contribution from the entrepreneur may vary from 5% to 12.5% of the project cost so as to make the total of the subsidy and the margin money equal to 20% of the project cost.
9.	Collateral:	No collateral for units in industry sector with project cost upto Rs. 2.00 lakh (the loan ceiling under the PMRY). For partnership projects under Industry Sector, the exemption limit for obtention of collateral security will be Rs. 5.00 lakh per borrowal account. For units in service and business sector no collateral project upto Rs. 1.00 lakh. Exemption from collateral in case of partnership project will also be limited to an amount of Rs. 1.00 lakh per person participating in the project.
10.	Rate of interest & repayment	Normal rate of interest shall be charged. Repayment schedule may range between 3 to 7 years after an initial moratorium as may be prescribed.
11.	Reservation:	Preference should be given to weaker sections including women. The scheme envisages 22.5% reservation for SC/ST and 27% for Other Backward Class (OBCs). In case SC/ ST/OBC candidates are not available, States/UTs, Govt. will be competent to consider other categories of candidates under PMRY.

1	2
12. Training	Each enterpreneur whose loan is sanctioned is provided training as per details given below: (i) For industry sector: Duration: 15-20 working days. Stipend : Rs. 300/- Training expenditure: Rs. 700/- Per beneficiary (ii) For service & business sector: Duration: 7-10 working days. Stipend: Rs. 150/- Per beneficiary Training expenditure: Rs. 350/-
13. Implementing Agency:	The District Industry Centres and the Directorate of Industries are mainly responsible for Implementation of the Scheme along with the banks.

[English]

Damage to Coir and Coir Products

5476. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent flood in Orissa has done a lot of damage to coir products industry in the State;

(b) whether small scale units are affected due to flood and rain in the coastal areas of the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to revive those affected SSIs?

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 available reports from the Government of Orissa, 13 primary Coir Cooperative Societies and 18 Private Coir Industrial Units have been damaged.

(c) A Technical team is assessing the damage to extend assistance wherever necessary.

[Translation]

Committee for Utilisation of Fund for SC/ST

5477. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up a Committee for the utilisation of funds meant for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the constitution and terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the measures the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, in the conference of Governors held in July 2000, a decision was taken to constitute a "Committee of Governors" to look into the welfare programmes for the SCs and STs.

[English]

Health Care Services

5478. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the establishment of a National Public Health Advisory Board and State Public Health Regulatory Authority has been suggested by the health and human rights experts to regulate health care services in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government have considered this suggestion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Establishment of a National Public Health Advisory Board as well as a State Public Health Regulatory Authority in each of the States to regulate public health practices and monitor implementation of public health programmes was contained as a part of the recommendations of a Regional Consultation on Public Health and Human Rights organised by National Human Rights Commission in partnership with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, there is no proposal, at present, for setting up such Advisory Boards.

MPLADS

5479. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to place Rs. 2 crore of MPLADS fund in the first week of financial year at the disposal of the Collector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government further propose to take expenditure statement of utilisation certificate from the Collector after every six months to facilitate speedy progress of the implementation of the MPLADS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 (e) No Sir. Funds under MPLADS are released to the Nodal Officers of the concerned MP on receipt of the Expenditure Statement showing unspent balance below Rs. 50 lakhs. In order to ensure that works under MPLADS do not suffer for want of funds, District Heads have been advised to sanction works under MPLADS to the full entitlement of the MPs without waiting for actual release of funds. They have also been advised to send expenditure report to the Ministry every month so as to enable the Ministry to release funds as per entitlement of the concerned M.P.

Code Red Virus

5480. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a new computer virus names "Code Red" worm is affecting the computers;

(b) if *se*, whether any study has been conducted;

(c) if so, whether this virus is also prevalent in Indian Computers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Centre for IT Security, established by Ministry of Information Technology for serving as Computer Emergency Response Team, had analysed effect of the worm and had already sent necessary alerts to all its clients well before the spread of this worm had been widely reported.

(c) to (e) The necessary remedial patches to prevent the spread of this worm had already been installed in the Government establishments. Users community had also been informed of the necessary mitigating instructions/advices.

Availability of Medicines

5481. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited at Almora, Uttar Pradesh is not supplying medicines regularly to CGHS dispensaries at Chennai;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure regular availability of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) During 1999-2000, the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd. (IMPCL), Almora, U.P. did not supply medicines to CGHS Chennai for about 8 months as their production was affected.

(c) Indents for the year 2000-2001 have already been placed with IMPCL who have assured regular supply of medicines to the CGHS. Moreover, alternative arrangements have also been made for supplying medicines to CGHS Chennai.

PMRY

5482. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people given work under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during last three years in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of target set 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) As per the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India, it is estimated that employment has been created for 8.11 lakh persons in the country including estimated employment for 81,795 persons in Madhya Pradesh (and areas of Chhattisgarh upto 31.10.2000) under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

(b) A target of 6.60 lakh was set for the country, including the basic target of 47,398 for Madhya Pradesh for the years 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01 under the PMRY.

Local Purchase System in Homoeopathic Dispensaries

5483. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Local Purchase System in Homoeopathic System of Medicines in the CGHS dispensaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this decision would be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) An effort was made earlier to appoint local chemists for supplying homoeopathic medicines to the CGHS but no response was received from the chemists. However, to avoid inconvenience to the beneficiaries, the non-available/ listed medicines which are prescribed by the Homeopathic Consultant/Physician of the CGHS are provided through local purchase from the imprest amount available with the CGHS Homeopathic Store.

In some CGHS cities outside Delhi, the non-available Homeopathic medicines are procured from the authorised Allopathic local chemist of CGHS.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Operation Sadbhavna

5484. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Operation Sadbhavna' launched by the Government has brought about discernible change in the war-hit areas of Turtuk, Kargil, Drass and the "Undisturbed" Leh Town;

(b) if so, the details of programmes implemented so far area-wise;

(c) whether sufficient funds have been allocated by the government to continue the programme;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plan evolved to make this programme a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (e) Construction of 12 new schools, 5 vocational training centres, 3 poultry farms, 2 adult literacy centres, 1 hostel and 5 medical aid centres was undertaken in Leh and Kargil districts during the year 2000-2001 under Operation Sadbhavana. Besides this, 2 schools were revived and 3 villages were electrified.

Adequate funds are available for the programme. Operation Sadbhavana is undertaken in consultation with local authorities and the needs and aspirations of the local population are kept in view while deciding on specific projects with a view to achieve better satisfaction levels among the users.

Health as Fundamental Right

5485. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has urged the Government to make right to health as fundamental right;

(b) if so, the steps taken to make health a fundamental right;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact any legislation in this regard; 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. A Workshop on Health and Human Rights with special reference to Maternal Anaemia was organised by the National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with the Department of Women & Child Development and the UNICEF from 26 to 27 April, 2000. The Workshop has inter-alia made a recommendation to Government for making right to health as a fundamental right in the Constitution. The Commission has finalised the report of the Workshop and has adopted certain recommendations of the report for follow-up action by concerned Ministries/ Departments.

(b) to (d) Health is an ingredient of the most fundamental of all rights, the right to life. Though the Constitution of India does not declare health as a fundamental right, obligation of the State to ensure health for all the citizens is an important aspect of good governance. India is a signatory to the Alma Ata declaration of 1978 of "Health for All". Health for all is the overall aim of the Health Policy of the country, which envisages access to health care services, particularly for the poor and the disadvantaged.

In order to improve the public health care facilities, Government has envisaged to optimise the coverage and quality of health care needs of the people through comprehensive network of rural health infrastructure comprising of 137271 Sub-Centres, 22975 Primary Health Centres and 2935 Community Health Centres (as on 30.6.99), which have been established through out the country to provide preventive, promotive and curative health care in rural areas. To fill the critical gaps in provision of health services, Government has been making every effort to augment the resources for the health sector by mobilizing external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting various programme for control of diseases like Leprosy, TB, Malaria, AIDS, Blindness and Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

Secondary health facilities i.e., first line referrals (Community Health Centre upwards to District Health Hospitals) are being upgraded in 7 selected States with World Bank assistance. It is also proposed to extend this project to other States in a phased manner.

India spends 5.2% of GDP on health of which around 0.7% is from the Public Sector with the balance being accounted for by the private sector. This is higher than that seen in many Asian countries. The percentage of outlay for Health & FW of the total plan outlay during the Ninth Five Year Plan at 4.01 has also shown an increase when compared to that of Eighth Five Year Plan when it was 3.24.

The provision of health services to the citizens of the country is contingent upon availability of resources. Given the paucity of finance, it is not possible at this stage to consider inclusion of right to health as a fundamental right under the Constitution.

Lack of Infrastructural Facilities

5486. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the inadequate infrastructural facilities available for the Army personnel patrolling the sensitive border areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to strengthen their infrastructural facilities and to equip them with the basic necessities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) Infrastructural facilities available to the army personnel are adequate. This notwithstanding further improvement in this regard is a continuous process.

Community Internet System

5487. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched Community Internet System in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their main features and locations where the above system has been installed, State-wise;

(c) the cost and the utility of the above system; and

(d) the time by which this system is likely to be installed in each State?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) With a view to accelerating the socio economic 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 has been approved for providing connectivity at 487 block headquarters of all North East States and Sikkim by setting up of Community Information Centre (CICs) 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 thereform, CICs are to be set up at the remaining 457 block headquarters of these States.

Violation of Bye-Laws of Kendriya Bhandar

5488. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the elected Directors on the Board of Directors of the Kendriya Bhandar have written to the Central Registrar complaining about the gross violation of the bye-laws of the Kendriya Bhandar;

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

(c) whether the bye-laws for the Kendriya Bhandar consequent upon its registration under MSCA submitted by them to Central Registrar have not been cleared/ approved so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the same is likely to be cleared/ approved?

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. One of the elected directors on the Board of Kendriya Bhandar have filled a petition with the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies relating to rotational vacancies of directors raising procedural issues involved in the election of directors. The Central Registrar has fixed 30.8.2001 for hearing of the petition.

(c) to (e) All the byelaws of Society, consequent upon its registration under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, have since been registered by the Central Registrar.

Rajasthan Backward Class Commission

5489. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Backward Classes Commission has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether backward classes communities of Rajasthan are not satisfied with the recommendations of the Commission;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to remedy the situation?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Submarine Rescue Vessels

5490. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to acquire a specialised Submarine Rescue Vessel as only 4 out of 18 Indian Submarines have rescue sphere in their hull;

(b) if so, the time by which the Submarine Rescue Vessel is likely to be made available to Navy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) All Indian Navy submarines have the capability to allow escape of crew from about a depth of 120 metres, using escape suits. Induction of Deep Submergence Rescue Vessles (DSRVs) together with associated infrastructure is being progressed.

[Translation]

Approval For Welfare Projects

5491. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the welfare projects are pending for approval with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of projects pending due to non-receipt of inquiry report from the State Governments particularly Maharashtra;

(c) the extent of financial assistance sought by the Non-Governmental Organisation working in Maharashtra; and

(d) the time by which the said projects are likely to be approved?

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

(b) The details of Welfare projects pending due to non-receipt of inquiry report from the State Government particularly Maharashtra are attached as statement.

(c) The financial assistance is sought by the NGOs according to the norms of the scheme.

(d) The time taken for disposal of application depends upon the receipt of complete documents, recommendations of designated authorities and established need for the project in the area.

Statement

The Details of Welfare Projects Pending Due to Non-Receipt of Inquiry Report from the State Government (IRs)

Sl.	Name of the Organization with address	Name of the Projects
1	2	3
1.	Asmita Mahila Sudhar Mandal, Bharat Day Care Centre, Mehkar-443001, Buldana Maharashtra	One Day Care Centre
2.	Jajakibai Trust, Kamlabai Ajmera, Vidyanagari, Devpur Dhule Maharashtra	One Day Care Centre
3.	Mukta Dwar Unnathi Mandal, Jalgaon Distt. Maharashtra	One Day Care Centre
4.	Centre for Health Orientation Research and Development. 32/B, Ganesh Colony, Pratap Nagar, Nagpur-440022	One Mobile Medicare Unit
5.	Janakranti Shiksha Pracharak Mandal, Bara Hali, Tq. Mukhed, Distt Nanded, Maharashtra.	One Old Age Home
6.	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, East Plaja, Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi (Project at Dist. Osmanabad, Satara, Beed Solapur & Buldhana.	Five Day Care Centre
7.	Sant Ravidas Samaj Seva Mandal At. Post Kiwala, Tq. Loha, Distt. Nanded	Non Residential School
8.	People Education Society Ward No. 1 Old city, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar. Malkapur Road Distt. Buldana.	Residential School
9.	Balaji Shikshan Sansthan Nalgiar, Taluk Distt. Udgir.	Hostel
10.	Shri Jagadamba Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Annand Nagar, Purna Tq. Purna, Distt. Parbhani	Residential School

1	2	3
11.	Akhil Bharatiya Magasvargiya Samaj Prabodhan Sansthan, 16-Prakash Appartment Katemanivali, Kalyan, (east) Distt. Thane	Computer
12.	Savitribai Fule Magasvargiya Sikshan Sansthan, Non Res At+post Nachangaon Distt. Wardha.	Non Residential School
13.	Balaji Yuva Mandal Navandi, Tq Uudgir, Res. School, Distt. Latur., Maharashtra.	Residential School

[English]

Funds For Publicity of Schemes

5492. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are not giving enough publicity to the Schemes/Programmes meant for the welfare of SCs and STs;

(b) whether majority of SCs/STs and Minority Community are not aware about the Schemes/ Programmes being implemented by the Government for their welfare;

(c) if so, the fact thereof;

(d) the total fund spent by the Government in regard to publicity in print media and electronic media during each of the last three years; and

(e) whether the Government propose to give wide publicity so as to enable more benefits from these Schemes/Programmes by these people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is giving publicity to its schemes and programmes through various forms of media viz. electronic media, print media, outdoor media etc. Video films produced by the Ministry on the schemes and programmes are being telecast over Doordarshan National Network and also over Regional Kendras. VHS cassettes of films have been made and supplied to the State Governments and Field Publicity Units of Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of I&B for field screening. Ministry's films are being also shown on Gyan Darshan, a channel jointly run by Doordarshan and IGNOU. In addition, a weekly radio programme 'Sanwarti Jayen Jeevan Ki Rehen' is produced and broadcast over All India Radio's 30 Vividh Bharati, 73 Local Stations and 15 Primary Channel/stations of the North East in Hindi and 19 Regional Languages. Ministry also publicises the programmes and schemes through advertisements in leading newspapers of Hindi, English and Regional Languages. A compendium of programmes and schemes of the Ministry has also been printed and sent to all the Members of Parliament to enable them to inform and educate the people of their respective areas about the schemes. Updated information about the programmes and schemes of the Ministry is also displayed on Ministry's website: www.socialjustice.nic.in

(d) The funds spent on publicity of schemes including the schemes of Tribal Welfare through various forms of media in last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
2.99	3.42	3.95

(e) Allocation of funds for publicity during the year 2001-2002 has been raised to Rs. 4.50 crores. Publicity of schemes and programmes of the Ministry is an ongoing effort and the same is ensured on sustained basis through various forms of media.

Establishment of Passport Office in Kerala

5493. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a passport office either at Kannur or Kasaragod in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Opening of new Passport Office is governed by certain criteria such as the location of existing offices and volume of applications from a particular region.

Ministry has embarked on decentralisation of Passport services to accept passport applications at the district level. This is already being done through 23 Speed Post Centres. This facility is being extended in a phased manner.

Besides, as per the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament on the Ministry of External Affairs there should be at least 50,000 applications per annum from the area where a new passport office is to be opened. The number of passport applications received annually from the districts of Kannur and Kasaragod is around 28900 and 14000 respectively. This does not justify opening of a passport office in either of these districts.

Treatment through CGHS Dispensaries

5494. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of categories of employees/persons eligible for treatment through CGHS dispensaries;

(b) the number of Government employees/persons registered with each CGHS dispensary in Delhi/New Delhi area;

(c) the details of dispensaries-wise expenditure incurred by Government on medical treatment of its beneficiaries in Delhi;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the journalists are also getting treatment at various CGHS dispensaries in New Delhi area; and

(e) if so, the rules permitting formalities getting CGHS facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The details of categories of employees/persons eligible for treatment through CGHS dispensaries are as under:

1. Central Government employees and their family members.
2. Members and Ex-Members of Parliament.
3. Judges of Supreme Court and High Court (sitting and retired)
4. Central Government Pensioners.
5. Freedom Fighters
6. Employees of some Semi-Government Autonomous Bodies in Delhi
7. Accredited Journalists (up to dispensary level)
8. Ex-Governors and Ex-Vice Presidents of India.

(b) The information is given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) The dispensary-wise expenditure of local purchase allopathic medicines under CGHS Delhi for the year 2000-2001 is given in statement-II enclosed.

As dispensary-wise accounts for bulk purchase of allopathic drugs through Medical Store Organisation and through other agencies for Ayurvedic/Unani/Siddha/ Homeopathic System is not maintained under CGHS Delhi, the total consolidated expenditure on these medicines is given in statement-III enclosed.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Journalists accredited by the Government of India's Press Information Bureau (PIB) and residing in areas covered under CGHS Delhi are entitled to get a CGHS Card on the basis of the accreditation card issued to them by the PIB which would make them eligible for medical facilities under CGHS at par with those available to the general public under G.P. Card scheme.

Statement-I

Dispensary-wise Card and Beneficiaries under CGHS Delhi as on 30-6-2001

Name of Dispensary	Cards		Beneficiaries		Total	Total
	Serving	Pensioners	Serving	Pensioners	Cards	Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ashok Vihar	3805	1879	15253	3685	5684	18938
Delhi Cantt	5540	292	27885	560	5832	28445

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Dev Nagar	2690	522	14988	1159	3212	16147
Hari Nagar	4884	1079	23769	2126	5963	25895
Inderpuri	3983	360	17202	847	4343	18049
Janakpuri I	13165	3587	50870	7627	16752	58497
Janakpuri II	3536	1973	14294	3407	5509	17701
Karol Bagh	1103	259	3946	314	1362	4260
Naraina	2136	738	12113	2216	2874	14329
New Rajinder Nagar	1686	1188	7035	2833	2874	9868
Nangal Raya	7067	1789	33461	5228	8856	38689
Patel Nagar I	1947	419	8209	1310	2366	9519
Patel Nagar II	2692	513	16268	1005	3205	17273
Pusa Road	1046	511	4136	1285	1557	5421
Palam Colony	9755	1108	49518	2565	10863	52083
Pitampura	6161	1250	27485	2761	7411	30246
Rajouri Garden	3877	1558	16256	3151	5435	19407
Rohini	3687	1488	16554	3293	5175	19847
Paschim Vihar	5336	1654	19237	5170	6990	24407
Shakur Basti	4711	1198	25797	2665	5909	28462
Sunder Vihar	2696	1151	12468	3484	3847	15952
Tilak Nagar	4099	1287	18163	3361	5386	21524
Tri Nagar	1146	267	5452	545	1413	5997
Chandni Chowk	1278	242	5553	515	1520	6068
Darya Ganj	3135	441	11530	1352	3576	12882
Kingsway Camp	16381	1085	87849	2182	17466	90031
Pul Bangash	1419	275	6768	600	1694	7368
Rajpur Road	3286	82	18097	162	3368	18259
Subzi Mandi	2535	394	10343	1269	2929	11612

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Timarpur	4893	296	23315	782	5189	24097
Dilshad Garden	2507	458	9850	969	2965	10819
GKG	6998	816	28410	3152	7814	31562
Laxmi Nagar	7680	1136	38700	4545	8786	43245
Mayur Vihar	12990	1200	61165	3600	14190	64765
Shahdara	9824	1366	42446	4036	11190	46482
Yamuna Vihar	10767	266	51263	1799	11029	53062
Vivek Vihar	3801	1417	16013	2823	5218	18836
Ghaziabad	6178	928	37757	2077	7106	39834
Gurgaon	5175	836	25538	2436	6011	27974
Gole Market	5034	318	26456	640	5352	27096
Noida	3598	2190	25760	7450	5788	33210
Chitra Gupta Road	4674	255	20880	765	4929	21645
Lodi Road	4309	220	16883	470	4529	17353
Ali Ganj	4149	709	20901	2102	4858	23003
Kali Bari	4277	390	21264	1094	4667	22358
Chankyapuri	2164	242	8150	580	2469	8793
Faridabad	3532	961	16646	2413	4493	19059
Paharganj	2275	412	13770	1335	2687	15105
Pandara Road	2528	299	10423	442	2827	10865
North Avenue	2640	791	8908	2298	3431	11206
Pragati Vihar	2630	56	10836	107	2686	10943
President Estate	1964	95	9643	239	2059	9882
Minto Road	4692	200	22972	454	4892	23426
Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg	1641	212	1046	430	1853	10476
Telegraph Lane	1303	117	9285	252	1420	9537
Constitution House	2374	80	8742	173	2454	9815

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
South Avenue	2863	239	15640	834	3102	16474
Andrews Ganj	3040	720	14797	2352	3760	17149
Pushp Vihar	11445	163	56195	389	11608	56584
Hauz Khas	3284	860	18816	1760	4144	20522
Jangpura	1407	577	6203	1474	1984	7677
Kalkaji I	2295	2230	9180	4460	4525	13640
Kalkaji II	2672	1283	15662	2886	3955	18548
Kasturba Nagar I	3199	131	16948	282	3330	17230
Kasturba Nagar II	2802	147	13992	390	2949	14382
Kidwai Nagar	5111	385	28299	810	5496	29109
Lajpat Nagar	1533	810	6474	1707	2334	8181
Laxmibai Nagar	3120	445	10877	1033	3565	11910
Malviya Nagar	1674	683	7161	1371	2357	8532
M.B. Road	7819	442	34490	866	8261	35356
Moti Bagh	3392	822	15343	3032	4214	18375
Munirka	2946	388	15118	591	3334	15709
Nanakpura	3144	726	12497	1760	3870	14257
Netaji Nagar	2639	435	10853	1275	3074	12128
Nauroji Nagar	3940	319	16844	724	4259	17568
R.K. Puram I	4795	839	24216	2480	5634	26696
R.K. Puram II	3810	243	20833	538	4053	21371
R.K. Puram III	3884	425	25137	962	4309	26099
R.K. Puram IV	3912	518	17109	1091	4430	18200
R.K. Puram V	4031	656	20793	1976	4687	22771
R.K. Puram VI	4143	576	12630	1227	4719	13857
Sadiq Nagar	3613	872	14267	2403	4485	16670
Sarojini Nagar I	2603	246	10268	505	3843	10773

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sarojini Nagar II	1589	221	6944	579	1810	7523
Sarojini Nagar Market	2235	158	7632	354	2374	7986
Srinivaspuri	7091	806	35303	1616	7897	36919

Statement-II

Dispensary-wise Expenditure Local Purchase

Sl. No.	Name of the Dispensary	1-4-2000 to 31-3-2001
1	2	3
1.	Jungpura	1823169
2.	Pushp Vihar	5507524
3.	M.B. Road	8,231,144
4.	Munirka	3529302
5.	Laxmi Bai Nagar	6136133
6.	Sadiq Nagar	4156486
7.	Hauz Khas	10021584
8.	Sriniwaspuri	10406924
9.	Nanakpura	4643163
10.	Lajpat Nagar	5015088
11.	Kidwai Nagar	4992353
12.	Moti Bagh	5362976
13.	Netaji Nagar	5152286
14.	Nauroji Nagar	4411471
15.	Kalka-I	9845691
16.	Kalka-II	4013926
17.	Sarojini Nagar-I	3539322
18.	Sarojini Nagar-II	2899858
19.	Andrews Ganj	5293381
20.	Sarojini Nagar Market	3495829
21.	Malviya Nagar	9305151
22.	Rama Krishna Puram-I	7538081
23.	Rama Krishna Puram-II	6531584
24.	Rama Krishna Puram-III	7164753
25.	Rama Krishna Puram-IV	12326264
26.	Rama Krishna Puram-V	3905881
27.	Rama Krishna Puram-VI	5655530
28.	Kasturba Nagar-I	4374473
29.	Kasturba Nagar-II	2414588
30.	Subzi Mandi	4697136
31.	Pul Bangash	2328799
32.	G.K.G.	6040124
33.	Mayur Vihar	9316034
34.	Laxmi Nagar	9471447
35.	Dilshad Garden	4202783
36.	Chandni Chowk	1568841
37.	Daryaganj	4524633
38.	Vivek Vihar	9156608
39.	Timarpur	5031424
40.	Shahdara	5973740
41.	Rajpur Road	2275584

1	2	3
42.	Yamuna Vihar	8439517
43.	Kingsway Camp	10612999
44.	New Rajinder Nagar	5915698
45.	Janakpuri-I	16111281
46.	Janakpuri-II	10969298
	Total	284329863
47.	Pitam Pura	8299908
48.	Rohini	5773342
49.	Palam Colony	5722189
50.	Delhi Cantt	4496407
51.	Karol Bagh	2367531
52.	Shakur Basti	6642093
53.	Tialk Nagar	7420921
54.	Naraina	3101158
55.	Paschim Vihar	9871201
56.	Sunder Vihar	5318272
57.	Dev Nagar	4699179
58.	Hari Nagar	8941861
59.	Inder Puri	3430110
60.	Pusa Road	2781866
61.	East Patel Nagar	7747658
62.	West Patel Nagar	4465750
63.	Rajouri Garden	9816272
64.	Ashok Vihar	8334287
65.	Nangal Rai	8033963
66.	Tri Nagar	5324893
67.	Minto Road	6341274
68.	Lodhi Road-I	3681532
69.	Lodhi Road-II	3489118
70.	Chanakya Puri	2960929
71.	Noida	11430192
72.	President Estate	3228655
73.	Ghaziabad	7463122
74.	South Avenue	4607889
75.	North Avenue	9047215
76.	Maternity & Gynae Hospital, R.K. Puram	1825800
77.	Gole Market-I	9225508
78.	Kali Bari	5892872
79.	Gurgon	5227860
80.	Telegraph Lane	2830973
81.	Constitution House	4704110
82.	Pragati Vihar	1658012
83.	Pandara Road	4765786
84.	Faridabad	3451619
85.	Pahar Ganj	4533712
86.	Chitragupta Road	6119288
87.	Parliament House Annexe	2662826
88.	Dr. Zakir Hussain Road	6191936
89.	FAP Supreme Court	3348
90.	V.B. House	66673
91.	M.S.D.	392652
92.	Timarpur Hospital	312491
93.	FAP-PHA, SJH, KN-I	596782
94.	FAP-Nirman Bhawan	1157
95.	Lab. Bills - Various Disp.'s	268150
	Total	2355703.40 284329863.00 51,99,00,203.10

Statement-III

1.	Allopathic medicines through local purchase	Rs.51,99,00,203.00 (dispy. wise list attached)
2.	Fund transferred to MSO for purchase of Allopathic medicines	Rs. 7,60,59,353.00
3.	Expenditure incurred on Ayurvedic medicines	Rs. 2,54,06,883.00
4.	Expenditure incurred on Homoeopathic medicines	Rs. 55,71,332.00
5.	Expenditure incurred on Unani medicines	Rs. 38,09,714.00
6	Expenditure incurred on Sidha medicines	Rs. 2,25,288.00
7.	Life Saving	Rs. 4,03,66,216.00
	Total	Rs. 67,13,38,979.00

[Translation]

Jaundice Children

5495. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the babies taking birth in the Government hospitals get inflicted with jaundice within 48 hours from their birth;

(b) if so, the type of jaundice they suffer from and the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of babies who were inflicted with jaundice during their birth in the last three years; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to prevent it and extent to which the success has been achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that the most common type of jaundice appearing within 24 to 72 hours of age is physiological jaundice. About 60-70 percent of healthy newborn babies are likely to develop physiological jaundice. This type of jaundice usually disappears before 14 days of life and does not need any specific therapy. In pre-term babies the peak of physiological jaundice is seen a little later, and it takes relatively longer time to disappear.

Jaundice appearing within 24 hours of age is always pathological. About five percent of babies develop pathological jaundice. The causes of jaundice within 24 hours of birth are idiopathic, prematurity, ABO incompatibility, RH isoimmunisation G6PD deficiency, septicaemia, intrauterine infections, hypothyriodism, metabolic disorders. Investigations need to be performed to identify the cause of jaundice and remedial action taken.

Physiological jaundice occurs due to hepatic immaturity of the liver (regarding uptake, conjugation and execration of bilirubin), relative polycythaemia with reduced life span of neonatal red blood cells, and exaggerated enterheptic circulation of bilirubin. Physiological jaundice may be aggravated and prolonged by prematurity, birth asphyxia, acidosis, hypothermia, hypoglycaemia, cephalhaematoma, drugs, polycythaemia, cretinism, infections and mild haemolytic states.

Physiological jaundice do not need any specific therapy and it resolves on its own. However, the baby must be watched closely for the severity of jaundice. Investigations are required only in case of jaundice getting severe or persistent.

The data on percentage of babies who were inflicted with jaundice during their birth in the last three years is not maintained.

In the Reproductive and Child Health Programme of Government of India essential newborn care has been strengthened. In this programme the health workers are trained to identify pathological jaundice and refer them to the appropriate facility.

[English]

National Institute for Communicable Diseases

5496. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to merge the National Institute for Communicable Diseases with other agencies;

(b) if so, whether any study has been done on this proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which, NICD is likely to be merged?

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

Agreement on Cancer Research

5497. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreement signed by Government on Cancer Research with John Hopkins University of USA;

(b) whether any funding has been given by the John Hopkins University;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the agency has supervised this research; and

(e) the details of the system of research finding and administration of the research by Government?

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

CGHS Dispensaries

5498. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5714 dated April 25, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and measures being taken to redress the grievances of patients; and

(d) the patients are still well being forced to accept Dalisprin/Acosprin for Ecosprin?

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

(b) The information is given at statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, the questions do not arise.

Statement

CGHS Dispensaries

Question	Reply
1	2
(a) whether the Government have revised norms for issue of medicines under local Purchase System from 30 days to 15 days in CGHS Dispensaries;	(a) No, Sir.
(b) if so, details and reasons therefor;	(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise
(c) whether it is also a fact that Heart, Asthmatic patients are forced to accept medicines of other brands even though these medicines have been prescribed by senior cardiologists of Government Hospital since it has better composition and more effective. The drugs are purchased of less reputed companies even though the prices of both reputed and non-reputed companies are same	(c) If a drug prescribed by the Specialist is available in the dispensary with its generic/any other brand name, then it is supplied to the patient. In case, the prescribed medicine is not available in the dispensary, then the same is procured from the authorised local chemist and supplied to the beneficiaries in all the dispensaries including CGHS dispensary No. 63.

1	2
particularly in Dispensary No. 63 resulting in lot of harassment and inconvenience to patients; and	
(d) if so, reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government to redress the grievances of patients and streamline the local purchase system?	(d) In view of (c) above, the question does not arise.

Growth Target of GDP

5499. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ninth Plan has not achieved its growth target of gross domestic product;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the details of the incomplete projects in the Ninth Plan;

(d) the steps taken to complete the projects; and

(e) extent to which the Ninth Plan has achieved more growth rate in comparison to earlier plans?

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 latest available estimate indicates that the realised growth rate of gross domestic product (at factor cost measured in 1993-94 prices) during the first four years of the Ninth Plan (1997-98 to 2000-2001) has been 5.72% per year as compared to the target of 6.5% per year fixed for the five years of the Ninth Plan (1997-98 to 2001-2002).

(b) Continuing slow growth of agriculture, shortfall in public investment and poor implementation, among others, have been identified as the main reasons behind the shortfall.

(c) and (d) The Ninth Plan is yet to be completed.

(e) The target and realised growth rates in the earlier five year plans are given below:

Growth Performance in the Five Year Plans

(per cent per annum)

	Target	Actual
1. First Plan (1951-56)	2.1	3.61
2. Second Plan (1956-61)	4.5	4.27
3. Third Plan (1961-66)	5.6	2.84
4. Fourth Plan (1969-74)	5.7	3.30
5. Fifth Plan (1974-79)	4.4	4.80
6. Sixth Plan (1980-85)	5.2	5.66
7. Seventh Plan (1985-90)	5.0	6.01
8. Eighth Plan (1992-97)	5.6	6.78

Notes (1) The growth targets for the first three Plans were set with respect to National Income. In the Fourth Plan it was the NDP. In all the Plans thereafter, the GDP has been used.

(2) The Eighth Plan actual is based on the Quick Estimate for 1996-97.

Appointment of Officials in Indian Embassies/ Missions

5500. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint more officials in Indian Embassies and Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the current staff in each of the Indian Embassies and Missions abroad, cadre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) Staffing pattern in each of the Indian Missions/Posts abroad is constantly monitored by the Ministry taking into account the quantum of work and other related aspects. Hence, number of officers and staff in our Missions/Posts abroad, keeps on changing from time to time. However, the overall number of posts abroad in each category of staff remains within the total sanctioned strength which is shown in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Cadre Strength of MEA Officers/Officials in Indian Missions/Posts Abroad As on 30.06.2001

S.No.	Cadre/Post	No. of Posts in Missions/Posts
1	2	3
(A)	IFS (A)	
1.	Grade I of IFS (Secretary)	22
2.	Grade II of IFS (Addl. Secretary)	27
3.	Grade III of IFS (Joint Secretary)	109
4.	Grade IV of IFS (Director)	98
5.	Jt. Admn. Grade/Sr/Scale (Deputy/Under Secretary)	134
6.	Jr. Scale of IFS (Under Secretary/Probationer)	39
(B)	IFS (B)	
7.	Grade I of IFS (B) (Under Secretary	98
8.	Grade II/III of IFS (B) (Section Officer)	174
9.	Grade IV of IFS (B) (Assistant)	404
10.	Grade V/VI of IFS (B) (UDC/LDC)	193
11.	Grade II of Cypher Cadre (Cypher Assistant)	141
12.	Private Secretary	198
13.	Personal Assistant	193
14.	Stenographer	77
(C)	OTHER CATEGORIES	
15.	Group 'D' staff (Peons etc.)	51
16.	Chauffeurs	62
17.	Security Guards	291

MPLADS

5501. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some irregularities have been found in implementation of funds under MPLADS;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against the officials responsible for keeping proposals pending sent by the MP; and

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

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) Some complaints have been received from the Members of Parliament regarding irregularities in the implementation of MPLADS works. These complaints mainly relate to:

(i) Taking up works without recommendations of the MPs

(ii) Irregular use of MPLADS funds Complaints relating to non implementation/delay in implementation of MPLADS works have also been received from some MPs of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) On receipt of such complaints, the matter is immediately taken up with the concerned State Governments/nodal authorities for investigation and remedial action. The State Governments have been advised from time to time to follow strictly the provisions of the guidelines and implement works recommended by

members of Parliament expeditiously. The District Heads have been advised to sanction works recommended by Members of Parliament to the extent of their entitlement without waiting for actual release of funds and submit the expenditure report expeditiously so that funds could be released from the Ministry speedily. The District Heads have also been advised to evolve a time frame for implementation keeping in view the nature of the works and follow the same strictly.

Release of Indian Prisoners

5502. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian prisoners were freed by Pakistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they have narrated the tales of torture meted out to them in Pak jails;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) As per available information, Pakistan, since January this year has released 8 civilian prisoners and 159 Indian fishermen held in its custody.

(c) to (e) Government have recently received some complaints in this regard. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan including through their High Commission in India.

[Translation]

In-Situ Promotion For Assistant Grade

5503. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Central Secretariat Service Rules, 1962 there are four grades in Central Secretariat Services namely Selection Grade, Grade-I, Section Officer and Assistant;

(b) if so, whether Assistant Grade in Central Secretariat Service is the lowest and the Feeder Grade for Section Officer and in its sanctioned strength more than 50% of Assistants have completed the qualifying service for promotion;

(c) if so, whether it is fact that in 1998-99 in order to remove stagnation in the grades of Under Secretary and Section Officer, who have completed 12 years of qualifying service were given third and forth in-situ promotions in the grade of Under Secretary and Deputy Secretary under individual upgradation scheme;

(d) if so, the time by which the in-situ promotion is likely to be given to those Assistants who have completed 12 years of qualifying service on the line of promotion being given to Section 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grade of Assistant is the lowest grade in the Central Secretariat Service and is feeder grade for promotion to grade to Section Officer. The grade of Assistant is decentralised with the cadre authorities and all Assistants who have put in 8 years' approved service as on the crucial date are eligible for consideration for promotion to the grade of Section Officer.

(c) and (d) Personal upgradation of Section Officers and Under Secretaries to the next higher grade on in-situ basis was given due to inordinate delay in the finalisation of Select Lists on account of protracted litigation between the direct recruit and promotee Section Officers. As regards Assistants, Select Lists of those eligible to be promoted as Section Officers are being issued at regular intervals.

[English]

Reimbursement to Patients

5504. DR. S. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to contemplate to revise the reimbursement rules for CGHS beneficiaries and allow reimbursement for conveyance charges for taking the patients from residence to hospital and back for treatment in case of diseases like Cancer, heart-attacks, dialysis and accident etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the alternative steps the Government propose to take to compensate the CGHS beneficiaries in such cases?

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.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Vajpayee-Musharraf Meeting

5505. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting has been fixed between our Prime Minister and Pakistan's President during the United Nations General Assembly Session in the third week of September and subsequently the Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Prime Minister has reiterated on several occasions that the dialogue process with Pakistan will continue. India's endeavour to establish peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan will be pursued. The schedule of summit level and other bilateral interactions with Pakistan is under consideration.

[Translation]

Export of Khadi Garments

5506. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether khadi garments are being exported;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to further promote the export of khadi garments?

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 Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is not directly exporting khadi garments. The exports are normally made through merchant exporters. However, in order to promote export of various khadi items including garments through merchant exporters, the KVIC has exempted export oriented khadi products from the ambit of khadi cost chart. Moreover, the Government of India announced a package for Khadi Village Industries Sector on 14.05.2001. The salient features of the package consist of Rebate Policy for five years, options of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development, focus on core areas and provision of additional working capital.

[English]

Legal Cells For Emigrant Workers

5507. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up legal cells in Indian Missions to look after the problems of emigrant workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A need for such a legal cell has not been felt so far.

Review of Retirement Age

5508. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have authorised the administrative Ministries concerned for roll back of retirement age in public undertakings and public enterprises under them from 60 years to 58 years; and

(b) if so, formula evolved to compensate the employees concerned for the likely loss to be suffered by them with such roll back and how far it would be equitable to them, vis-a-vis their counterpart who retired at the age of 60 years, indicating the steps to bring about a degree of parity between them?

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 delegated the authority to the Minister-in-Charge of the administrative Ministries to approve proposals for roll back of age of superannuation from 60 years to 58 years, which are duly approved by their Board of Directors.

(b) The compensation will normally be governed by the terms and conditions of appointment and the service rules of the PSU concerned. It is for the Board of Directors of the PSU concerned to consider this aspect while recommending roll back of age of retirement to the administrative Ministries concerned for approval.

Semblance in Indian Herbal Drug Industry

5509. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out a strategy to bring in a semblance of order in the Indian Herbal Drug Industry beginning from the cultivation of herbs to the finished product;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The following steps have been taken in this regard:

(1) Medicinal Plants Board has been set up to address the need to augment supply of good quality raw material so that the standards and efficacy of the drugs improves.

(2) Policy level support has been given to the use of ISM&H medicines by encouraging State Governments to provide drugs in keeping with the Essential Drugs List for Government dispensaries and Hospitals.

(3) State Pharmacies and laboratories have been assisted to renovate and upgrade their infrastructure which, inter-alia, would have a beneficial effect on production of better quality drugs.

(4) Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) for ISM industry has been notified.

(5) Private Laboratories are proposed to be recognized for testing and certification of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs.

(6) A Government of India Task Force on conservation and sustainable use of Medicinal Plants gave a report on the future development of the medicinal plant sector.

(7) Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet has identified 45 as Medicinal herbs for cultivation all over India, out of which, 7 herbs have been recommended for immediate action.

(c) and (d) A study on "Assessment of Demand of Medicinal Plants" has been commissioned in respect to 162 plants with a view to assess the demand for these plants.

Dave Committee on Pension Liability

5510. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the working group on pension liability has recommended that the existing Government employees should also be gradually shifted towards a limited pension system from existing wage linked pension plan;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the other recommendations relating to the pensions to Government employees; and

(d) the reaction of the Government on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Working Group on Pension Liability set up by the Department of Expenditure in its Report submitted in June 2001 has recommended a transition from the existing pension system to a funded system of pension payment for new employees as well as provision of appropriate incentives for existing employees to move to a (partial) Defined Contribution System.

(b) to (d) The Working Group on Pension Liability has suggested introduction of a Defined Contribution System which may be partial or totally funded. It has also mentioned that there should not be corresponding increases in employees' salary levels to compensate them for this contribution. Besides this, the Working Group has suggested that since pensions in the Government are a deferred wage component, the gravity of the burden of compensation to labour can be better judged by considering the wage and pension burdens together as a whole. They have also recommended strengthening of the data base relating to existing employees and pensions in terms of age profile and distribution so as to facilitate better fiscal planning.

The idea of introducing a pension scheme based on defined contributions had been reflected in the Budged Speech of the Finance Minister. The Hon'ble Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2001-02 has announced that in view of the Central Government Pension Liability having reached unsustainable proportions, it is envisaged that those who enter Central Government Services after 1st Oct. 2001 would receive pension through a new pension programme based on defined contributions. He had also proposed to constitute a High Level Expert Group to review the existing pension system and provide a roadmap for the next steps to be taken by the Government. Accordingly the Government has set up a High Level Expert Group which is looking into the existing pension scheme and also the scheme to be introduced based on Defined Contributions including related issues like manner of funding, rate of contribution etc.

Atomic Power Generation

5511. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the cost of production of each unit of electricity from atomic energy in comparison to that produced by thermal and hydel power?

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): The weighted average cost of production for all the units of NPCIL, for the year 2000-01 is 157 Paise/KWh. The cost of production does not include the profit element and also the levies of 10 Paise/KWh towards de-commissioning, renovation, modernisation and Research and Development. The cost of electricity production from nuclear power plants is comparable to the cost from other contemporary coal thermal power plants located away from coal pit-heads.

International Conference on Reproductive Health Commodity

5512. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three days International Conference on Reproductive Health Commodity Crisis was held at Kochi recently;

(b) if so, the subject discussed at the Conference;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures proposed to improve the Health care?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. An International Conference was held at Kochi from June 12-14 June, 2001.

(b) The role of collaboration among countries of the South in improving the availability and affordability of essential health commodities was the theme of Conference. Essential Health commodities have been defined as only those which meet priority health needs of a significant proportion of population and are safe, effective and of high quality.

(c) The Govt. is a signatory to the declaration and would take necessary action as deemed appropriate keeping in view our national interests.

(d) The Govt. is committed to improving the Health of population through a holistic system of care combining promotive, preventive and curative care. Towards this end, the Govt. is supporting the primary health care infrastructure in the States. It has drawn up and is implementing focused national programmes on family welfare including that of reproductive and child health, communicable diseases such as HIV, AIDS, leprosy Tuberculosis, Blindness, Malaria, Kala-azar etc. and non communicable diseases such as Cancer, Mental health etc. It is also sponsoring projects with World Bank assistance in some states aimed at improving Health Systems upto secondary levels. The Govt. of India also, provides technical guidance, research, standards and policy advice to the States for the betterment of the health care provided by them to the public, especially poor people.

Indo-Bangladesh Naval Exercises

5513. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan and Bangladesh Navy forces conducted exercise on April 27, 2001;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that neither Bangladesh nor Pakistan informed India as required by the international convention;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that India has taken a strong exception to this and lodged protest with both Pakistan and Bangladesh on this issue; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the two Governments thereto?

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

(b) to (d) In view of the reply at (a) above, the question does not arise.

Funds for K.B.K.

5514. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the Central aid so far provided to the State of Orissa to implement the KBK Project during each of the last three years;

(b) the target fixed and assets generated by 2000-2001, since this KBK Project has been implemented;

(c) the details of special Central aid sought by Orissa for 2001-2002; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure proper implementation of the funds?

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 Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) has been drawn up by the Government of Orissa for the KBK districts consisting of flow of funds from Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In addition to the flow of funds from Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is being allocated for these districts to supplement the efforts of the State Government in certain critical sectors. In 1998-99, an additionality of Rs. 46 crore was released, in 1999-2000 an additional amount of Rs. 57.60 crore was released, while in 2000-01 a sum of Rs. 40.35 crore was released.

(b) The targets fixed and assets generated from the ACA released for the Revised Long Term Action Plan are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The State Government has sought an amount of Rs. 100.00 crore as ACA (as 100% grant) for 2000-01 in addition to Rs. 125 crore as loan assistance under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Scheme-wise details are given in enclosed statement-II.

(d) In order to ensure proper implementation of the schemes, the Government of Orissa has taken the following steps: (i) A senior officer has been posted as Chief Administrator, Special Area Development Project (KBK), with headquarters at Koraput; (ii) A State Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister and a project Level Committee under the Chief Secretary have been constituted to periodically monitor and review the Revised Long Term Action Plan; and (iii) Several line departments have evolved there own monitoring mechanisms to further strengthen the implementation of the programmes. Periodic meetings are also held by Planning Commission both with the State Government as well as the Central Ministries to review the progress of schemes.

Statement-I

Revised Long Term Action Plan for KBK Districts from 1998-99 to 2000-01: Targets fixed and assets generated under ACA released

S.N.	Programme	Unit	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
1.	Afforestation (Area Planted)	Ha.	Preliminary Operation for 1999-2000	15,675	32,285	31,452	30,200	30,200
2.	Emergency Feeding (Beneficiaries covered)	No.	75,045	75,045	75,045	75,045	75,045	1,17,977
3.	Const. of Girls' Hostels	No.	200	-	200	157	-	133
4.	Mobile Health Units (Patients treated)	No.	-	2,28,552	-	9,75,815	-	11,26,088
5.	Rural Water Supply (Tube Wells Sunk)	No.	-	-	2,500	2,455	-	-
6.	Watershed Development	-		NR	-	-	-	-
7.	Irrigation Interest Liability	-	-	-	-	-	Payment made Towards Interest	

NR- Not Reported

Statement-II

Additional Central Assistance Sought by the State Government for the KBK Districts

Sl.No.	Schemes/Programmes	Requirement (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3
A.	Additional Central Assistance	
1.	Watershed Development Programme	8.21
2.	Afforestation	17.00
3.	Mobile Health Units	5.01
4.	Construction of Residential Clusters	10.23
5.	Rural Water Supply	16.07
6.	Rural Connectivity (Construction of Culverts & Bridges)	13.00
7.	S.T. & S.C. Development	10.40
8.	Biju Krushak Vikas Yojana (MI)	5.00
9.	Emergency Feeding	14.08
10.	Construction of Warehouses	1.00
	Sub-Total Central Assistance	100.00
B.	Loan Assistance under AIBP	125.00
	Total	225.00

[Translation]

Share of Financial Package

5515. SHRI RAMESHWAR DUDI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of each State in the financial package announced by the Government, particularly Rajasthan for small scale industrial sector;

(b) the details of financial package recommended;

(c) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented; and

(d) the extent to which the recommended package is likely to be proved beneficial for the small scale industries of the country?

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 the Government have not announced any financial package, perhaps the reference is to the Comprehensive Policy Package for Small Scale Industries (SSIs) announced on 30th August, 2000. This package will strengthen the Small Scale Sector and enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure. The package is not State specific and is being implemented uniformly across the country.

[English]

Software Export

5516. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development has set a software export target of US $ 50 billion by the year 2008;

(b) whether the export target anticipated by the Task Force received a set back because of the recent decision of the U.S. Government to reduce their imports from India;

(c) if so, the extent to which the export target fixed on year to year basis have been achieved during the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the set export targets?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development which was set up in 1998, had set a target of US $ 50 billion of software & IT services exports by the year 2008.

(b) As per National Association of Software and Service Company (NASSCOM), the software export industry is well on track to meet this target. Currently (2000-01), the industry is estimated to be US $ 6.2 billion and to reach a figure of $ 50 billion by 2008, only a 35% Cumulative Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) is required. The industry has been growing at over this growth rate.

(c) The targets and export figures for the last two years are as follows:-

(Rupees Crores)

	Target	Export
1999-2000	14,600	17,300
2000-2001	23,100	28,350

(d) Steps taken by the Government to promote the IT industry are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Incentives to IT 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. Power of approvals of the designated officers of MIT for implementation of STP and EHTP Schemes have been further enhanced upto US $ 20 million.

4. Accelerated depreciation norms for computers and computer peripherals for electronic units under Export Oriented schemes (EQU/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. The depreciation on computers has been allowed @ 60%.

5. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/EHTP schemes and the software units under EOU/EPZ/STP schemes. Broadbanding is permitted in the DTA sales of Hardware units for items covered in the Letter of Permission.

6. Special Economic Zones are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.

7. Value addition norms for Rupee exports to Russia reduced from 100% to 33% under Advance Licensing Scheme.

8. In the Budget 2001-02, the peak rate of customs duty continues @ 35%. Customs duty surcharge @ 10% has been abolished on all imports, in general but Special Additional Duty (SAD) @ 4% continues on all imports, except specific exemptions. 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%. The concessional rate of customs duty for specified raw materials for the electronics industry continues.

9. In the Budget 2001-02, the Central Excise duty structure has been rationalised from multiple rates to single rate of 16% and single rate of Special Excise Duty (SED) @ 16%.

10. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.

11. EOQ/EPZ/STP/EHTP units are exempted from payment of Income Tax on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.

12. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act has been widened to include transmission of data.

13. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.

14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been extended to the IT sector.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. Under the Employee 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%.

20. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.

21. Two-way fungibility has been permitted for ADRs/GDRs. Local shares can now be reconverted into ADRs/GDRs, subject to sectoral caps.

22. 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.

23. 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.

[Translation]

UPSC

5517. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received by the Government with regard to irregularities in recruitment process of Union Public Service Commission during each of the last five years;

(b) the number out of them disposed off by the Central Vigilance Department;

(c) whether Central Vigilance Department has issued instructions for the smooth and corruption free functioning of the UPSC; and

(d) if so, the steps 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) The Government have not received any substantive complaints regarding irregularities in recruitment process of Union Public Service Commission during the last five years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No instructions have been issued by the Central Vigilance Commission.

[English]

Amendment in Food Adulteration Bill

5518. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sought administrative approval of the Union Government for introducing a Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Bill in the State Legislature;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Prevention of Food Adulteration (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 1999 proposing amendments in certain provisions of PFA Act, 1954 particularly in relation to sampling procedure and cognisance of offences, was received in the Ministry of Home Affairs from Government of Maharashtra in July, 1999, for obtaining the administrative approval of Government of India before its introduction in the State Legislature. Subsequently, a copy of the said Bill was sent by the Maharashtra Government to this Ministry also for getting it ratified by the Central Committee for Food Standards. Since the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been itself in the process of undertaking a thorough review of the various provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 considering the Reports/Recommendations of various Committees and Organisations received in the Ministry

on the subject, the Government of Maharashtra was apprised of the position accordingly through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Most Backward Classes

5519. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to identify the term "Most Backward Classes" based on the Census 2001 data;

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

(c) the progress so far made in this direction and the result achieved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. Caste-based emuneration has not been undertaken at the Census 2001.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Exhibition on Indian System of Medicines

5520. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an exhibition and a work shop on Ayurved was organised at Johensburg by the delegation of Ministry of Health in view of the interest of Indians residing in South Africa towards the Indian System of Ayurved medicines recently;

(b) if so, the details of officers from India and the Indian doctors residing in South Africa who joined the delegation; and

(c) the outcome of the workshop and the benefits accrued for the Ayurved System of Medicines?

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

(b) Seven member official delegation under the leadership of Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare participated in the "Made in India Show" at Johannesburg, South Africa from 18-21 July, 2001. The official part of the delegation comprised the Secretary of the Department and the Director of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha. Besides four subject experts representing the individual system participated in the events to help propagate the strengths of the Indian Systems of Medicine. No Indian doctor residing in South Africa was a part of the Indian delegation.

(c) The broad outcomes included:-

- Detailed interaction with the Health Minister of South Africa on the strengths of Indian Systems of medicine.
- Meeting with Medicine Control Council of South Africa to make them understand the regulatory and enforcement mechanism prevailing in India for manufacture of ISM drugs.
- Projection of India's strengths in the area of education, research and health care through the ISM system to separate audiences at Johannesburg and Durban.
- Expanding prospects for collaboration with the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine, Durban to introduce Ayurveda courses using teachers from India.

Undetectable Warship

5521. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the first warship which cannot be detected by Radar;

(b) if so, the number of such warships proposed to be developed; and

(c) the time by which the first warship is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) Modern warships incorporate certain stealth features integral to the design of the ship to reduce the possibility of detection by enemy ships, submarines and aircraft. However, a ship would not be able to totally escape detection by radar. Four Indian Naval ships incorporating stealth features have been commissioned already.

[English]

Cancer From Pan Masala

5522. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that new research has shown that pan masala causes cancer not only in the mouth but also in other parts of the body and it can also cause tumours in several part of the body in the long run;

(b) whether chewing of pan masala is getting popular among school going children and young boys and girls;

(c) whether the pan masala sachets are to be replaced by the above giving a stern warning to chewers of its serious ill-effects.

(d) whether there is any plans of the Government to bring awareness among the coming up generation about the deadly ill-effects of this brand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) According to Indian Council of Medical Research studies have been reported on in-vitro Genotoxicity as well as experimental induction of cancer in animals, by abstract of areca nut, which is a major component in Pan Masala.

(b) No such data is available.

(c) The PFA rules 1955 provide that every package of Pan Masala and advertisements relating thereto shall carry the following warning, namely "Chewing of Pan Masala may be injurious to Health"

(d) and (e) The advertisement of Pan Masala is banned on Doordarshan and All India Radio. All the State/ UT Government have been advised to educate the masses through various measures to discourage consumption of these products.

Upgradation of Chandipur Test Range

5523. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to undertake modernisation and upgradation of Chandipur Test Range with assistance from the Russian Scientists·

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the work done in this regard so far?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Foreign Funded Health Care Programme

5524. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally sponsored health care programme being funded by external agencies;

(b) the total amount provided by those agencies during last three years; and

(c) the details of such external agencies alongwith the States where those Centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented?

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 House.

[Translation]

Defence Production Unit In Backward Areas

5525. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up any Defence Production Unit in any tribal and rural/backward area of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the above unit is likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Ordnance Factory to manufacture bi-modular propellant charges is planned to be set up at Rajgir, in Nalanda District of Bihar.

(c) It is estimated that the Ordnance Factory will be set up four years from the date of Government sanction after the Detailed Project Report is ready. Preliminary work for land acquisition has commenced.

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

[English]

Substandard and Outdated Drugs

5526. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government about instance of substandard and outdated (expired) drugs given in CGHS hospitals at Chennai;

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

(c) the steps taken to ensure supply of only standard drugs at CGHS hospitals throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No substandard or date expired medicines were supplied to the beneficiaries of CGHS, Chennai.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) The CGHS procures all the listed formulary drugs from the Medical Stores Organisation which are pre-tested and are of standard quality.

Marketing of Drugs

5527. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommended marketing of the drugs under strict supervision recently;

(b) the salient recommendation of the ICMR;

(c) whether the Government have implemented 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) ICMR is not a regulatory authority for marketing of drugs. On the request of Drug Controller General (India) (DCG 1), ICMR gives opinion on marketing of drugs in consultation with toxicology Review Panel of ICMR. However, final decision regarding marketing drug is taken by DCG(1).

MPLADS

5528. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has criticised his ministry for not submitting any action taken report to CAG in response to the auditor's report in 1998 on the MPLAD Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the funds spent on the schemes have not been recommended by the MPs; and

(d) if so, the steps 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) and (b) The Ministry furnished Action Taken Note on the findings of the C&AG in its report for the period ending March, 1997 (received during 1998) on 26.4.01 and 13.7.01. The Ministry is also in the process of obtaining replies from the concerned district/States in respect of which certain observations had been made by the C&AG in the said report.

(c) and (d) The C&AG report for the period ending March, 1997 interalia includes the findings about execution of works by the District Heads without the recommendation of the concerned MPs. All the District Heads have been advised to sanction works on receipt of written recommendation of the concerned MP strictly on their letter head and under their own signature.

Objection to Karmapa Stay

5529. SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has objected to the staying of Karmapa Lama in India; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Naval Training School

5530. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to upgrade the Naval Training School at Chilka in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in that regard so far?

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

(b) and (c) In view of the reply at (a) above the question does not arise.

Inflation in Inventory

5531. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in their Report No. 7A of 2000 (Defence Services) on page 126 have brought out a glaring fact of multiple vehicles, general stores and clothing inflating the inventory holding and deficient control over them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the standardisation directorate of his Ministry inter-services organisation to reduce the cost of the inventory and to ensure better control thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) The C&AG in its Report No. 7A (Defence Services) of 2000 has pointed out the proliferation in variety of vehicles, clothing, generating and charging sets. It has recommended their standardization to reduce inventory control and cost.

(c) The Directorate of Standardization, on an ongoing basis, takes up the issues on commonality, standardization and variety reduction of the inventories existing in the Services as per Standardization Directive issued by the Government of India in 1975.

AMCHI System

5532. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) the details of various systems of medicine which have been recognised by the Government under the Indian system of medicine;

(b) whether the Government have received representations from some quarters for recognition of the AMCHI system of medicine under the Indian System of Medicine;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to recognise the above system under the Indian system of medicine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) For educational purposes the following systems of medicine have been recognised by the Central Council of Indian Medicine and the Central Council of Homoeopathy set up under Acts of Parliament to regulate education and practice and maintenance of central register and the matter connected therewith:

(i) Ayurveda

(ii) Siddha

(iii) Unani

(iv) Homoeopathy

(b) to (d) Suggestions for examining the feasibility of recognising Tibetan medicine course run by Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies at Varanasi have been received. An expert committee deputed to examine the issue has recommended that it is not possible to recognize the Tibetan Medicine Course on a comparison with the course content and infrastructure prescribed by the Central Council of Indian Medicine.

Appointment of Chairman of Kendriya Bhandar

5533. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Additional Secretary (Pension) in the Ministry of Personnel and Pension has always been the ex-officio Chairman of the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof more so when the Kendriya Bhandar is not part of the Department of Pension but part of the Department of Personnel and Training;

(c) whether the reasons for not appointing Chairman of the Bhandar from other ministries/departments of the Government of India and whether some of the Member of Parliament have written to the Government in this regard; and

(d) there is any proposal to appoint officers from other ministries/departments as ex-officio Chairman of the Kendriya Bhandar forthwith?

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. As per the old and the revised byelaws of Kendriya Bhandar, the Chairman is to be nominated by the Government of India. In the past officers other than Additional Secretary (Pension) in the Ministry of Personnel & Pensions have also been nominated as Chairman, Kendriya Bhandar. The Department of Pension is part of the Ministry of Personnel.

(c) Government of India has the right to nominate any officer from any Ministry/Department of Government of India as Chairman, Kendriya Bhandar. Government has received a letter from an MP in this regard.

(d) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Poverty Alleviation Scheme

5534. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of backward population living below poverty line in Maharashtra;

(b) the standard of living of the backward classes vis-a-vis that of the backward classes vis-a-vis that of the rest of the population in Maharashtra;

(c) the names of the Poverty Alleviation Schemes being implemented for the betterment for the backward population of the State; and

(d) the progress achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No authentic data of persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) living below the poverty line in various States/UTs including Maharashtra is available with the Government.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has been implementing the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the Welfare of OBCs:-

(i) Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC Students;

(ii) POST-MATRIC Scholarships for OBC students;

(iii) Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls;

(iv) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare of OBCs; and

(v) Pre-examination Coaching for OBCs.

As on 31.7.2001, Rs. 92.34 lakhs benefiting 3060 OBC persons and Rs. 4.60 lakhs benefiting 230 OBC persons have, so far, been released to the State of Maharashtra under the schemes of assistance to Voluntary Organisations for the welfare of OBCs and Pre-examination Coaching Scheme for OBCs respectively. No amount has so far been released to the State of Maharashtra under other schemes for want of proposal from the State Government.

The Government of India has set up National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC), which has been entrusted with the task of providing financial assistance to the eligible members of Backward Classes for setting up of self-employment ventures. As on 31.7.2001, the NBCFDC has, so far, released Rs. 3800.81 lakhs to 7387 OBC persons through the State Channelising Agencies of Maharashtra under the schemes of the Corporation.

In addition, the Government has been implementing an urban poverty alleviation programme called Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) to provide gainful employment to the urban poor including OBCs living below the poverty line.

The Government is also implementing following poverty alleviation programmes for the rural poor including OBCs in the country;

(i) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS);

(ii) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY);

(iii) Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); and

(iv) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

National Institute for Rural Industrialization

5535. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Institute of Technology regarding setting up of National Institute for Rural Industrialization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount involved therein; and

(d) the role of Indian Institute of Technology 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) Yes, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with IIT, Delhi involving a total cost of Rs. 8.35 crores. Out of this Rs. 7.00 crores will be utilized for creating infrastructure at Jamnalal Bajaj Centre for Research Institute (JBCRI), Wardha, an important research and development institute functioning under the KVIC and Rs. 1.35 crore for related activities at IIT, Delhi. The proposed role of IIT is to create a data base of all relevant rural and village level technology, to conduct training and orientation programme for transfer of technology and to provide services of professionals etc.

Vigilance Instructions

5536. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been the practice with the Administrative Vigilance Division of the Department of Personnel and Training to issue all types of vigilance related instructions;

(b) if so, whether in pursuance of the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, action on even anonymous complaints was also taken, if the facts were found to be verifiable from the records;

(c) if so, whether the Central Vigilance Commission have superseded the said orders and issued directives not to take any action on such anonymous complaints; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the instructions issued by this Department on 29th September, 1992, anonymous/ pseudonymous complaints should be ignored and only filed. These instructions, however, provide that in specific cases of complaints containing verifiable details cognizance thereof could be taken following the prescribed procedure with the specific orders of the Head of the Department/Chief Executive.

Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) have also issued instructions on 29.6.1999 that no action should at all be taken on any anonymous/pseudonymous complaints and that they just be filed for the reason that genuine cases of corruption may not necessarily be brought out in such

complaints. Rather they may be used to demoralize honest officers at the time of promotion etc.

[English]

MPLADS

5537. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Planning Officer, has failed to cope with the quantum of work suggested by M.P. under MPLAD scheme;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to create separate division for implementation of MPLAD work;

(d) if so, the time by which the new division is likely to be created; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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, the District Heads are entrusted with the responsibility to get the works, as recommended by the Members of Parliament, implemented by following the established procedure of the State Government subject to the overall compliance of the Guidelines. The works can be implemented through Government, Panchayati Raj Institutions or NGOs which may be considered by the District Head as capable of implementing the work satisfactorily.

(c) to (e) There is a separate Division in the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation to oversee the operation of the MPLAD Scheme at the Central level. There is no proposal for creation of any separate Division for MPLADS work at the District level.

Development of Regional Health Care Hub

5538. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a report prepared by the Confederation on Indian Industries (CII) that India is poised to develop into a regional health care hub with the US Dollar 17 billion health care industry growing at a rate of 13 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was a huge shortage of hospital beds, low density of doctors per person and there is a need to strengthen linkages between Government and private sector participants;

(d) whether CII in its report had asked the Union Government to focus more on primary and secondary health care and leave tertiary care to private sector health providers; and

(e) if so, the decision of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No report has been prepared by the CII on health care. However, various aspects of health care were discussed during a round table discussion with 18 Chief Executive Officers from health care institutions on 25th April, 2001.

(c) to (e) The number of doctors per 10,000 population as well as beds per 10,000 population has shown a steady increase over time. The National Health Policy is presently under revision. The new National Health Policy shall consider various issues including inter-alia greater focus on primary health care.

Assistance of South Africa for Eradication of AIDS

5539. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and South Africa have signed any agreement in the field of health and medical science;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement; and

(c) the extent to which the South Africa has agreed to provide health Centres and assist India in the dealing with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and nutrition programmes?

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

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Upgradation of India's Representation

5540. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase/upgrade India's representation in various Latin American countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India currently has thirteen resident diplomatic missions and one Consulate General in the Latin American & Caribbean region.

The mission in Colombia was re-opened in 1994 and an Ambassador was appointed. In 1995, a Consulate General was opened in Sao Paulo (Brazil). To provide an impetus to trade promotion in the region, the India Trade Promotion Organisation has recently opened an office in Sao Paulo (Brazil).

Scheme for Sex Workers

5541. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start some schemes for employment and income generation for the sex workers in order to encourage them to reintegrate into the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to eradicate child prostitution and their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Government is attempting to bring about an overall improvement in the status of women and children especially the girl child through better education, health care and economic empowerment of women. Schemes for employment and income generation like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Setting up of employment-cum income generating units for women (NORAD), Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), Swaran Jayanti Rozgar Yojana (SJRY) etc. are implemented especially in areas of high supply of victims of prostitution and for rehabilitation of rescued victims of prostitution. The Government also supports an extensive network of Short Stay Homes and homes set up under the Juvenile Justice Act for protection and rehabilitation of the victims of prostitution.

(c) The Government of India constituted a Central Advisory Committee on Child prostitution. The recommendations made by the Committee have been sent to concerned Central Ministries/States/UTs for implementation. The States/UTs have also set up State Advisory Committees and are taking action to notify special police officers and Advisory Boards of social workers and NGOs in red light areas. The Government of India has also formulated a Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children in 1998 and have requested the States to plan suitable interventions to operationalize the plan.

The amendment of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is under way for making punishment for traffickers more stringent and putting greater criminal liability on them. In order to check inter-country trafficking, the SAARC countries have drafted a Convention on combating the crime of trafficking in women and children for prostitution and to promote and foster effective regional cooperation to deal with the various aspects of the problem. The draft protocol is awaiting ratification.

Visit of Chinese Leader

5542. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Li Changchun, Member of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party, visited New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed;

(c) the outcome thereof; and

(d) the extent to which Indo-Sino ties will get a boost as a result of his visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Mr. Li Changchun, Member of the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party and Party Secretary of Guangdong province, visited India from 12-18 May 2001, at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister. His visit was part of the continuing high level exchanges between India and China.

(b) to (d) Mr. Li Changchun called on the President, met EAM and Shri Pramod Mahajan, Minister for

Information Technology & Parliamentary Affairs. EAM had detailed discussions with Mr. Li Changchun in which views on bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest were exchanged. Both agreed on the usefulness of greater interaction at different levels, both at the national and provincial levels. Both sides also agreed that there are concrete opportunities for development of bilateral trade.

[Translation]

Number of Agro-Based Industries

5543. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agro-based industries functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of labourers engaged therein;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards continuously deteriorating and deplorable conditions of labourers engaged in agro-based industries;

(d) if so, the Government have made any efforts for upliftment of labourers in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; 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) and (b) No list of agro-based industrial units is maintained centrally. However, a statement showing the employment generated State-wise in Khadi and village industries sector including agro-based industries during the last three years is given in the statement attached.

(c) to (f) The Government is aware of the difficult condition of labourers engaged in agro based industries. The Government, through KVIC promotes Khadi & Village Industries including agro based industries. For strengthening the sector, the Government on 14th May, 2001 announced a package. The salient feature of the package consist of Rebate Policy for 5 years, options for rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), assurance cover to khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of khadi products, creation of packing and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development, focus on core areas and provisions of additional working capital.

Statement

The State-wise Cumulative Employment Generated Under KVI Programme

(Employment in lakh persons)

S.No.	States/Union Territories	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.60	3.59	3.47
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.01	*	*
3.	Assam	1.11	1.25	1.21
4.	Bihar	3.75	3.80	3.26
5.	Goa	0.05	0.05	0.07
6.	Gujarat	1.07	1.01	0.96
7.	Haryana	0.92	0.91	0.90
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.79	0.83	0.82

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.96	1.23	1.08
10.	Karnataka	2.33	2.42	2.12
11.	Kerala	2.32	2.08	2.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.16	1.29	1.45
13.	Maharashtra	4.00	4.65	5.04
14.	Manipur	0.42	0.42	0.54
15.	Meghalaya	0.13	0.11	0.18
16.	Mizoram	0.12	0.15	0.13
17.	Nagaland	0.19	0.19	0.20
18.	Orissa	2.10	1.98	1.71
19.	Punjab	1.84	1.73	1.75
20.	Rajasthan	4.41	4.33	4.38
21.	Sikkim	0.05	0.06	0.04
22.	Tamil Nadu	10.91	11.16	11.04
23.	Tripura	0.27	0.23	0.24
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10.21	10.51	12.00
25.	West Bengal	3.51	4.05	4.26
26.	A & N Islands	*	*	*
27.	Chandigarh	0.04	0.03	0.11
28.	D & N Haveli	*	*	-
29.	Daman & Diu	*	*	*
30.	Delhi	0.18	0.18	0.18
31.	Lakshadweep	*	*	*
32.	Pondicherry	0.05	0.05	0.05
	Total	56.50	58.29	59.23

* Less than 500

[English]

Development of Indigenous Technologies

5544. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether following imposition of sanctions the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed indigenous technologies, including the digital data acquisition system to detect atomic explosions and tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of indigenous technologies developed by other entities subjected to sanctions, under this Ministry?

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) Sanctions from abroad have not affected the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre's (BARC's) nuclear programme as indigenisation of nuclear technologies has been the policy of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) for several decades as a part of self-reliance.

(b) BARC has been in the field of detecting nuclear explosions for more than three decades and a comprehensive seismic data acquisition system has been indigenously developed and deployed.

(c) Due to the indigenisation of nuclear technologies as mentioned above, the question does not arise.

China's Entry in SAARC

5545. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has expressed its desire to join the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's response thereto by way of sponsoring or supporting China's entry into SAARC?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance to NIE

5546. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans to increase the financial assistance given to the National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai to carry out field works and to enhance laboratory facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the amount allocated for the Institute during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Chennai receives Government grants through ICMR. Presently ICMR has no plans to increase the financial assistance to NIE to enhance laboratory facilities, as there are no immediate plans for its expansion.

(c) National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), Chennai came into existence on 2nd July, 1999 by merger of Institute for Research in Medical Statistics (IRMS) and Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy (CJIL) field units of ICMR. The funds allocated to NIE since 1999-2000 is as under.

(Rs. in lakhs)

1999-2000	2000-2001
279.73	499.80

National Institute of Social Defence

5547. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives and functions of the National Institute of Social Defence;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the fund is spent on administrative overheads;

(c) if so, the break-up of expenditure on this Institute in 2000-2001;

(d) whether there is any proposal to make this Institute a more responsive and field-oriented organization; and

(e) if so the details and steps proposed to change the direction and activities of this organization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) is a subordinate office under the administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. The objective of the Institute is to strengthen and provide technical inputs to the social defence programmes of the Government of India and to develop and train the manpower resource required in the field for providing services in the areas of social defence. The main areas of activities covered by the Institute are collection of statistics, documentation, research and

conducting training programmes pertaining to juvenile justice administration, child adoption, systems involved in child protection, drug abuse prevention and care for senior citizens. The Institute organizes both in-house training programmes as well as training programmes in collaboration with regional partners in the above-mentioned areas. The NISD also undertakes review of policies and programmes in the field of social defence to anticipate and diagnose social defence problems and develop preventive, rehabilitative and curative policies in the field of social defence.

(b) and (c) No Sir. However, the break-up of expenditure on this Institute during the year 2000-01 is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Head	Plan	Non-plan
Salaries	5.25	34.00
Wages	0.60	0.07
Overtime allowances	0.35	0.30
Domestic Travel Expenses	2.30	0.06
Publications	3.20	0.13
Office Expenses	41.40	3.00
Other charges	163.00	—
	216.10	37.56

Expenditure incurred under the Head 'Other charges' is the expenditure on various activities of the NISD such as training, documentation etc. It is therefor, evident that major portion of the expenditure is incurred on activities of the Institute and not on administrative overheads.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The Government is considering delegation of powers to provide adequate authority, flexibility as well as independence to this Institute in its day-to-day functioning to perform more efficiency and fulfill its task in a result-oriented manner as also become more accountable for fulfilling its objectives.

[Translation]

Illegal Immigrants

5548. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken up with the foreign Governments the issue of Immigrants living illegally in India during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of the countries with whom this issue was taken up during the aforesaid period giving the dates of taking up the issue;

(c) the details of the response received from such countries; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (d) In view of the magnitude of illegal immigration from Bangladesh to India, the matter has been regularly taken up with the Government of Bangladesh at the political, diplomatic and official levels including during the India - Bangladesh Home Secretary-level talks which took place from April 26-27, 2000 in New Delhi, at the Director General-level talks held between the Border Security Force and the Bangladesh Rifles held in Dhaka from October 21-25, 2000, at the Foreign Secretary-level talks between India and Bangladesh in New Delhi from December 13-14, 2000 and recently during the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group meeting held from February, 15-17, 2001 in New Delhi and at the Director General-level talks between Border Security Force and the Bangladesh Rifles held from March 28 to April 01, 2001 in New Delhi. As friendly neighbours, both countries are committed to resolving all bilateral issues through dialogue.

[English]

Shortage of Doctors and Drugs

5549. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of problems faced by CGHS beneficiaries at Chennai due to shortage of doctors and non-availability of drugs;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to mitigate the sufferings of CGHS beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Some complaints have been received regarding

shortage of doctors and non-availability of drugs at CGHS Chennai. A few doctors of CGHS, Chennai are on study leave and some are absconding against whom departmental action has been initiated. Steps have also been taken to fill up the vacant posts of Specialist Doctors.

There is no shortage of drugs of CGHS, Chennai as the non-available drugs in the dispensaries are procured from the authorised local chemists and issued to the CGHS beneficiaries. In case of an emergency, 'authority slips' are issued to the beneficiaries for collecting the drugs direct from the authorised local chemists.

Treatment of Foreign Nationals

5550. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals came to India for treatment during the last two years;

(b) the number of such nationals out of them underwent kidney transplantation;

(c) the number of cases reported selling of kidneys in Indian hospitals;

(d) whether the Government are going to take any stringent measures to keep a check on the incidents of selling of kidneys; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There is no separate visa for medical treatment to foreigners. Foreigners enter into India on tourist or entry visa and get medical treatment in various hospitals in India. As such, data regarding number of foreigners came to India for medical treatment is not maintained.

(c) Under section 13(2) of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, the State Governments are empowered to appoint by a notification one or more officers as Appropriate Authorities for the purposes of the Act. Such Appropriate Authorities are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale of human organs including kidney. The information relating to the number of cases of selling of kidneys in Indian hospitals which is against the provisions and punishable under the said Act should be available with the State Government (s) concerned in whose jurisdiction such offence takes place. The Director General of Health Services has been appointed as the Appropriate Authority in respect of all Union Territories including the N.C.T. of Delhi. Two cases of people selling their kidneys pertaining to Delhi have come to the notice during last one year.

(d) and (e) The Transplantation of Human Organs Act was enacted on 8th July, 1994 to provide for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in human organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The said Act has since been adopted by all the States except Bihar and newly created States, namely Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

National Statistics Commission

5551. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Statistical Commission has submitted its report to the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Commission?

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) National Statistical Commission has completed its work and the submission of the report is expected within the next few days.

Medical Council of India

5552. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical Council of India inspected certain Medical Colleges and attached Hospitals in the country in 1996 and found out certain deficiencies in infrastructure-manpower and equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether some State Governments forwarded detailed proposals to the Central Government to get the financial assistance from external funding agencies at a concessional credit;

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

(f) the reasons for not clearing the proposals as yet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) During the year 1996, the Medical Council of India conducted periodical inspection of 8 medical colleges, out of which the following medical colleges were allowed to continue the MBBS degree being awarded by them:—

1. Gauhati Medical College, Guwahati.
2. Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad.
3. Medical College, Calcutta.
4. R.G. Kar Medical College, Calcutta.
5. N.R.S. Medical College, Calcutta.
6. Calcutta National Medical College, Calcutta.
7. B.S. Medical College, Bankura.

The eighth medical collage i.e. Government Medical College, Nagpur was not recommended by Medical Council of India for continuation of recognition in view of certain deficiencies detected.

In addition, following 3 medical colleges were also inspected in 1996 for increase of seats on receipt of their applications:-

1. Goa Medical College, Goa.
2. S.R.T.R. Medical College, Ambajogai.
3. Government Medical College, Nanded.

The requests of these colleges were not approved in view of various deficiencies pointed out in the inspection reports.

(d) to (f) As per information available for the past three years, some proposals have been received from some of the State Governments for financial assistance from external funding agencies. The details of the same are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Subject	Financial assistance requested from	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Karnataka	1. Equipping 4 Medical Colleges and 11 associated hospitals	Govt. of Finland	Forwarded to Deptt. of Economic Affairs for necessary funding
		2. Improvement of Mother and Child Health Programme for Bangalore Medical College and attached teaching hospitals	Japanese Grant in aid	-do-
2.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Establishment of (a) Apex Trauma Centre and (b) Burn Unit at King George Medical College, Lucknow	Japan International Cooperation Agency	Under consideration

1	2	3	4	5
		2. Establishment of Stereotactic Neurosurgery Unit at Kamla Nehru Hospital, Allahabad	Japanese Debt Relief Grant	Forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs for necessary funding
3.	Mizoram	Installation of CT Scan and Establishment of Hospital Waste Treatment at Aizawal Civil Hospital	Japanese Debt Relief Grant	Under consideration
4.	Tamilnadu	1. Super Speciality Cancer Hospital Project, Argnar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital, Karapettai, Kancheepuram	Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)	Detailed proposal is awaited from the State Govt.
		2. Purchase of medical equipment for 37 medical colleges and attached hospitals	Govt. of Finland	Forwarded to Deptt. of Economic Affairs for necessary funding
		3. Purchase of medical equipment for Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai		Under consideration
5.	Assam	Purchase of medical equipment for 3 medical colleges and 3 hospitals	Govt. of Finland	Under consideration
6.	Manipur	Purchase of medical equipment for State level hospital of 200 beds; 7 district hospitals and 5 CHCs	Govt. of Finland	Under consideration
7.	Kerala	Purchase of Linear Accelerator for Regional Cancer Centre, Thruvananthapuram	Japanese Debt. Relief Grant	Rs. 5 crores has already been allocated through Department of Economic Affairs
8.	Maharashtra	Purchase of Medical Equipment for medical colleges and Civil Hospitals	Japanese Debt. Relief Grant	Under consideration
9.	Govt. of NCT of Delhi	Proposal for grants for three hospitals - GB Pant Hospital, GTB Hospital and LN Hospital	Japanese assistance	Under consideration

Sale/Purchase of Photocopier Papers

5553. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Kendriya Bhandar has been selling photocopier paper of different brands for the last number of years and of late it was detected that the purchase and selling rates thereof were much higher than the open market consequent to which they stooped selling some of the varieties of photocopier papers and withheld payment of suppliers amounting to nearly Rs. 75 lakhs giving the name of the supplier;

(b) if so, the details of the photocopier papers indicating sizes, brand names and the purchase rates in the last 12 months, month-wise and brand-wise and rate-wise purchased/sold by the Kendriya Bhandar;

(c) whether the matter was enquired into and any responsibility fixed giving the details thereof, if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Kendriya Bhandar has since invited open tenders for the purchase of photocopier papers;

(e) if so, the details of the response thereto indicating the brand name and rate selected, supplier-wise together with giving reasons for resorting to tender of branded items in contravention of the Purchase Policy; and

(f) the steps taken to eradicate the corruption in Kendriya Bhandar and to bring to book the officials responsible for spreading corruption and corrupt practices?

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) Kendriya Bhandar has been selling photocopier paper of different brand for a number of years. The procurement is made from the supplier after obtaining an undertaking from them that they shall not supply the goods at lower rate to any other customer as compared to the rates quoted to Kendriya Bhandar. Action is taken to enforce this clause against supplier if any such case comes to the notice of Kendriya Bhandar. It was detected that M/s Modi Xerox Corporation have sold photocopier paper at a rate lower than the rate quoted to Kendriya Bhandar and accordingly a sum of Rs. 60,19,822/- (not Rs. 75 lakhs) has been recovered from the dues payable to M/s Xerox Modi Corporation being the difference in rates.

(b) This information is being compiled.

(c) No comments in view of (a) above.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The selection process is yet to be completed.

(f) Whenever any complaint is received against the employee(s), action against them is taken after carrying out necessary enquiries/investigations. The Kendriya Bhandar has a post of CVO who independently investigates complaints & allegations of corruption.

[Translation]

National Missile Defence System

5554. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. has successfully test fired the National Missile Defence System on July 14, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is concerned with this test or system in any way;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the likely impact of this test fire on the international politics or defence system;

(f) whether India has conducted any study in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The US conducted an anti-missile test on July 14, 2001. An inter-continental ballistic missile with a dummy warhead and one decoy was launched from the Vandenburg Air-Force Base in the US. A ground-launched

interceptor missile was then fired from a US test range in the Marshall Islands. Using hit-to-kill technology, this interceptor missile successfully rammed into the incoming missile and destroyed it.

(c) to (g) This test forms part of a series of tests planned by the United States which will have a bearing on the projects that may be taken up in connection with the missile defence proposal. As regards the impact of the US plans for a missile defence system, consultations and dialogues have been under way between the United States and concerned States including Russia. A special envoy of the US President had also visited India in May this year for such consultations.

The precise details about the proposed system have still not been spelt out.

[English]

ICCR Office and Cultural Centres

5555. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has a number of offices and cultural centres in the Caribbean area of Latin America;

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

(c) the details of activities carried out by them;

(d) whether any monitoring of their activities is done from time to time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Council is maintaining Indian Cultural Centers in Georgetown (Guyana), Paramaribo (Suriname) and Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago).

(c) The major activities of these Centres are imparting training in Indian languages, music, dance and yoga; organising lectures, talks, panel discussions and seminars on Indian history, arts and culture; hosting cultural troupes from India and implementation of the scholarship schemes of the Council.

(d) and (e) The Council continuously monitors and reviews the activities of these Cultural Centres with a view to make the functioning of the Centres more effective. For this purpose, the Council has instituted a system of monthly reporting by the Centres on their activities. The Council also undertakes special review of functioning of these Centres in consultation with our Heads of Missions in these countries.

Sale of INS Sharda

5556. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell Offshore Petrol Vessel (OPV) INS Sharda to Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the terms thereof;

(c) whether Indian Navy have adequate ships to petrol large coast line of India; and

(d) if not, the reasons the arriving at such a decision?

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

(b) In view of the answer at (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) in view of the reply at (c) above, the question does not arise.

Meeting of Group-20

5557. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is likely to host for the first time the meeting of the Group of 20 developed and developing countries later this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the agenda for talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. India will be hosting the third meeting of the Group of 20 (G-20) Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in New Delhi on 17-18 November 2001.

(c) The agenda has not been finalized.

CGHS Dispensaries

5558. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue instructions for functioning of some CGHS dispensaries in evening shift in Delhi & Maharashtra during current financial year to enable beneficiaries to make proper utilization of health services;

(b) if so, the names of places identified; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no proposal at present to start some (CGHS) dispensaries in the evening shift in Delhi and Maharashtra.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) Starting of evening shift in CGHS dispensaries requires creation of new posts as per the norms fixed in the SIU Report of November, 1999, the implementation of which has become sub-judice as CAT Principal Bench, New Delhi vide order in OA No. 1030/2001 has stayed the implementation of the recommendations contained in the said SIU report. Therefore, it will not be possible for the Government to consider starting evening shift in CGHS dispensaries at present.

Study on Vitamin A

5559. SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted study to find out the impact of two doses of Vitamin A Supplementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the policy on Vitamin A recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Extensive clinical and field trials conducted earlier by the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad indicated that 2,00,000 IU of Vitamin A in oil miscible form, when given orally to children between 1-5 years of age not only prevented keratomalacia but also reduced the prevalence of bitot Spots by as much as 75 per cent. A large five-year, longitudinal field trial, covering over 60,000 children from the slum areas of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, reveals that six monthly administration of massive oral doses of Vitamin A brings down the incidence of corneal xerophthalmia by 80 per cent. Repeat surveys of National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau conducted in the same villages of 8 States indicated that there is a decline in the prevalence of Bitot's Sposts in preschol children from 1.8 per cent in 1975-79 to 0.7 per cent in 1996-97.

(c) and (d) Government had organised a National Consultation with experts on Benefits and Safety of Administration of Vitamin A to Pre-school children and Pregnant and Lactating Women in September 2000. The Consultation, inter-alia, concluded that the magnitude of clinical Vitamin A deficiency has declined significantly in the country but exists in scattered pockets. It was recommended that the current practice of administering five doses of Vitamin A to children between the age of 9 months and 3 years should be continued. It was recommended that pregnant/lactating women with symptoms of night blindness should be treated with appropriate dose of Vitamin A. For sustainable elimination of Vitamin A deficiency, production and consumption of Vitamin A rich foods must be strongly promoted in the community, particularly among pregnant and lactating women and children. The Consultation recommended that administration of Vitamin A should not be linked with campaigns like the Pulse Polio immunization. Instead, alternative approaches may be adopted for improving Vitamin A coverage.

Tuberculosis Research Centre

5560. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any new measures to improve the Tuberculosis Research Centre at Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the projects carried out at the Centre and amount allocated, disbursed and utilized for the same during each of the last three years, project-wise;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the financial assistance to the Tuberculosis Research Institute, Chennai; 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.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The projects carried out at the Centre and amount allocated, disbursed and utilised during each of the last three years is given in the statement attached.

(d) and (e) ICMR has no plans at present to increase financial assistance to TRC, Chennai, which is a research centre under ICMR.

Statement

The details of the project carried out at the TRC, Chennai and amount allocated, disbursed and utilized during each of the last 3 years.

Year	Name of the Project	Amount Allocated Rs.	Amount Disbured Rs.	Amount Utilised Rs.
1998-99				
	Drug Resistance Surveillance	8,24,000/-	8,24,000/-	7,42,295/-
	Grant-in-aid for construction of New Patient Care and Clinical Reserach	50,00,000/-	50,00,000/-	50,00,000/-
1999-2000	Nodal training of microbiologists as Nodal trainers for RNTCP.	6,36,900	6,36,900	3,90,666
2000-01	Protocol development Workshop for HIV/TB	3,60,000	3,60,000	2,82,120
	For conducting modular Training of DTO & STO	3,30,500	3,30,500	2,71,268

Outreach Programmes

5561. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a reduction in the outreach programmes for the mentally handicapped children of the country in the years 2000-2001 and the current year;

(b) whether the Government have monitored such activities and assessed the needs to be done to increase the tempo of such outreach programmes;

(c) the number of programmes held outside the State Capitals by the concerned institutes in 2000-2001;

(d) whether funding is a strong constraint in responding to such demands; and

(e) the steps taken to assist in reaching out to mentally handicapped children?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 32 camps were organised by the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad during 2000-2001 through outreach programme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Steps taken by Government for the development of persons with disabilities, including mentally disabled children, include supply of aids and appliances and provision of education, training and rehabilitation services through National Institutes, Composite Rehabilitation Centers, District Disability Rehabilitation Centers and Non-Governmental Organisations and grant of soft loan for income generating activities through National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. For safeguarding interests and promoting the development of persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiply disabilities and their families a National Trust has been set up.

Grants to NGOs

5562. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to reduce the grants to Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) working for disabled;

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

(c) the steps taken to encourage and help NGOs working in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Scheme titled Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities enables the voluntary sector to take up welfare projects in the area of education, training and rehabilitation of the Disabled. Under the Scheme eligible organizations can apply for financial assistance for setting up special schools, vocational training centers, sheltered workshops, day care centers, rehabilitation centers providing therapeutic and counseling services, placement services for the disabled persons. Homes and vocational training centers for persons cured of leprosy are also supported.

The reduction or enhancement of amount of grant to non-governmental organization in any year depends, interalia, upon a number of factors such as no. of beneficiaries found present, the budget estimates of the organisation and recommendation of the inspecting agency on various cost items, extent of utilisation of grant of previous years, compliance of documentary and other informational requirements, actual expenditure, availability of budget under the Scheme and changes in parameters, etc.

The effort towards encouragement of the voluntary sector is seen from the growth in the expenditure under the Scheme and the NGOs assisted. During 97-98 the total disbursement under the earlier versions of the Scheme was around Rs. 20 crores released to around 400 organizations. The expenditure has grown to around Rs. 62 crores spread over around 534 organizations during 2000-01.

Suppliers of Tube Lights and Bulbs

5563. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to have competitive prices, limited tenders were invited from the already registered suppliers by the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) whether a limited tender was invited from amongst the already registered suppliers of electrical tube lights and bulbs to be opened at 3 p.m. on 22.6.2001;

(c) whether the said tender was not opened at the appointed time and date;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and what are the orders issued by the concerned department in this regard and were the suppliers informed in advance of the reasons for not opening the tender, if not why;

(e) whether it is also a fact that in order to consider the proposal for registration of a new supplier, the opening of the tender was delayed; and

(f) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter for violating the provisions of the tender?

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) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The opening date for the tender was fixed on 22.6.2001. Prior to the date of opening of tenders it came to the notice of the Kendriya Bhandar that DGS&D recently concluded a tender in which the prices were lower than that the approved rates of some of the

suppliers of Kendriya Bhandar. Hence, with a view to generate more competition, it was decided to allow more reputed brands to compete and accordingly the opening date of tender was extended to 9.7.2001. The suppliers were intimated regarding the postponement, and opening of the tender on 9.7.2001. The postponement is permissible under the Rules.

(e) No, Sir. The postponement was due to the reasons given in part (d) above.

(f) Does not arise.

Stipend to Physically Handicapped, Primary School Students

5564. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether stipends are being given to physically handicapped students at Primary and Upper Primary level from the Central Government;

(b) if so, the amount per month per child and the amount spent on number of such physically handicapped students during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the State Governments are awarding additional stipends for such physically handicapped students;

(d) if so, the names of the States and stipend per child per month;

(e) whether the Government are aware of the fact that due to difficult and expensive system of medical examination many physically handicapped students are being deprived of stipends in some States;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to direct the State Governments to send a team of medical officers from the nearest PHC to each Primary School in the beginning of the academic session each year to examine students and issue certificates of eligibility for stipend; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Most of the State Governments/UT Administrations have schemes providing for scholarship/ stipend to students with disabilities in Classes I to VIII. The rate of scholarship/stipend differs from State to state ranging from Rs. 5.00 to Rs. 200.00 per month.

(e) to (g) Detailed guidelines for evaluation of various disabilities and issue of disability certificates have been issued and are uniformally applicable to all States/UTs.

Mental Health Act

5565. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Mental Health Act to provide fundamental rights to the persons suffering from mental diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith progress made in this regard;

(c) whether several requests have been received by the Government from various NGOs in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision is likely to be effective in all respects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. Adequate provisions exist under the Mental Health Act, 1987, which came into effect from Ist April, 1993, to safe guard the fundamental rights of the persons suffering from mental illness.

Study and Collection of Indian Medicines

5566. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up any Organisation to collect all potential native medicines and herbal remedies through a country-wide programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which Indian remedy system has been mapped out; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to establish more facilities in this regard?

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

and (b) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) and Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), autonomous organizations fully funded by the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine Homoeopathy have been documenting tribal and folk knowledge relating to the medicinal use of plants. The CCRAS collected 6000 folklore claims out of which it has published information on 2600 folklores. The CCRUM has collected 6500 folklore claims.

(c) and (d) So far such claims have been collected from Sixteen States. This is an on-going programme which seeks to document information on folklores not so far documented.

Scheme for Parents of Mentally Handicapped Children

5567. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to assist associations of parents of mentally handicapped children;

(b) if so, the details and objectives of such Schemes; and

(c) the funds allocated for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) is implementing a scheme for financial assistance to parents association to take up income generating activities for the benefit of mentaliy retarded persons. Such activities will be managed by the association voluntarily. To become eligible for a loan the parents association with, a minimum of ten families, should be registered for at least three years and should not be a defaulter in respect of loans availed from Central/State Governments or any financial institutions in the public sector, banks, etc.

Under the scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities, assistance is provided to NGOs including parents organizations for running projects in the areas of education, training and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities including mentally retarded children.

(c) There is no separate allocation of funds for parents associations under the above schemes.

Selection in Kendriya Bhandar

5568. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are different sources from where the officers in the Kendriya Bhandar are elected;

(b) if so, the number of officers and the sources from which they have been recruited, brought etc;

(c) what is the provision for their recruitment in the byelaws of the Kendriya Bhandar;

(d) how many of the officer are on deputation, from where since when, for how long and the reasons for either cutting short the deputation period or extending that;

(e) the number of officers with details recruited locally giving the reasons thereof;

(f) whether there is any proposal to take officers from the Central Government on deputation and relieving all others; and

(g) if not, the reasons 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) Four officers are presently working with Kendriya Bhandar on deputation basis as shown below:

S.No.	Designation	Source
1.	MD	IAS, MP, cadre
2.	DGM (F&A)	IA&AS, CAG
3.	AGM(S)	ISS DGS & D
4.	A O-I	Controller General of Accts. under M/Finance

(c) As per byelaws of Kendriya Bhandar, officers of the rank of AO-I and above are recruited on deputation basis. Board of Directors, Kendriya Bhandar is the competent authority for their appointment.

(d) Four officers are on deputation as per the details given in the enclosed statement-I.

(e) Six officers have been recruited locally as per the details given in enclosed statement-II.

(f) and (g) Kendriya Bhandar recruits officers from Central Government on deputation when required. Since the affairs of the society are being managed efficiently and properly by the existing officers borrowed from different services recruited locally, there is no proposal at present to relieve them.

Statement-I

Officers on Deputation

S. No.	Name	Designation	Date of Joining
1.	Dr. Sudarshan Synghal, IAS	M.D	19.7.1999
2.	Shri A.K. Sobti, IAS	DGM (F&A)	01.11.2000
3.	Shri D.K. Singh, ISS	AGM (S)	01.07.1997
4.	Shri Dilip Kumar	AO-I	28.5.2001

Note: Extension of deputation tenure in respect of one officer (Shri D.K. Singh) has been given in the 5th year by the Board of Directors as the officer has been doing excellent work. All other officers have not yet completed their initial period of deputation.

Statement-II

Officers Recruited Locally

S. No.	Name	Designation	Date of Joining KB
1.	Shri R.K. Singh	DGM	30.09.1997
2.	Shri Sanjay Gupta	CAO	28.06.1996
3.	Smt. Tankamony Pillai	AO-II	16.10.1992
4.	Shri Navneet Tayal	AO-III	21.06.1999
5.	Shri S.A. Alishah	Engaged on contract basis	16.01.2001
6.	Shri S.P. Sharma	-do-	16.01.2001

Note: All these officers were recruited to look after the work of various divisions of Kendriya Bhandar.

Purchase Policy of Kendriya Bhandar

5569. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 4718 dated 18.4.2001 and state:

(a) whether there is no provision in the purchase policy of the Kendriya Bhandar to call tenders in respect of branded item-tenders can be floated only in respect of items where brand name is not relevant;

(b) whether tender for branded items have been floated recently;

(c) if so, the details of brand names of articles in which the tender have been invited giving the outcome of the tender and the reasons for calling that;

(d) whether the authorities are jumping their limits and what action is proposed to be taken against them and to fix responsibility and accountability of them;

(e) the steps taken that the authorities do not surpass their limits; and

(f) the number of letters received by the Members of Parliament against the highhandedness of the authorities in the Bhandar in the last one year and the action 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) No Sir. The purchase policy does mention that for branded items Kendriya Bhandar will approach manufacturers but where are a number of competing brands for same/similar items, Kendriya Bhandar calls for tenders from manufacturers and/or authorised distributors in order to generate competition and obtain the best prices for the consumers. This deviation is permitted under the purchase policy as amended from time to time.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The details are shown in the enclosed statement.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

(f) Number of letters have been received from Members of Parliament regarding the functioning of Kendriya Bhandar and in many cases replies have also been sent after ascertaining the facts. Information regarding letters received during last one year relating to highhandedness of the authorities is being collected.

Statement

The comparative statement of UPS showing existing approved rate inclusive of K.B. margin and rate approved against the limited tender is as under:—

Description of item	Range of last rate (Rs.)		Rates approved against the tender (Rs.)
	from	to	
1 2	3	4	5
1. 150 VA	1505	1635	1417.00
2. 250 VA	2028	2384	1995.00
3. 400 VA	2512	2997	2520.00
4. 500 VA	3446	3962	3517.00
5. 1000 VA	6812	7442	6562.00
6. 1500 VA	9195	10361	8925.00
7. 2000 VA	10899	14225	11287.00
8. 3000 VA	17423	18785	17850.00
9. 5000 VA	23159	29031	26250.00
Voltage Stabilizer (Single Phase) Servo control Voltage stabilizer			
1. 1.0 KVA	4799	5654	4725.00
2. 2.0 KVA	5314	6260	5355.00
3. 3.0 KVA	6250	7363	5880.00
4. 5.0 KVA	7446	8773	7560.00
5. 7.5 KVA	11563	13623	11130.00
6. 10.0 KVA	16189	19073	14700.00
7. 15.0 KVA	24522	—	21315.00
8. 25.0 KVA	32096	—	32413.00
Line Interactive offline UPS System			
300 VA	6812	—	4704.00
500 VA	8855	—	5460.00

1	2	3	4	5
	625 VA	9877	—	6615.00
	1.0 KVA	12261	—	11340.00
	1.5 KVA	—	—	6695.00
	2.0 KVA	—	—	22575.00
	3.0 KVA	—	—	Not quoted
	4.0 KVA	—	—	Not quoted
	5.0 KVA	—	—	Not quoted

Description of item	Range of last rate (Rs.)		Rates approved against the tender (Rs.)
	from	to	
1 2	3	4	5
Sealed Maintenance Free Batteries			
1. 12 Volts-7	954	1132	735.00
Ah	2044	2572	1732.00
2. 12 Volts-15 AH/17AH	2725	3189	2362.00
3. 12 Volts-26 AH	4087	5343	3675.00
4. 12 Volts 40 AH	6812	9261	5250.00
5. 12 Volts 65 AH	10004	10898	7717.00
6. 12 Volts-100 AH			
UPS online Without Battery			
0.5 KVA	16117	17029	16800.00
1 KVA	27454	32015	22579.00
2 KVA	39097	49097	33163.00
3 KVA	68117	72135	39513.00
5 KVA 10 to 10	95364	104630	66326.00

1		2	3	4
7.5 KVA 10 to 10		122611	138769	77616.00
7.5 KVA 30 to 10		–	–	102900.00
10 KVA 10 to 10		149858	192122	98784.00
10 KVA 30 to 10		–	–	139650.00
10 KVA 30 to 10		–	–	159600.00
15 KVA 30 to 10		–	–	183750.00
15 KVA 30 to 30		–	–	215250.00
20 KVA 30 to 10		–	–	247800.00
20 KVA 30 to 30		–	–	294000.00
UPS offline Without Battery				
	15 Min	5858	–	4525.00
300VA	30 Min	5858	–	4525.00
	60 Min	5858	–	4525.00
	120 Min	5858	–	4525.00
	15 Min	6429	8960	4525.00
500VA	30 Min	6429	8960	4525.00
	60 Min	6429	8960	5670.00
	120 Min	6429	8960	6090.00
	15 Min	8670	8970	5680.00
625VA	30 Min	8670	8970	5680.00
	60 Min	8670	8970	6930.00
	120 Min	8670	8970	7455.00
	15 Min	10543	12971	9471.00
IKVA	30 Min	10543	12971	9471.00
	60 Min	10543	12971	11970.00

1	2	3	4	5
	120 Min	10543	12971	11995.00
1.25KVA	15 Min	13230	15728	11655.00
	30 Min	13230	15728	11655.00
	60 Min	13230	15728	13125.00
	120 Min	13230	15728	13125.00
1.5KVA	15 Min	20897	21323	13891.00
	30 Min	20897	21323	13891.00
	60 Min	20897	21323	17220.00
	120 Min	20897	21323	18270.00

UPS offline Without Battery		Range of last rate From to		Rates approved against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
2KVA	15 Min	27232	27788	19950.00
	30 Min	-	-	19950.00
	60 Min	-	-	19950.00
	120 Min	-	-	19950.00
3KVA	15 Min	-	-	32550.00
	30 Min	-	-	32550.00
	60 Min	-	-	32550.00
	120 Min	-	-	32550.00
4 KVA	15 Min	-	-	37800.00
	30 Min	-	-	37800.00
	60 Min	-	-	37800.00
	120 Min	-	-	37800.00
5KVA	15 Min	-	-	44000.00
	30 Min	-	-	44000.00
	60 Min	-	-	44000.00
	120 Min	-	-	44000.00

Inverter Without Battery		Rates approved against tender (Rs.)
1		2
500 VA	30 Min	5504.00
	60 Min	5504.00
	120 Min	5504.00
625 VA	30 Min	7056.00
	60 Min	7056.00
	120 Min	7056.00
IKVA	30 Min	9878.00
	60 Min	9878.00
	120 Min	9878.00
1.25 KVA	30 Min	11995.00
	60 Min	11995.00
	120 Min	11995.00
2 KVA	30 Min	16934.00
	60 Min	16934.00
	120 Min	16934.00
3 KVA	30 Min	33516.00
	60 Min	33516.00
	120 Min	33516.00
4 KVA	30 Min	39028.00
	60 Min	39028.00
	120 Min	39028.00
5 KVA	30 Min	51156.00
	60 Min	51156.00
	120 Min	51156.00

Bulbs and Tube Lights

The comparative statement of bulbs and tube lights showing earlier rates and rates now against the limited tender opened on 9.7.2001.

Item	Philips		ECE		Wipro		Crompton Greaves		Osram		Cona		Mysore	
	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
100 Watt Bulb	9.84	9.84	8.35	7.34	7.79	7.79	-	7.89	-	7.89	-	-	8.70	7.78
50 Watt Bulb	9.02	9.02	8.35	7.17	7.37	7.37	-	7.67	-	7.67	-	-	8.50	7.78
40 Watt Bulb	9.02	9.02	7.88	7.17	7.37	7.37	-	7.67	-	7.67	-	-	8.50	8.00
Tube light 4"	42.39	42.39	36.87	32.75	35.50	35.50	-	36.84	-	36.84	-	-	40.00	35.08
Tube light 2"	40.65	40.65	36.87	32.75	34.73	34.40	-	36.84	-	36.84	-	-	38.70	35.90
Fitting 4"	-	161.50	-	159.12	144.05	144.05	-	-	-	-	149.04	162.50	168.25	154.00
Fitting 2"	-	148.75	-	-	144.05	144.05	-	-	-	-	-	158.91	114.40	154.00
Chock 40	140.25	140.25	106.46	106.46	117.25	117.25	-	-	-	-	91.80	111.74	-	105.00
Chock 20	137.95	131.75	106.46	106.46	70.35	70.35	-	-	-	-	-	111.74	-	105.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Starter 40 W	8.50	8.50	5.56	5.56	8.04	8.04	-	-	-	-	6.30	5.84	6.00	5.30
Starter 20 W	-	13.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.84	-	10.50

Pens

The comparative statement of Pen showing existing rate and rate against the limited tender opened on 23.7.2001 is as under:

Reynolds Pens

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates (Rs.)	Rates against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ball Pen Reynolds 040	4.33	4.23
2.	Ball Pen Reynold 0.45	5.32	5.09
3.	Ball Pen 0.45 Define Reynolds	8.20	8.48
4.	Ball Pen 0.45 Agya Reynolds	6.21	5.94
5.	W.B.M. (Medium) Reynolds	17.17	17.17
6.	Permanent Marker (Medium) Reynolds	12.82	12.56
7.	Permanent Marker (Jumbo) Reynolds	17.17	17.21
8.	Pen Jotter Reynolds	14.86	14.42
9.	Jotter Ball Pen Roller Tek Reynolds	20.86	20.86
10.	Jotter Ball Pen Tek Point Reyonlds	33.38	33.38
11.	Jotter Bal Pen-Aeroller Reynolds	33.38	33.38
12.	Highlighters Reynolds	12.82	12.82
13.	Sketch Pen (Artoons Medium) Reynolds (Set of 12 Pcs)	52.31	57.58

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates (Rs.)	Rates against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
	Cello		
1.	Ball Pen Crystal Cello	4.45	3.25
2.	Pointeck Gell Cello	12.95	12.75
3.	Ball Pen Gripper Cello (Gripper-II)	5.96	5.00
	Rotomac		
1.	Ball Pen Rotomac Fine 07 TC Ball	4.50	3.66
2.	Rotomac Mirror	2.40	2.20
3.	Rotomac Speed Ball Pen	13.00	11.90
4.	Jotter Pen Rotomac Fighter	12.50	10.58
	Add Ge		
1.	Add Gel Pingel 300	21.28	21.25
2.	Add Gel Ball Pen LF-100	8.53	8.50
3.	Add Gel Ball Pen Pg-500	23.76	23.80
	Luxor		
1.	Pilot pen V-5 Luxur (No. 810)	30.04	30.04
2.	Pilot Hi-Tech Luxor 801 Point	19.23	19.23

1	2	3	4
3.	Pilot Pen V-5 Luxor (No. 811)	28.85	28.85
4.	Highlighter 5 No. Set Luxor (No. 886)	57.70	57.70
5.	OHP Market Luxor (No. 968)	62.39	62.39
6.	Sketch Pen 920 Fibre Tip Set of 12 Assorted Color Pens packed in a plastic walled Luxor (No. 920)	40.38	40.38
Kores			
1.	Ball Pen Script Fine Kores (Black/Blue/Red Colours)	Rs. 4.42	Rs. 4.53
Flair			
1.	Ball Pen Half Steel	13.76	12.74
2.	Flair 210 Hi-lighter Pen	12.84	11.76
3.	Jotter refill Blue/Black/Red	6.42	5.39
Kebica			
1.	Ball Pen Holder-906 (VIP)	3.39	3.39
2.	Ball Pen Holder-950 Golden VIP	9.70	9.70
3.	Ball Pen 951	11.64	11.64
4.	Ball Pen 930	5.88	5.88
5.	Jotter Refill metal	3.63	4.12

Note: The rates are under finalisation.

Photocopier Paper

The comparative statement of Photocopier Paper showing earlier rate and rate received against the limited tender opened on 22.5.2001 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Supplier's Name	Approved brand in K. Bhandar	Existing rate (Rs.)	Brand Offer	Rate received against tender dt: 22.5.2001 (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s Gateway Speciality Paper Limited	—	—	Esquire	44.99/Kg.
2.	M/s Goyal Sales Corporation	Esquire	44.99/Kg.	Image	41.18/Kg.
3.	M/s Peeekay Paper Enterprises	Hi-Brite	49.43/Kg.	H-Brite	49.43/Kg.
4.	M/s M.C. Paper Pvt. Ltd.	Exact	62.72/Kg.	Exact	61.65/Kg.

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	M/s Usha Fertilizer	JK brand	47.70/Kg.	JK Brand JK Easy brand	47.70/Kg. 42.33/Kg.
6.	M/s Gateway Paper Pvt. Limited	—	—	Swastik Director	44.50/Kg.
7.	M/s Raj Dealers & Distributor	Andhra Millenium	45.57/Kg.	Andhra Millenium	45.57/Kg.
8.	M/s India Paper Converter			Royal Megnum Century Andhra Bilt Power JK Brand	35.20/Kg. 41.50/Kg. 42.40/Kg. 43.30/Kg. 46.00/Kg.
9.	M/s Priyadarshani	Impression	55.05/Kg.	Impression	44.21/Kg.
10.	M/s Swaroop Paper Agency	Century	44.02/Kg	Century	43.33/Kg.
11.	M/s Karam Chand Thaper	Copy Power	44.13/Kg.	Copy Power Image Copier Globus Megnum	44.13/Kg. 38.32/Kg. 53.15/Kg.

Corruption in Kendriya Bhandar

5570. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Chairman Kendriya Bhandar is to approve the introduction of new suppliers and new items;

(b) if so, the details of the new suppliers and new items that were not approved by the Chairman during 2001;

(c) whether Crompton Greaves was not approved by the Chairman but was approved by the General Manager;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the action proposed to be taken against the General Manager;

(e) the date on which did Crompton Greaves registered in the Kendriya Bhandar and on which date was a tender from for calling limited tender from amongst the registered dealer invited from them;

(f) the reasons for registering Crompton Greaves and were their rates lower than the existing suppliers of those items; and

(g) whether under hand tactics and corruption played once again the role in the Kendriya Bhandar?

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) The proposal to introduce Non ISI Fire Extinguishers (M/s Cascade Counsel Techn. Pvt. Ltd), Line & Uni-Ball Pen (M/s Alm Trades), Toshiba Photocopier Machine (M/s. HCL Infosystems Ltd.) etc. were not approved by the Chairman, Kendriya Bhandar during the year 2001.

(c) No, Sir. The proposal was approved by the Chairman.

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

(e) The tender form to Crompton Greaves was issued on 2nd July, 2001 against the proposal dated 18.6.2001 and the tender was opened on 9th July 2001. The firm have submitted the registration form on 20.8.2001 and has now been registered. No supply have been made by them so far.

(f) It had come to the notice of Kendriya Bhandar that DGS & D had recently concluded a rate contract where the prices were lower than that of some suppliers of Kendriya Bhandar. Thus Crompton Greaves, who held the DGS&D rate contract and are a reputed supplier was also asked to quote. Three other new suppliers also quoted. This generated healthy competition. The rates of the earlier suppliers and rates now received is as per the statement enclosed.

(g) Does not arise in view of reply (f) above.

Statement

Comparative Statement showing Rates of Bulbs and Tube Lights

Rates of Company

S. No.	Item	Philips		ECE		Wipro		Crompton Greaves	
		Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now
1.	100 Watt Bulb	9.84	9.84	8.35	7.34	7.79	7.79	—	7.89
2.	50 Watt Bulb	9.02	9.02	8.35	7.17	7.37	7.37	—	7.67
3.	40 Watt Bulb	9.02	9.02	7.88	7.17	7.37	7.37	—	7.67
4	Tube light 4"	42.39	42.39	36.87	32.75	35.50	35.50	—	36.84
5.	Tube light 2"	40.65	40.65	36.87	32.75	34.73	34.40	—	33.11

Registered Suppliers of Tube Lights and Bulbs

5571. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kendriya Bhandar invited limited tender from amongst the existing registered supplier of tube lights and bulbs for getting competitive rates to be opened at 3 p.m. on June 22, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the tender was not opened on that date and time;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) on which date the tender was opened and what has been the outcome thereof;

(e) what are the procedures for opening of tenders and can the opening of the tenders be delayed and if so under what circumstances;

(f) whether the opening of tenders was delayed to help consider the proposal of another supplier to let him take part in a bid to be floated again and not considering the proposal of the supplier offering the OSRAM India (Germany) tubelights and bulbs on DGS&D rate contract months and year before; and

(g) if so, the reasons thereof and is there any proposal to ask the Central Bureau of Investigation to enquire into the scandal and corruption that is rampant high in the Kendriya Bhandar?

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) Yes, Sir.

(c) To generate healthy competition among the suppliers, other reputed brands were also allowed to participate in limited tender and accordingly the opening date was extended to 9th July, 2001. The suppliers were informed of the postponement of the opening of the tender verbally as well as in writing.

(d) The tender was opened on 9th July, 2001. One of the suppliers reduced the rates consequent to the floating of this tender enquiry. His earlier prices and the new rates quoted by him are given below.

S.no.	Item Description	Last approved rate (Rs.)	Quoted rate in tender dated 9.7.2001 (Rs.)
1.	100 Watt Bulb	Rs. 8.35	Rs. 7.34
2.	60 Watt Bulb	Rs. 8.35	Rs. 7.34
3.	40 Watt Bulb	Rs. 7.88	Rs. 7.17
4.	Tube Light	Rs. 36.87	Rs. 32.75

(e) Yes, Sir. This is permissible under the purchase policy adopted by Kendriya Bhandar.

(f) No Sir. OSRAM Brand was also accommodated in a similar fashion.

(g) Does not arise in view of reply to (f) above.

Medical Courses

5572. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not approved the medical courses completed by the medical students in some medical colleges in the country, especially in Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Maharashtra Institute of Medical Education & Research, Talegaon (Pune) and the Academy of Medical Sciences, Pariyaram, Kannur have been permitted by the Medical Council of India to start MBBS course under Section 10A of the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 but have not yet been recognised by the Medical Council of India due to certain deficiencies in these institutions. The Medical Council of India have carried out an inspection of both these institutions on 16th & 17th July 2001 for verification of the compliance report. The recommendations of Medical Council of India for recognition of these institutions are awaited.

Compassion for Living Creatures

5573. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are bound by Article 51(g) of Constitution to frame policies/programmes/projects to preserve ecology and compassion for living creatures;

(b) if so, whether the killing of animals, birds, fishery, not violate the constitution and that too by giving subsidies/grants by Union Government and other agencies like APEDA; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken for compliance of Constitutional provision in all economic and other policies?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying) and Ministry of Commerce (Deptt. of Commerce) have been requested to ensure the compliance of the Constitutional provision under Article 51(g) to preserve ecology and compassion for living creatures.

Irregularities in Store Depot

5574. SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officers-in-charge of CGHS store depots have been staying in their present positions for the last seven-eight years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints against those officers-in-charge during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken/ proposed to be taken against such guilty officials?

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

and (b) No, Sir. However, Dr. Kishori Lal, Officer In-charge, CGHS Ayurvedic Store Depot, Delhi had been posted to the Depot on 16.2.95.

(c) and (d) A complaint has been received against Dr. Kishori Lal, officer In-charge, CGHS Ayurvedic Store Depot, Delhi regarding irregularities in the purchase of Ayurvedic medicines and the same is under investigation.

[Translation]

Alpha Cyper Mithring

5575. SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give permission to the use of Alpha Cyper Mithrig developed by a multi-national company in the end of the year 1998, for the eradication of malaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to give permission to use other similar quality products which are comparatively cheaper; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Under the National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) only those insecticides which are registered with the Central Insecticide Board (CIB), are permitted to be used. The insecticide Alpha Cyper Methrin 5% wdp was registered with the Central Insecticide Board in the year 2000.

[English]

Legislation on Chemical Laboratories

5576. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are in the process of notifying a legislation to make registration of Chemical Laboratories Compulsory;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith salient features of the legislation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per the information received from Department of Science and Technology they have no programme of registering Chemical Laboratories. Also there is no separate proposal under consideration of the Government to make any legislation in this regard under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Rule 150-B of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 requires approval/registration of Institutes by the State Licensing Authorities for carrying out tests on Drugs and Cosmetics as well as raw materials used in their manufacture on behalf of licencees.

Homoeopathic Medicines

5577. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Homoeopathic Sub-Committee has recommended in the report to make Homoeopathic medicines available to the Public at non-homoeopathic counters;

(b) whether the Government are likely to call a meeting at national level of the representatives of the Homoeopathic associations to discuss this matter before going to take a final decision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) A draft notification was issued on 29th September, 2000 inviting objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected. After careful examination of suggestions etc. a final notification was issued on 28th March, 2001 permitting 49 drugs to be sold in all licensed pharmacies.

[Translation]

Illegal Detention of Children

5578. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the illegal detention of the children in various orphanages of Gujarat, Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of details of such cases detected by the Government since January, 2000 till date alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) whether these orphanages are getting grants and other assistance from the Government;

(d) the details of the grant and other assistance given during each of the last three years; and

(e) the concrete steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government to keep a check on such illegal activities going on in orphanages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) There is no report of illegal detention of children in orphanages in the country as per information available with the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no specific scheme for grant-in-aid for orphanages under the Ministry. However, there is a scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to promote in-country Adoption, wherein grant is given to Sishu for promoting In-country adoption. State-wise statement of grants given in last 3 years is enclosed.

(e) The Ministry has been issuing circulars from time to time to all the State Governments to take necessary steps to prevent mismanagement of Adoption Agencies and Homes. These include:

(i) Licensing of all Residential Homes & setting up of state adoption unit.

(ii) Joint inspection by State Government and CARA of orphanages and agencies.

(iii) Enforcement of Orphanages & other Charitable Homes Act-1960.

(iv) Monitoring of adoption activities in the context of recent happenings in Andhra Pradesh.

Directives have also been issued to the concerned agencies and organizations to streamline their activities and adhere to the government guidelines in this respect.

Statement

(Central Adoption Resource Agency)

State-wise Release of the Grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisation for Homes (Shishu Greh) for Infants for promoting in-country adoption during the year 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001

S.No.	State/UT	Amount of Grant-in-Aid Sanctioned During the years (in rupees)		
		1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1		2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	931,121.00	2,148,600.00	872,250.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	375,300.00	600,000.00	583,200.00
3.	Delhi	1,198,181.00	1,064,400.00	177,314.00
4.	Gujarat	132,300.00	353,700.00	—
5.	Haryana	313,200.00	447,030.00	347,276.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	78,763.00
7.	Karnataka	339,750.00	496,800.00	496,800.00
8.	Kerala	121,500.00	698,400.00	449,072.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	297,900.00	600,000.00	600,000.00

1		2	3	4
10.	Maharashtra	4,316,636.00	5,711,645.00	7,628,700.00
11.	Manipur	Nil	99,000.00	456,300.00
12.	Mizoram	Nil	49,500.00	496,800.00
13.	Orissa	1,877,250.00	2,129,100.00	4,077,600.00
14.	Rajasthan	591,300.00	491,400.00	1,387,800.00
15.	Tamilnadu	1,244,938.00	716,850.00	583,200.00
16.	Tripura	375,600.00	599,400.00	583,200.00
17.	West Bengal	482,712.00	—	—
	Total	12,597,688.00	16,205,825.00	18,818,275.00

Curriculam of Information Technology

5579. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several institutions have demanded from the Government for enacting necessary laws for the private computer institutes running various curriculam of Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also contemplating to take control of such institutes in its hands;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, DOEACC Society, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Information Technology has a voluntary scheme under which institutions in the private sector are given accreditation to conduct DOEACC courses subject to their meeting well defined criteria in terms of faculty and infrastructure.

Inclusion of Castes in OBC

5580. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Backward Classes has decided to include the Jat-sikh of Rajasthan in the list of OBCs;

(b) if so, the date on which this decision was taken;

(c) whether Bishnoi have also separated from Jat like Sikh Jats;

(d) if so, whether Bishnoi are also proposed to be included in the list of OBCs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of other decisions taken by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) According to the Gazette Notification No. 241 dated 27-10-1999 'Jat' (except in Bharatpur and Dhaulpur Districts) has been included in the Central List of OBCs for Rajasthan as per the advice tendered by National Commission for Backward Classes. For the inclusion of any caste/community in the Central Lists of OBCs, there is no bar of religion. Persons professing any religion can be considered for inclusion in the Central Lists of OBCs provided they fulfil the criteria covering social, educational and economic aspects of backwardness.

(c) to (f) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) has considered the proposal to include 'Bishnoi' caste/community in the Central List of OBCs for Rajasthan and has recommended rejection of the requests for its inclusion.

[English]

Recruitment of Indian Nurses

5581. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Government are planning to sign an agreement to formalize recruitment of Indian nurses;

(b) if so, the terms conditions of this agreement and the time by which it would be signed;

(c) whether any security measures been incorporated against harassment of our nurses in UK hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No such communication from British Government has been received in this regard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New Drug

5582. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure being adopted for the permission of new drug alongwith the normal time taken for the grant of permission for the new drug; and

(b) the names of the new drugs for which permission has been granted during this year and what is the time taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Evaluation of a new drug application for market authorization is a complex process. Requirements are prescribed under rules 122 A to E and Schedule 'Y' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. The modalities include inter-alia initial evaluation of chemical and physical characteristics, animal toxicity, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of the drug, by the office of the DCG (I) and experts. Approval of protocols for clinical trials as well as data generated by various clinical trials, result of testing of new drug by the Central Government lab etc. is further examined. Certain Categories of the drugs viz. Anti-cancer, anti-AIDS etc. are examined on a fast track mode.

The time taken for evaluation of new drug applications varies according to the nature of the molecule/drug and the application. It may normally take more that five years of approval of an Investigation New Drug (a drug molecule not tested on human beings anywhere in the world), about 1-3 years for the first time approval of the drug already approved elsewhere and about 2-3 months for subsequent applications for already approved drugs. This is, however, subject to timely submission of all required data as per provision of Schedule 'Y' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.

(b) A list of New Drugs approved this year (1st January, 2001 to 30th June, 2001) is enclosed as statement.

Statement

New Drugs Approved by Drug Controller General (India) During the period January-2001 to 30th June 2001

S. No.	Name of the Drug	Category	Date of Receipt of Application	Date of Approval
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sildenafil Ctirate	Men Erectile dysfunction	2/6/1998	8/1/2001
2.**	Triflusalcaps 30 mg	Prevention of Thromboembolism	25/6/1996	17/1/2001

1	2	3	4	5
3.**	Thymosin Alfa 1 Inj.	Anti Hepa-B	28/10/1994	17/1/2001
4.*	Vinorelbin Tartrate Inj.	Anti Cancer	6/2/2000	17/1/2001
5.	Clopidogrel	Anti Platlet Aggregation Inhibitor	5/7/2000	2/2/2001
6. *	Indinavir Sulphate	Anti Aids	22/5/2000	1/2/2001
7.	Butenafine HCL cream 1%	Anti fungal	11/8/2000	14/2/2001
8.	Mitrazapine	Anti depression	10/4/2000	14/2/2001
9.	Doneprazal HCL	For Alzheirmer's D.	3/12/1998	20/3/2001
10.	Mosapride	Prokenetic agent	29/3/2000	13/3/2001
11.	Bupropion SR Tab. 150 mg.	Smoking cessation	12/7/2000	10/4/2001
12.	Reloxifen	Menopausal osteoporosis	13/10/1999	4/5/2001
13.*	Efavirenz 50/100/200 mg	Anti HIV	27/4/2000	6/6/2001
14.	Moxifloxacin	Anti bacterial	March 1997	26/6/2001
15.	Misoprostol	Anti ulcer	3/4/1997	21/6/2001
16.*	Nelfinavir	Anti HIV	22/12/2000	29/6/2001

* Anti cancer/anti AIDS or immunosuppressive drugs.

** Drugs referred to ICMR and experts

[Translation]

Firing on Indian Soldiers in Kashmir

5583. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists occupied a mosque in Kashmir on July 30, 2001 and opened fire on Indian soldiers killing and injuring some of them;

(b) whether the Indian soldiers killed the terrorists in retaliation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future; and

(e) the compensation paid to the soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (e) On 30th July 2001, three terrorists took shelter in a Ziarat adjacent to a mosque in village Goigam of Baramullah District. In the ensuing operation, all the three terrorists, later identified as Gulam Mustafa Khan, Zahoor Ahmed Zarar and Farooq Ahmed reportedly from Hizbul Mujahideen were killed. No Army personnel was killed. However, one Army personnel was wounded during the conduct of the operation.

All efforts have been made to educate the local population to dissuade the terrorists from taking shelter in religious places. Besides this, operational measures have also been instituted to prevent such misuse.

Local commanders are authorised to deal with each situation on a case to case basis.

[English]

Letters from Members

5584. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Members of Parliament have written to the MOS(PP) about enrolling more number of suppliers for the supply for similar items when neither the quality of their items is superior to the existing ones nor the sales figure warrant such additional enrolment and sought to know the reasons thereof and whether MOS(PP) has not replied the letters for more than six months;

(b) if so, the reasons for such inordinate delay in replying to letters and taking steps to check the corruption and corrupt practices in the Kendriya Bhandar;

(c) whether Crompton Greaves have further been enrolled as a supplier to supply the same items which three suppliers are already supplying and the rates of the Crompton Greaves are far more than the existing two;

(d) whether the file has not been cleared by the Chairman and yet they were enrolled;

(e) whether the registration formalities were completed after issue of tender enquiry meant for registered dealers only; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken against the general manager for showing favours to Crompton Greaves and ill-will to other supplier whose application was pending for year?

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. However, the fresh tenders were issued because it was felt that competition would result in lowering of prices and benefits to the consumer.

(b) Letters received from Members of Parliament receive the highest priority and every case is followed up individually. However, most letters also have policy implications and the policy laid down in this Department O.M. dated 14.7.1981 is under review. Hence there was some delay in replying in the past.

(c) Yes Sir. Crompton Greaves which is a reputed brand and is also on DGS&D rate contract had sent a request to participate in limited tender which was allowed to generate a healthy competition. The rate of Crompton Greaves bulbs as compared to other three suppliers are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir. The case has been approved by the Chairman.

(e) No, Sir. Registration formalities are completed only after approval of rates received against the limited tender enquiry among the registered and reputed suppliers.

(f) No favour has been shown by the General Manager, Kendriya Bhandar to M/s. Crompton Greaves. The introduction of M/s. Crompton Greaves has resulted in lowering of rates of competing brands and benefit to the consumer.

Statement

Comparative Statement Showing Rates of Bulbs and Tube Lights

S.No.	Item Description	Rates of Philips	Rates of ECE	Rates of Wipro	Rates of Crompton Greaves
1.	100 Watt Bulb	9.84	7.34	7.79	7.89
2.	60 Watt Bulb	9.02	7.17	7.37	7.67
3.	40 Watt Bulb	9.02	7.17	7.37	7.67
4.	Tube light 4"	42.39	32.75	35.50	36.84
5.	Tube light 2"	40.65	32.75	34.40	33.11

Central Adoption Resources Agency

5585. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Adoption Resources Agency (CARA) disbursed grants for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 to all the concerned Anathashrams of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the Shradanand Mahila Ashram and Vatsalaya Trust in Mumbai has not got the grants;

(c) whether any representation has been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that previous year's reasonable rational grants has not been sanctioned and disbursed till now;

(f) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the department so that these children of these orphanages need not suffer due to lack of co-ordination within the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) A statement on disbursement of grants under the Scheme of Assistance to Homes (Shishu Greh) for Children to Promote In-country Adoption' for the year 1999-00 and 2000-01 for the State of Maharashtra is enclosed.

(b) Vathasalya Trust, Mumbai has been released Rs. 11,66,400/- as grant in-aid for the year 1999-00 and 2000-01. With regard to Shraddhanand Mahila Ashram, they last applied and received grant under this scheme in the year 1995-96 and thereafter they have sent application for grant-in-aid for the year 2000-01 which is under examination.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has received representations from the Organisations and letters from Hon'ble members of Parliament for release of funds to them.

(e) to (g) Grant-in-aid for previous years is governed by rule no. 149(4) of the General Financial Rules, wherein grant-in-aid may be sanctioned to meet the expenditure already incurred not earlier than a year prior to the date of issue of the sanction. As such grant-in-aid for a period more than one year back would be time barred. Delay in disbursing of grant-in-aid may be attributed to late receipt of applications, inspection report of State Govt. and its recommendation, incomplete documents etc. The Ministry has been writting to all State Governments and grantee NGOs to submit their applications in time. Guidelines for submitting such applications within the prescribed time frame have also been issued by the Ministry in order to avoid delays and consequent time barred cases. In the case of Vathasalya Trust the request for grant-in-aid for previous years is under consideration.

Statement

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations (Under Shishu Greh Scheme)

Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	Financial Year	
		1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Adhar Ashram 491/6, Gharpure Ghat, Nashik-422 005 Tel. No.: 580309.	766,800.00	600,000.00
2.	Bal Vikas Mahila Mandal C/o Swa-Adhar Mahila Vastigarh, Sudarshan Colony, India Nagar, Latur-413 531 Tel: 44005	600,000.00	594,000.00

1	2	3	4
3.	People's Education Society Shri Shivaji Vidyalaya Road, Near Navjeevan Hospital Suvarna Nagar, Buldana - 443 001 Tel: 07262-42007	712,800.00	243,600.00
4.	Dnyan Gangotri Education Society Udgir - 413517, Distt. - Latur Tel: 54280	600,000.00	594,000.00
5.	Vatsalya Trust C/32, Shri Vijay Kung Co-op Housing Society, Near State Bank of India, Kanjur Village (East) Mumbai - 400 042 Tel: 578 2958, 579 498	—	1,166,400.00
6.	District Probation & After Care Association 1924/25, "Balkalyan Sankul", Mangalwarpeth, Kolhapur-416012 Tel: 0231 - 620 456, 622978 e-mail: balvikas@pn3.vsnl.net.in	138,186.00	—
7.	Sandhi Niketan Shikshan Sanstha Wadgaon, Tulaka-Mukhed, Distt. - Nanded Maharashtra - 431715 Tel: 02461-46148	745,200.00	494,100.00
8.	Patel Bahuudheshya Shikshan Sansthan Kondhali, Tehsil-Katol, District-Nagpur-441103	—	248,400.00
9.	Shrimati Narsabai Mahila Mandal Wadgaon Tq. Mukhed, Dl. Nanded, Maharashtra-431715.	—	1,020,600.00
10.	Priyadarshini Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Shanti Nagar Main Road, Chandrapur	606,750.00	410,400.00
11.	District Probation & After Care Association Obervation Home', Zarekar Galli, Near Sub. Jail, Ahmed Nagar -414 001 Tel: 0241-345 229, 342 949 e-mail: childcare15@hotmail.com	498,809.00	496,800.00
12.	Jyotiba Phule Seva Trust Laxmi Narayan Apartment, Flat No.-7, Vadia Factory Area, Shivaji Nagar, Nanded-2, Tel: -02462-35486	496,800.00	518,400.00

1	2	3	4
13.	Sh. Ganesh Shikshan Prasarak Mandal Priyadarshini Chowk, Khadgaon Road, Tehsil & District - Latur - 413 531 Tel: 42089, 21542	—	1,004,400.00
14.	Unatisheel Mahila Mandal "Ravi Bhawan", Kranti Nagar, Near Panchsheel School, Nanded-431 602 Tel: 51356	297,900.00	—
15.	Gramin Shaikshanik Va Sanskrutik Vikas Mandal Unique Shishu Greha, Chamorshi, Sumit Niwas, Tehsil Office Road, Hanuman Nagar Ward No. -1, At./Post/Tah. - Chamorshi, Distt. - Garhchiroli, Maharashtra -442 603 Tel: 07135-35451	—	237,600.00
	Total	5,463,245.00	7,628,700.00

[Translation]

44 Crore Ka Hisab

5586. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item appearing in the Hindi daily 'Hindustan' dated July 11, 2001 under the caption "Gair Sarkari Sangathanon ne 44 crore ka hisab nahi diya";

(b) if so, whether the Government have ascertained the facts thereof;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) the number of non-Governmental organisations which have not given their accounts to the Government;

(e) the names and locations of such organisations; and

(f) the action taken/being taken by the Government against these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) The Government is aware of pending settlement of accounts in respect of funds released to a number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) under different schemes of the Department of Family Welfare. Till the 8th Five Year Plan, the Department of Family Welfare used to entertain proposals from NGOs directly or through the State level Committees called SCOVA. The experience was that it was not always possible for the Ministry to monitor and scrutinize accounts of so many dispersed units. Many SCOVAs were not functioning and could not play the role of monitoring agencies at the State level.

Most of these pending cases pertain to the erstwhile Private Voluntary Organisations for Health (PVOH) scheme which was funded by USAID. This scheme is no longer in operation. There are more than 1000 cases pending full settlement of grant-in-aid involving an amount of about Rs.44 crores. The list of cases is being finalized and reconciled with the records of the NGOs against whom such amounts are projected as outstanding.

In the 9th Five Year Plan, the Department of Family Welfare has thoroughly revamped the NGO programme. Funds are now being provided to Field NGOs through a network of Mother NGOs who are responsible for training, guiding and supervising over the work of Field level NGOs. The Mother NGOs are also responsible for timely submission of accounts/settlement of Utilization Certificates pertaining to themselves as well as their Field NGOs.

The Department of Family Welfare is taking necessary action in the matter. The list of pendencies has been

provided to Regional Directors, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare with copies to State Governments to follow up cases and arrange for the submission of Utilization Certificates from the concerned organisations.

[English]

Meat Products

5587. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meat substances are mixed in vegetarian preparations by Hotels, Restaurants and other food processors;

(b) whether such mixing is not warranted at permissible; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to remove this lacuna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Under the PFA Act and Rules, which focus on food safety from the point of view of public health, there is no provision pertaining to the mixing of meat substances in vegetarian preparations. However, in the case of packaged foods it will become mandatory to place a statutory symbol in brown on the label of all food products containing non-vegetarian ingredients w.e.f. 4.10.2001. A final notification prescribing a similar symbol in green on the label of all products containing only vegetarian ingredients is also on the anvil. The scope of these notifications, which seek to facilitate informed consumer choice, does not extend to non-packaged food products sold in hotels and restaurants.

Gauge Cloth

5588. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mandatory to obtain drug licence to deal in 'gauge cloth';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that National Co-operative Consumers Federation India Ltd., Nehru Place, New Delhi has sold gauze cloth to AIIMS without possessing any drug licence;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 absorbent gauze is a surgical dressing and falls within the definition of drug. Hence, it is mandatory to obtain a drug licence for manufacture and sale of this product.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Drugs Controller, Delhi State issued a show cause notice to National Cooperative Consumer Federation, India Ltd. for contravening the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The Branch Manager and Chairman of National Cooperative Consumer Federation India Ltd. pleased that the error took place due to ignorance on the part of the concerned employees and that the concerned employees have been placed under suspension. The National Cooperative Consumer Federation, India Ltd. also took immediate remedial action to discontinue, sale of drug items including absorbent gauge.

Samples of surgical dressing supplied by National Cooperative Consumer Federation, India Ltd. to AIIMS were found to be of standard quality by the Govt. Analyst. Hence, the Delhi Government took the decision not to initiate any legal action against National Cooperative Consumer Federation, India Ltd.

CGHS Unani Dispensaries

5589. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS Unani Dispensaries/Units opened in Kolkata by Government till date;

(b) the date of opening of each of such Dispensary/ Unit;

(c) the sanctioned strength of medical/para medical staff for each of such Dispensary/Unit and staff actually posted;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the Senior Medical Officers posted there are compelled to perform the duties of Pharmacist, Clerk or even sometimes of a peon/sweeper in the absence of non-posting of such staff members by Administration;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being 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) There is only one Unani dispensary in Kolkata and the same was opened in 1991.

(c) Two Unani Physicians, one Pharmacist-cum-Clerk (Unani) and one Nursing Attendant are sanctioned for the Unani Dispensary.

Only one Unani Physician has been working at present as the other post of Unani Physician has been abolished with effect from 1.7.1999. The post of Pharmacist-cum-clerk is lying vacant since the inception of the Unani dispensary in 1991 and the post has lapsed as per the latest instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance.

(d) and (e) In the absence of non-posting of Pharmacist-cum-clerk, the Unani Physician is doing the work related with the Unani Dispensary and on Peon from another dispensary has been provided to assist the Unani Physician.

(f) At present, the Staff Inspection Unit of the Department of Expenditure is conducting a study on the functioning of CGHS dispensary under the Indian systems of medicine and Homoeopathy. As and when the SIU's report is received by the Government, action to strengthen the staff position of the CGHS Unani dispensary in Kolkata would be taken depending upon the recommendations contained in the report.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Medical/Dental Colleges

5590. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-items captioned "45 Medical Avem Dental Collegeon Mein Parves Per Rok" appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara dated July 1, 2001;

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

(c) whether the resources are not available as per rules in these colleges and if so, the names of the Medical and Dental Colleges where the requisite resources as per rules are not available; and

(d) the dates on which recognition was granted to these colleges and the criteria followed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Government is aware of the news items published in Rashtriya Sahara dated 1.7.2001.

(b) to (d) The permission for starting a new medical and dental college is given initially for a period of one year. It is renewed on an year to year basis on verification of facilities available. Infrastructure facilities in respect of 4 medical and 30 dental colleges were not found upto mark by the respective councils and permission for 2001-02 to these colleges has not been renewed so far. A list of such colleges with their date of establishment is given in statement-I enclosed. In addition, the inspection of 8 medical colleges for renewal of permission during 2001-02 is in process. Name of these colleges are given in statement-II enclosed. The Central Government is permitting new medical and dental colleges under the provision of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Dentists (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Regulations made thereunder.

Statement

Name of Medical and Dental Colleges Where permission for admission of Students during the year 2001-2002 has not been Renewed for want of adequate facilities.

S.No.	Name of College	Date of Estt.
1	2	3
Medical Colleges		
1.	Govt. Medical College, Anantapur	27.11.2000
2.	Khaja Banda Nawaz Instt. of Medical Sciences Gulbarga	17.02.2000

1	2	3
3.	Co-operative Medical College, Kochi	27.10.2000
4.	Maharashtra Instt. of Medical Education & Research, Telegaon, Dabhade, Pune	30.11.1994
Dental Colleges		
1.	Shri Baba Mastnath Dental College & Hospital, Rohtak.	7.11.1997
2.	Maharishi Markandeshwar College of Dental Sciences & Research, Mulana, Ambala	26.12.2000
3.	MNDAV Dental College & Hospital Solan - 173 212 (Himachal Pradesh)	27.11.1998
4.	Bhojia Dental College & Hospital Manimajra - 160 101	5.10.1999
5.	Bangalore Instt. of Dental Sciences & Hospital, Bangalore - 580 029.	1991-92
6.	Maratha Mandal's Dental College & Research Centre, Belgaum - 590 016.	17.02.1998
7.	NSVK Sri Venkateshwasra Dental College & Hospital, Bangalore - 61.	30.12.1998
8.	Shri Hasanamlia Dental College, Hasan.	1991-92
9.	K.G.F. College of Dental Sciences Kolar Gold Fields.	1991-92
10.	Jamnalal Goenka Dental College & Hospital, Akola.	1989
11	Yerala Medical Dental College, Navi Mumbai.	23.12.1999
12.	Vidya Shikshan Prasarak Mandal's Dental College & Research Centre Nagpur.	08.10.1996
13.	V.M. Lord Jagganath Instt. of Dental Sciences & Research, Bhubaneswar.	26.11.1996
14.	Dasmesh Instt. of Research & Dental Sciences, Faridkot, Punjab.	15.11.1996
15.	Khalsa Dental College & Hospital VPO Nangal Kalan, Distt. Mansa, Punjab.	19.08.1998
16.	Desh Bhagat Dental College Muktsar-152 026, Punjab	05.04.2000
17.	Darshan Dental College Udaipur, Rajasthan	17.04.2000
18.	Pacific Dental College Udaipur	27.11.2000
19.	Jaipur Dental College Jaipur	09.11.2000
20.	SRM Dental College Madras - 800089	29.01.1998

1	2	3
21.	Sri Ramkrishnan Dental College & Hospital, Coimbatore.	30.11.2000
22.	V.M.S. Internaticnal Dental College Distt. Sitapur - 261 001.	10.04.1997
23.	Ch. Multan Singh Rural Dental College Main Road, Tundla, U.P.	18.01.1999
24.	Awadh Instt. of Dental Sciences, Lucknow	02.05.2000
25.	Dental College Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh	24.04.2000
26.	D.J. College of Dental Sciences & Research, Modi Nagar, U.P.	24.03.2000
27.	Sarjug Dental College, Darbhanga	1988
28.	Dr. S.M. Naqvi Imam Dental College & Hospital, Behera, Bihar	1989-90
29.	Darbhanga Dental College Darbhanga	1990-91
30.	Mithila Minority Dental College & Hospital, Darbhanga.	1989-90

Statement-II

Name of Medical College where Inspection for 2001-02 is under Process

S. No.	Name of the College	Date of Estt.
1.	ASRAM Medical College, Elurur	04.12.2000
2.	Academy of Medical Sciences Pariyaram, Kannur	17.07.1995
3.	R.D. Gardi Medical College, Ujjain	27.02.2001
4.	Vinayak Mission's Medical College Karaikal, Pondicherry	7.02.1997
5.	Aarupadai Veedu Medical College Pondicherry	11.05.2001
6.	New Medical College at Toothukudi	25th April, 2000
7.	Subharati Medical College, Meerut	23.01.2001
8.	Era Lucknow Medical College, Lucknow	23.03.2001

[English]

Consulate Offices in Karachi and Mumbai

5591. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether visa seekers in Pakistan are facing great inconvenience following closure of Indian Consulate General in Karachi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Government has formally requested Pakistan Government to allow it to operate the visa camp office in Karachi to cater to the needs of those who are applying for Indian visa;

(d) if so, the response of the Pakistan Government thereto;

(e) whether there is any proposal to open/revive Pakistan Consultate office in Mumbai; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a large demand for visas from Karachi and other places in Sindh Province. Following closure of Indian Consulate in Karachi, people from these areas have to apply for visa to our High Commission in Islamabad.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of India have approached the Government of Pakistan for its consent to hold periodic visa camps at Karachi. The Government of Pakistan have requested for certain details about these camps which have been provided to it. The matter is now under the consideration of Government of Pakistan.

(e) and (f) The Government have not received any formal request from Government of Pakistan on the subject in the recent past.

Heart Disorders

5592. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there are about 50 to 60 million persons suffering from various heart disorders in the country of which 15 million patients are of coronary artery disease alone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts are taken/being made by the Government for the eradication of above heart disorders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) According to ICMR, Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are major contributor to mortality and morbidity in India. It is estimated that about 55 million persons suffering from various heart disorders in the country of which 18.6 million patients are of coronary heart diseases. Coronary heart disease affects people in the middle age group; however recent reports suggest that even young adults between 30-40 years are affected with increasing frequency. Congenital Heart Diseases affects children mainly in the age group of 0-15 years and Rheumatic heart disease affects children mainly in the age group of 5-15 years. Since the cause of this disease is attributed among others to individual life style and food habits, the doctors are creating awareness among the people for adopting proper life style and food habits to control this disease.

Controlling of Goitre and Iodine Deficiency Disorders

5593. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the Central Government to enhance allocation of fund for Goitre Control Programme;

(b) if so, the funds allocated to that State for implementing the above programme during each of the last three years;

(c) the achievement made in controlling Iodine deficiency disorders in that State during those years;

(d) the programmes presently launched to promote universal consumption of Iodised salt in that State; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal to enhance Budget allocation for the year 2000-01.

(b) Funds allocated to the Government of Karnataka during the last three years are given below:-

Year	Funds allocated
1998-99	Rs. 4.30 lakhs
1999-2000	Rs. 5.80 lakhs
2000-01	Rs. 5.80 lakhs

(c) to (e) The following achievements have been made in controlling Iodine Deficiency Disorders in Karnataka, which has already banned the sale of non-iodised salt in the State.

- Effective IEC activities have been undertaken by the State Government for educating the masses for consumption of iodised salt.
- An Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Cell has been set up in the State Health Directorate to monitor the implementation of the programme.
- Surveys to assess the magnitude of Iodine Deficiency Disorders have been conducted in all the districts.
- IDD Monitoring Laboratory has been set up in the State Health Directorate.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Doctors (AIIMS)

5594. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that either most of the vacant posts especially the posts of Senior/ Junior Resident Doctors and other similar posts in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi are not properly advertised or formality is done by displaying it on the departmental notice boards;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) All vacant Group A & B post filled under the mode of direct recruitment are advertised in all the leading Newspapers and screening of the same are made in accordance with the Recruitment Rules. All Vacant Group C & D posts are notified in the Employment Exchange as well as circulated departmentally including Notice Boards. The post of Senior Resident/Junior Resident are being filled in according to the prescribed procedure/ norms. The post of Junior Resident (Academics) are advertised for each session viz. January and July session. They are filled in through competitive examination and according to their merit by Counselling. However the posts of Senior Resident are being filled only on adhoc basis since June, 1994 to run the essential hospital services due to various Court cases pending in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the posts are notified for adhoc recruitment in the various Medical Colleges and Hospitals in Delhi.

Appointment of Junior and Senior Services Resident Officer

5595. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of internees Junior Residents and Senior Resident Doctors have been appointed in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) during the last two years and during the current year;

(b) the existing rules for appointment of such doctors;

(c) whether Medical Superintendent and other persons have made discrimination in appointing such doctors; and

(d) if so, the full details in regard to the doctors as appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The number of internees, Junior Residents and Sr. Resident doctors appointed in Dr. RML Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital during the last two years are as under:-

Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

Year	1999	2000
Internees	100	100
Jr. Residents	159	159
Sr. Residents	46	58
Safdarjung Hospital		
Internees	200	209
Jr. Residents	314	279
Sr. Residents	118	114

The total number of Internees, Junior Residents and Sr. Residents appointed during the current year till date is as under:—

Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

Internees	95
Jr. Residents	101
Sr. Residents	20

Safdarjung Hospital

Internees	44
Jr. Residents	223
Sr. Residents	33

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

During the last two years and the current year, the following appointments have been made:—

(i)	Internees	154
(ii)	Jr. Resident (Academic)	379
(iii)	Jr. Resident (Non-Acad.)	378
(iv)	Sr. Resident (Academic)	110
(v)	Sr. Resident/Sr. Demonstrators (Non-Acad.)	375

(b) The rules of appointment of Interns Resident Doctors at AIIMS are as below:—

(i) Intern: The compulsory rotating intership is provided for a period of one year to all the MBBS graduated from AIIMS

(ii) Jr. Residents (Academic and Non-Academic): Junior Residents (Academic) i.e., those who are also admitted for MD/MS course in different subjects are appointed on the basis of result of open competitive entrance examination held twice in a year. For this the advertisement in released in National Newspapers. Such seats have the provision of constitutional reservation.

The jobs of Junior Residents (Non-Academic) are offered as per laid down policy of AIIMS which is as below:-

- The graduates of AIIMS are given preference as per their merit prepared from the aggregate marks obtained in MBBS professional examination.
- The applicant from outside are offered job on the basis of merit prepared from the results of PG entrance test from AIIMS courses.
- These jobs also have constitutional reservation.

(iii) Sr. Residents (Academic): Sr. Residents (Academic) i.e., those who are also admitted for D.M./M. Ch. course in different subjects are appointed on the basis of result of open competitive entrance examination which is held twice in a year. For this, the advertisement is released in National News Papers.

(iv) Sr. Residents/Sr. Demonstrators (Non-Academic): The Sr. Residents/Sr. Demonstrators in departments which do not have super-speciality courses (D.M./M.Ch.) are appointed on the basis of their merit, prepared by the selection committee, which reviews and assesses the applications of all the applicants.

The posts of such Sr. Residents (Non-Academic) are notified and circulated to all medical institutions of Delhi and also displayed on the notice boards.

Constitutional reservation Policy is also adhered to in such selection.

Since the reservation issue of Sr. Resident is subjudice, the appointments are made on adhoc basis.

The information in respect of Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. RML Hospital is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of reply to (c) above, does not arise.

Acquisition of Land

5596. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether land of the villages surrounding Jodhpur has been acquired for defence purposes;

(b) if so, the area of land in beeghas acquired;

(c) whether Kuccha (Government) pathways have also been acquired alongwith the acquired land, if so, the number of pathways acquired;

(d) whether demand has been made to reopen the acquired pathways, if so, the number of pathways for which demand has been made to reopen;

(e) whether the pathways have been opened; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 30510 Bigha 16 Biswas have been acquired alongwith

16 pathways in different villages in District Jodhpur for Army and Air Force.

(d) to (f) Demands have been received in respect of two pathways, one in villages Banar, Jajiwal and Jajiwal Groups and other in village Digari. The demand to open these pathways has not been recommended by the Service Hqrs due to security reasons.

[English]

Working of Kendriya Bhandar

5597. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the replies given to USQs 588 and 3703 dated November 22 and December 13, 2000 regarding working of Kendriya Bhandar and state:

(a) if so, the complaint has since been investigated;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken in the matter;

(d) the brands of computers the Kendriya Bhandar has been selling with configuration of those computers;

(e) the price the Kendriya Bhandar had been procuring them and at what price those were being sold with configurations giving details thereof;

(f) whether the officials of the Kendriya Bhandar were hand in glove but for that the computer could not have been supplied at higher prices than approved; and

(g) the action taken against the officials concerned with fixing the price, revision in prices and the details of the computers that were sold at higher prices than approved giving details for doing that and giving the details of the indents placed by the purchasers and copies of the invoices issued by Kendriya Bhandar and did every thing made clear in the invoices?

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) A statement is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Kendriya Bhandar has been selling hundreds of computers of different brands namely Wipro, Compaq, IBM, Acer, HP and HCL during the last two years with different configuration. The price of the computers depends upon its configuration model(s), add on peripherals, accessories, warranty etc. Kendriya Bhandar adds upto 3% margin on the purchase price and sells to the consumers.

(f) The enquiry conducted by the Chief Vigilance Officer, does not indicate any irregularity or collusion on the part of Kendriya Bhandar.

(g) Does not arise in view of reply to (f) above. However, the concerned officials were transferred out of the Computer Section at the time of starting the enquiry itself.

Statement

Complaint of a delegate regarding sale of computers at higher rate (Rs. 83,000 to Rs. 85,000) compared to approved rate (Rs. 60,509) was investigated by Chief Vigilance Officer, Kendriya Bhandar.

It was found that the difference between actual Suggested Retail Price i.e. SRP (Rs. 64,790) of the computer and not Rs. 60,509 as alleged and price charged to customers is as under:

SRP of Computer Pentium III 450 Mhz/512KB/ Intel 440 BX Chipset/64MB/ 6.4 GB/Matrox G2000 8MB/Win 98 and Compaq V 45 14" Colour Monitor Accessories	Rs. 64,790.00
SRP of CD ROM 40X CD-ROM for EP and EN (Except SFF)	Rs.4,860.000
Carepaq Desk top extended warranty 3/1/1 to 3/3/3 with 4 hrs. response (IRS)	Rs. 8040.00
Total	Rs. 77,690.00
LST, Freight, Insurance @ 6%	Rs. 4661.00
Cable, Mouse Pad, dust Cover	Rs. 350.00
Grand Total	Rs. 82,702.00

In view of this, there was no need to take action against employees to alleged be involved as there was

no material substance which came to surface in the enquiry conducted into the complaint of the delegate. The concerned officials have already been transferred out of the Computer Section when the enquiry by the Chief Vigilance Officer was started.

Arbitrary Orders for Blood Cancer

5598. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether HOD, Nephrology Department, AIIMS has issued orders not to take blood samples of those patients who had got their kidney transplanted from other hospitals but are being treated by AIIMS hospital for number of years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) 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) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Nutritions and Health Diet

5599. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proved by study made by World Health Organisation that Meat eating caused many diseases are induced including CAD, Cancer etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote fibre rich and low fat (organic vegetarian) diet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per WHO report and available information, consumption of red meat which is known to consist of high fat, mainly saturated acids & cholestrol may be associated with increased risk of Cancer and Coronary Heart Diseases (CAD).

(c) and (d) Consumption of non-vegetarian foods in our country is low. However Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are being undertaken for promoting nutritions diet, healthy life, prevention of diet related chronic diseases.

Acupuncture System

5600. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government for recognition of Acupuncture as a system of theraphy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to examine this issue by a committee of experts;

(d) if so, the composition of the committee alongwith the time by when this committee was constituted;

(e) whether the committee has submitted its report;

(f) if so, the recommendation made by the Committee; and

(g) if not, the time by which the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (g) Requests have been received by the Government to recognize Acupuncture as a form of Medical Treatment. A Standing Committee of Experts which was constituted under the Chairmanship of DG, ICMR and other experts from different institutions as Members of the Committee. The composition of the Committee which was constituted in August, 1999, is enclosed as statement. The Committee has recently submitted its report with its recommendations on various streams of alternative medicine including Acupuncutre as a system of Theraphy. The recommendations of the Committee inter-alia include guidelines for recognition of Alternative Systems of Medicine and also contains anaiysis of essential/Desirable criteria to be employed for granting recognition to various streams of Alternative Systems of Medicine.

Statement

Constitution of a Committee of Experts for Examining the issues/claims of the Alternative systems of Medicine

1.	Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi	—	Chairman
2.	Dr. Vasantha Muthuswamy Dy. Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi.	—	Member Secretary
3.	Dr. S.P. Agarwal DGHS or nominee	—	Member
4.	DG, CSIR or nominee	—	Member
5.	DCG(I) or nominee	—	Member
6.	Prof. Ranjit Roy Chaudhury, Emeritus Scientist, National Institute of Immunology, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi -110067	—	Member
7.	Prof. B.N. Dhawan, (Former Director, CDRI, Lucknow), 3, Ramakrishna Marg, Lucknow-226007	—	Member
8.	Prof. S.S. Handa Director, Regional Research Laboratory, Canal Road, Jammu.	—	Member
9.	Dr. V.N. Pandey (Former Director, CCRAS),	—	Member
10.	Dr. R.H. Singh, Prof. & Head, Faculty, Ayurveda University.	—	Member
11.	Hakim S. Khaleefathulla, 49 - Bharti Salaji Tnoplicane, Chenna.	—	Member
12.	Head of Deptt. Unani Medicine, Jamia Hamdard, Delhi	—	Member
13.	Dr. R. Kannan, Chairman Siddha Pharmacopeal Committee, Priya Nursing Home, Thennur, Trichy, Tamil Nadu-620017	—	Member
14.	Dr. Lena Mehendale, National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune.	—	Member
15.	Dr. Promila Chari, Prof. of Anesthesilogy, PGIMER, Chandigarh	—	Member
16.	Dr. J.N. Pandey, HOD Medicine AIIMS.	—	Member
17.	Dr. B.K. Sharma, Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh.	—	Member

[Translation]

Shifting of South West Air Command

5601. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether South West Air Command of Air Force has been shifted from Jodhpur, Rajasthan to Gandhidham;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Jodhpour district of Rajasthan is not safe in view of threat being posed by Pakistan; and

(d) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Head Quarters, South Western Air Command (HQ SWAC) has been relocated from Jodhpur to Gandhinagar for effective command and control over its units. Gandhinagar is more centrally located in the area of operations of HQ SWAC as compared to Jodhpur, which is located towards the northern limits of jurisdiction of HQ SWAC.

(c) and (d) Jodhpur is located approximately 100 km from the nearest point on the international border and has adequate security arrangements.

[English]

Homoeopathy Central Council Bill

5602. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:

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

(a) whether the Bill for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Central Council was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on December 17, 1968 and the Joint Parliamentary Committee has recommended two separate independent Councils, one for three systems of Indian Medicine and the other for Homoeopathy from the overall developmental point of view; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Joint Parliamentary Committee after examining the facts in details, was of the view that Homoeopathy System is different from three Indian Systems of Medicine, hence, the combined Council for all four systems will not be helpful for the development of any of them. For proper progress and development of all four systems there should be two separate Central Councils, one for three systems of Indian Medicine and the other for Homoeopathy.

Therefore, the Committee recommended two separate independent Councils, one for three systems of Indian Medicine and other for Homoeopathy from the overall developmental point of view.

Consequently, two separate Acts i.e. Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 have been enacted and two separate Councils, i.e. Central Council of Indian Medicine and Central Council of Homoeopathy have been established respectively.

NACO/AIDS

5603. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NACO and its Mumbai Branch is participating in AIDS Free Mumbai Campaign;

(b) whether mother to child HIV treatment was implemented in Mumbai;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Department are likely to extend such treatment to all Government Hospitals in Mumbai;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Department is conducting any recent survey of HIV positive mother in Mumbai;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the action taken/being 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 (e) Yes, Sir. A feasibility study on prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission of HIV infection by administering short course AZT (Zidovudine) therapy was initiated from March-April 2000 in 3 centres in Mumbai, namely, Sir J.J. Hospital, KEM Hospital and B.Y.L. Nair Hospital, Mumbai.

A total of 13561 pregnant women were counseled of which 477 were found to be positive. 12 new born were tested to be HIV positive at 48 hrs. and 8 at 2 months till the month of March, 2001.

The Government is planning to initiate Nevirapine single dose administration feasibility study to both mother and new born for a short period of 6 months in order to assess its advantages over Zidovudine prophylaxis in prevention of mother to child transmission before extending such intervention to other hospitals in Mumbai.

(f) and (g) The annual Sentinel Surveillance is conducted during month of August to October each year to detect the prevalence of HIV. The sentinel sites for antenatal clinics in Mumbai and the results are enclosed as statement.

(h) Government of India has launched comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme with the following key components.

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections etc.
- Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counseling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

Statement

HIV Sentinel sites in Antenatal Clinics for round 2000 in Mumbai

		Name of the site		HIV Prevalence in round 1998	HIV Prevalence in round 1999	HIV Prevalence in round 2000
1		2	3	4	5	6
Mumbai	1	Antenatal Clinic KEM Hospital Mumbai	ANC	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%
	2	Antenatal Clinic JJ Hospital Mumbai	ANC	2.5%	3.24%	6.50%
	3	Antenatal Clinic L.t. Medical College Sion, Mumbai	ANC	2.75%	2.75%	2.00%
	4	Antenatal Clinic Rajawadi Peripheral Hospital Rajawadi, Mumbai	ANC	—	—	2.25%

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Antenatal Clinic Kurla Bhabha Hospital Mumbai	ANC	—	—	1.25%
6	Antenatal Clinic Cooper Hospital Mumbai	ANC	—	—	0.50%

Purchase of Stationers by Government Departments

5604. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government issued Office Memorandum on July 14, 1981 authorising certain Government controlled Consumer Cooperative Societies to sell stationery and other items to the Government departments without making any mention in that O.M that they will not sell any item at higher rates than the DGS&D rates contracted prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government made it incumbent on the Government Departments to obtain their requirements only through rate contract wherever available;

(d) if so, whether the authorised agencies are supplying items to Government Departments at higher rates than the DGS&D contracted rates by violating the provision of general financial rules of DGS&D; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the DOP&T to ensure that the authorised agencies do not sell any item at higher price than the rate contracts?

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) A copy of the O.M. dated 14th July, 1981 and amendments thereof is enclosed as statement.

(c) The Government Departments can purchase their requirements of stationery and other items from any one of the three Consumer Stores included in the Office Memorandum of 1981 (amended from time to time) in relaxation of the procedures laid down in the General Financial Rules relating to purchase of stores.

(d) Wherever DGS&D have entered into rate contract, the Kendriya Bhandar insist on the suppliers for matching the same price and a small margin is added to meet its expenses on office and employees wages. Wherever there is no DGS&D rate contract, Kendriya Bhandar makes efforts to get most competitive price by:

(i) Buying directly from the manufacturer wherever possible

(ii) Calling for quotations from registered suppliers

(iii) Obtaining a price guarantee undertaking not to sell at a lower price from the supplier.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

Statement

No. 14/14/80-Welfare

Government of India

Department of Personnel & A.R.

(Ministry of Home Affairs)

New Delhi, the 14th July, 1981.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Local purchase of stationery and other articles from the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's Office Memorandum No. 14/14/80-Welfare

dated the 20th June, 1980, on the subject mentioned above in which it was stated that all local purchases of official requirements of articles of stationery, sanitary, electrical and other items be made through the eleborate procedure of calling for quotations and/or rate list. Subsequently, it was clarified vide this Department's Office Memorandum of even number dated the 16th May, 1981 that while purchases upto Rs. 250/- can be made from the Co-operative Society without calling for tenders, where purchases are in excess of this limit, the provisions of the General Financial Rules will apply and tenders are to be invited as laid down in Chapter 8 of the General Financial Rules, 1963.

2. The matter has since been reviewed. It is one of the avowed objectives of the co-operative movement to ensure supply of goods and services to the consumers at the most economical and competitive prices. Taking note of this commitment, the Department of Cooperation had issued general guidelines as early as 1968 to all State Governments and Union Territories to the effect that Government offices should patronise consumer cooperative stores while making purchases of their requirements. This was reiterated in another circular letter addressed to all State Governments etc. in March, 1972, by the Department of Cooperation. It has been stated in that letter that consumer cooperatives, especially departmental stores, which have received substantial financial assistance from Government and are subject to statutory supervision and control by the registrars of Cooperative Societies and State Governments are the most suitable agencies for supply of consumer goods at fair and reasonable prices and that while rendering honest and efficient service, their dealings are free from malpractices often indulged in by private traders such as profiteering, adulteration, sale of spurious and sub-standard goods, underweighment and tax evasion. This Department, therefore, felt that there was no reason why guidelines issued by the Central Government to State Governments and Union Territories should not be made applicable to the Central Government Departments in the matter of purchases made by them.

3. The Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Limited, New Delhi, which was set up in 1963 as a well measure to provide articles of daily necessities to Government employees at reasonable prices, functions under the supervision and control of the Department of Personnel & A.R. Besides substantial investments made in the share capital of the Society, the Government have been providing financial assistance to it from time to time by way of subsidy, loans, cellateral guarantee against borrowings etc. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society is a Joint Secretary of the Department of Personnel & A.R. who exercises direct and close control over its activities.

4. Keeping the background set out in paragraph 2 and 3 above, the Ministry of Works & Housing and Department of Supply who were consulted, have agreed that it may be made incumbent on all Central Government Departments, their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by the Government located at Delhi/New Delhi to make all local purchases of stationery and other items required by them only from the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Limited, New Delhi. Only if the society is not able to supply, a particular item, will it be permissible for them to make local purchase from other sources.

5. The prices of the various articles sold through the outlets of this Society are, by and large, less than obtaining in the market. Keeping this aspect in view, the Ministry of Finance have agreed to waive the procedure laid down in chapter 8 of the General Financial Rules regarding calling of tenders for such purchases as are made from the Central Government Consumer Co-operative Society Limited. However, with a view to provide a safeguard for ensuring quality as well as fair price, it has been decided that articles as are generally indented for by Government Departments etc. Will be fixed by a Committee consisting of a representative each of the Department of Supply, Works and Housing and the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society and the prices so fixed will remain in force for a period of three months. The General Manager of the Society will send to the identing organisations from time to time the detailed list of articles available with the Society.

6. It is requested that the instructions contained in this Office Memorandum may kindly be noted carefully and compiled with in respect of local purchases to be made by Government Departments etc., hereafter, Ministries/Departments are also requested to instruct their attached and subordinate offices as well as autonomous bodies and public sector undertakings under their control to allow the same procedure for obtaining their requirements of stationery and other items from the society.

7. This issues with the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance Department of Expenditure vide their U.O. No. 4747/JS (per) dated 14th July, 1981.

(Hindi version will follow)

Sd/-
T. Ramaswami
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

To

All Ministries/Departments of the
Government of India.

No. 14/1/88-Welfare (Vol.II)
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, P.G. and Pensions
(Department of Personnel and Training)

Lok Nayak Bhawan,
New Delhi, the 11.4.94.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Local purchase of stationery and other articles by the Central Government offices located in Delhi/New Delhi and outside Delhi—Instructions regarding

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's Office Memorandum No. 14/3/88-Welfare dated 4.2.88 and No. 14/2/89-Welfare dated 28.2.89 wherein it has been stated that Central Government Departments and their Attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by the Government located in Delhi and outside Delhi may make all local purchases of stationery and other items required by them either from the Kendriya Bhandar or the Super Bazar, Delhi and offices located outside Delhi shall made such local purchases from the local Central/Wholesale Consumer Cooperative Societies, Kendriya Bhandar located therein. Only it they not able to supply a particular item, such purchases should be made from other sources as per rules after obtaining a 'No Objection Certificate' from them.

2. It was also stated therein that the Central Govt. offices etc. located in Delhi and outside Delhi may make purchases of file covers from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission/Khadi and Village Industries Commission units or products of KVIC from Super Bazar/ Kendriya Bhandar.

3. The matter relating to inclusion of National Cooperative Consumers Federation on India Limited (NCCF) for the purpose of local purchase of stationery by the Central Government offices was under consideration for some time in this Department. It has now been decided to include NCCF as an agency for supplying of stationery and other items required by the Central Government offices located in Delhi and New Delhi and outside Delhi. In view of this, all Central Government Departments and their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/ or controlled by the Central Government, located in Delhi/ New Delhi may also w.e.f. 1.4.1994 make all local purchase of stationery and other items required by them from the NCCF.

4. All Ministries/Departments are requested to ensure compliance of these instructions and also bring them to the notice of their attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and Public Sector Undertakings etc. under their control located in Delhi/New Delhi and outside Delhi for strict compliance.

(S.K. Dasgupta)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

All Ministries/Departments of Government of India

No. 14/1/88-Welfare (Vol.II)

Dated 11th April' 1994

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. All Financial Advisers.
2. Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, (Department of Civil Supplies), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
4. Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi
5. Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
6. Presidents' Secretariat.
7. Vice Presidents' Secretariat.
8. Planning Commission.
9. Cabinet Secretariat
10. Prime Minister's Secretariat.
11. Central Electrical Authority.
12. Central Water Commission.
13. Posts and Telegraph Board.
14. Central Bureau of Investigation.
15. Law Commission.
16. Monopolices and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, Travancore House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
17. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

18. Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

19. Border Roads Development Board.

20. Chief Administrative Officer, Ministry of Defence.

21. Registrar, Supreme Court of India.

22. Commissioner for Schedule Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

23. Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission.

24. Bureau of Public Enterprises, New Delhi.

No. 14/6/87-Welfare
Government of India/Bharat Sarkar
Department of Personnel and Training
(Karmik aur Prashikshan Vibhag)

New Delhi, the 19th Aug, 1987

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Local Purchase of stationery and other articles from the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd., New Delhi

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's O.M. No.14/14/80-Welfare dated the 14th July, 1981 on the subject mentioned above wherein it was stated that all local purchases of official requirements be made through Central Govt. Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd., New Delhi.

2. The matter has since been reviewed while Instruction's contained in this Department's O.M. dated 14.07.81 referred to above will continue to be followed, it has been decided that all Central Government departments and their attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by the Government located at Delhi/New Delhi may with effect from 01.01.88 make all local purchase of stationery and other items required by them either from the Kendriya Bhandar or the Super Bazar, Delhi. Only if the Society or Super Bazar is not able to supply a particular Item, such purchases should be made from other sources as per rules after obtaining a 'No Objection Certificate' from them.

3. All Ministries/Departments are requested to ensure compliance of these Instructions and also bring to the notice of their attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and public sector undertakings, etc. under their control located at Delhi/New Delhi for strict compliance.

(Harsh Bardhan)
Under Secretary to the Government of India

To

All Ministries Departments of Government of India

No F/14/3/57-Welfare

New Delhi, the 19th August, 1987

Copy also forwarded for information and necessary action to:—

1. All Financial Advisers.

2. The Chief Secretary, Delhi Administration — with the request that similar action may please be intimated in respect of various Offices and Organisations of the Delhi Administration.

3. Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi

4. Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi

5. Rajya Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi

6. Election Commission, New Delhi

7. Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

8. Presidents' Secretariat.

9. Vice Presidents' Secretariat.

10. Planning Commission.

11. Cabinet Secretariat.

12. Prime Minister's Secretariat.

13. Central Water Commission

14. Central Electricity Authority.

15. Posts and Telegraph Board.

16. Central Bureau of Investigation.

17. Law Commission.

18. Monopolices and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, Travancore House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.

19. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

20. Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

21. Border Roads Development Board.

22. Chief Administrative Officer, Ministry of Defence.

23. Registrar, Supreme Court of India.

24 Commissioner for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

25. Secretary, Central Vigilance Commission.

26. Bureau of Public Enterprises, New Delhi.

27. General Manager, Central Govt. Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd., Curzon Road Hutments, New Delhi.

(Harsh Bardhan)
Under Secretary to the Government of India

Purchase Policy of Kendriya Bhandar

5605. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ 4718 dated April 18, 2001 regarding purchase policy and state:

(a) will the purchase policy permitting calling of tenders in respect of branded items and calling quotations from the already registered dealers are to be invited be laid on the table of the House;

(b) the number of limited tenders that have been called so far giving the details thereof giving the then and the new rates;

(c) whether tenders called from already registered suppliers were not opened on the due date and time to give room for another supplier to be approved and to include the limited tender and were his rates looking prime face lower than the existing ones and not higher;

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing the entry of such a supplier;

(e) there is any proposal to order a CBI/vigilance inquiry into the matter and fix responsibility and accountability of the officer responsible for withholding the opening of the tender and giving chance to a new supplier; and

(f) the reasons for not deleting suppliers other than the supplier whose rates are found to be lowest and has such an act been committed in respect of some other limited tender?

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 copy of the purchase policy is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) The details are shown in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) and (d) The tender for bulb and tubelight was called on 14.6.2001 from three suppliers indicated below:

M/s Tayal Agencies	—	ECE brand
M/s Laxmi Marketing	—	Wipro brand
M/s Khatter Industries	—	Philips brand

The opening date was originally fixed on 22.6.2001. Before the opening of the tender, it came to the notice of Kendriya Bhandar that DGS&D had recently concluded a rate contract in which prices were lower than the current prices of some of the suppliers. In order to generate healthy competition, reputed brands that had concluded a DGS&D rate contract were also allowed to participate in the limited tender to generate more competition and accordingly tender opening date was extended to 9.7.2001. The suppliers were verbally intimated by Kendriya Bhandar on 22.6.2001, regarding the postponing of tender, followed by a letter dated 2.7.2001 regarding opening of tender on 9.7.2001.

It is evident from the comparative statement showing rates of bulbs and tubelights statement-III that some firms have now reduced their rates.

(e) Does not arise in view of what has been stated above.

(f) Kendriya Bhandar usually stocks more than one brand and supplies the brand preferred by the consumer. If the consumer does not give any preference, the lowest cost brand is supplied. Hence it is normal for Kendriya Bhandar to keep more than one supplier on its books. This is the practice followed in most of the limited tenders in Kendriya Bhandar.

Statement-I

Purchase Policy Referred to Parliament Question in Reply to part (a) of unstd. Question No. 5605 by Shri Prabhunath Singh for Answer on 29.08.2001.

EXTRACT OF 72ND BOARD MEETING HELD ON 25.08.2001

Agenda Item No. 6. Purchase/Procurement Policy

Purchase Policy for procurement of various items in consumer division, grocery division and stationery division was discussed in detail. Chairman sated that the Purchase Policy has been framed mainly to streamline the

procurement of the goods for the Society as also for registration of the supplier for various items in the Society. He also expressed his opinion that Purchase Policy can be reviewed by the Board if not found practicable to the actual requirement of the Society. The various suggestions of the Directors were considered by the Board and the Purchase Policy was approved unanimously. A copy of the Purchase Policy as approved by the Board is enclosed.

Any deviation from the guidelines of the Purchase Policy shall be made with the approval of Chairman and the same will be reported to the Executive Committee in its next meeting.

KENDRIYA BHANDAR
NEW DELHI

Sub. Purchase/Procurement Policy Guideline

1. General Policy

(a) Purchase of branded products shall be made from the manufacturers directly. Only where the manufacturers exporters then mability to do so the purchase will be made from their authorised distributors.

(b) Tenders shall be invited normally for items which are procured as per generalised specifications and for which brand names are not relevant.

(c) Purchase of fast moving items should be made frequently so as to avoid the blocking of capital and payment of interest on overdraft. For those items, whose rate are not fluctuating, the society may enter into a contract for suitable period with the suppliers for supply of such goods.

(d) As far as possible approved quality products indicated by Agmark, ISI etc. will alone be purchased.

(e) In order to secure satisfactory performance of contractual obligations by the suppliers, they shall be required to fill up registration form along with affidavit, security amount of Rs. 25,000/- (for one group of items) along with other relevant document. For suppliers seeking registration for more than one group of items security amount shall be Rs. 50,000/- Relaxation from submission of security deposit either in case of multinational/ reputed Indian companies or in case of welfare organisation etc. may be granted with the approval of Chairman on the recommendation of General Manager.

(f) Purchased should be made strictly in accordance with the delegation of the powers given in this policy.

(g) Quality and competitive price will be the cornerstones of the above policy to be employed.

(h) In order to provide choice to the consumers and also inducing healthy competition amongst the suppliers, 3 to 4 brands or varieties of products/commodity would be simultaneously purchased/procured.

The following procedure should be followed for Grocery, Consumer, Ration Articles, Stationary and other items.

2. Grocery Items

(a) For common nature of items having generalised specification such as pulses/rice/spices, fortnightly tenders shall be invited along with samples of goods from the Public Sector cooperative and registered suppliers having pulses licence/food grain licence/Agmark licence etc. and goods conforming to Kendriya Bhandar specification which should be better than that prescribed under prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA specification)/Agmark specification. Time to time specification may be reviewed. Purchases may be made on the recommendations of the purchase committee on the basis of rates and samples submitted by the suppliers and their performance against the previous supplies. While recommending the purchase of these items, the fluctuation rates as published in the Economic Times shall also be taken into consideration. In case, the committee feels that the rates and quality is not upto mark, they may visit market to know the reasonable prices and then purchases should be made as per purchase policy from the registered suppliers. The sample selected by purchase committee shall be divided in 3 parts. One part in sealed cover duly signed by AGM, P&SE and CAO/AO shall be given to Supdt. of concerned godown to ensure that goods received from supplier conform to the sample. Second part of sample may be kept under the custody of AGM. The goods shall be unloaded in godown after comparing with the approved samples by Supdt. Of Godown. Thereafter, random samples shall be taken from bulk supplies by Quality Control Department and the same shall be tested in approved Laboratory. After getting satisfactory report, goods shall be cleared for packing and onward

sale through outlets of Kendriya Bhandar. These goods should be packed in the godowns of Kendriya Bhandar affixing the lot number, date of packing and selling price. Similarly, superior quality of pulses/rice/spices/Dry fruits shall be purchased through monthly tender by purchase committee for Govt. institutions. I.T.D.C. Hotels, Hospitals, Govt. schools and other agencies such as Maruti Udyog Limited etc.

(b) Effort should be made for supply of Rice/pulses in supplier's pack directly to the stores so that supplier may be held responsible for any deficiency.

(c) Atta and Besan may be purchased through contract awarded to reputed firms having their own grinding mill and rates shall be fixed on the basis of rates of Chakki wheat and Besan published in the Economic Times every week.

(d) Other grocery items like edible oil, Vanaspati Pune Ghee etc. shall be purchased either directly from the manufacturers or their authorised distributors at rates applicable to wholesalers. As far as possible products conforming to PFA/Agmark/ISI specification in manufacturer's original packing may be purchased. Preference may be given to a product available in public/cooperative sector.

(e) For washing soap, advertised tender shall be invited and based on the rates, brands, past performance and sale potential etc., same shall be purchased.

(f) For the provisioning of polythene for packing pulses/rice/sugar and spices, advertised tender shall be called for every year. Based on rates, capacity and performance of tenderer, the contract may be awarded.

(g) Other products such as Aggarbati, dalia, Papad, Basmati Rice, Fancy Masala/spices etc. may be purchased of reputed make in supplier's pack from the manufacturers or their authorised distributor at whole sale rates. Before introduction of any new product market survey with regard to rates and popularity shall be carried out. At the same time random samples of these products shall be purchased from market and tested in approved laboratory. As such only products which are established in the market and are of acceptable quality shall be introduced.

(h) Wherever institutions do not purchase dietary items against the rates fixed by ISU on the basis of monthly tender and they call for the tender separately from different agencies. Kendriya Bhandar may participate in the tender after obtaining the quotations from registered and past suppliers of Kendriya Bhandar on back to back basis. For this Kendriya Bhandar margin may be kept upto 3% maximum and depending upon the competition in the tender and value of order, the margin may be reduced so that Kendriya Bhandar may not loose orders.

(i) Generally payment to the suppliers shall be made in following days

(1) Rice, Pulse etc.	—	10 days
(2) Spices	—	30 days.
(3) Branded items	—	As per terms mutually agreed terms between Kendriya Bhandar and manufacturer or their authorised distributor.

3. Ration Articles

These are purchased from the agencies sponsored by the Government at the prices fixed by the government. There is no question of either for inviting tender or negotiations or open market purchases for these items. These items, therefore, be purchased from Government sponsored institutions at the prices fixed by them.

4. Consumers Items

Consumer Division deals with toilet soaps, detergents, beauty and health care items etc. which are branded and there is no scope of inviting tenders.

(j) Reputed multinational/national products shall be procured either directly from the manufacturer or from their authorised distributors on their whole sale rates.

(ii) Exercise note books, registers etc. shall however be purchased on the basis of Advertise tenders.

(iii) Before introduction of any new product market survey regarding rats, sale potential etc. shall be done.

(iv) Payment terms shall be 7 days to 40 days as mutually agreed between manufacturers and their authorised distributors in case of godown supply. In case of direct supply item payment generally shall be made on consignment basis.

5. Stationery Items

Tenders

Tenders should be invited normally for items which are procured as per generalised specifications, for which brand names are not relevant and marketing support from supplier is neither feasible nor required. A list of illustrative items is at Appendix-I which shall be reviewed from time to time. Tenders for registration and price approval shall be called at regular intervals and will be remain valid for a maximum period of 2 years subject to revision of rates depending on market conditions.

(a) Tender process will be conducted into two stages technical and financial. For each tender both technical and financial evaluation shall be conducted. During technical evaluation all technical aspects including capacity and capability of the firm, market reputation and standing of the firm, financial soundness etc. will be carefully evaluated. The tenderers shall be asked to submit technical and commercial tenders (bids) together. Short listing will be done after technical evaluation and the short listed firm may be given another opportunity to the extent to reduce their rates, if any, in their financial bid. Financial bids received from the short listed firms will be opened in presence of their representatives and the lowest tender (L1) shall be accepted. In case it is found that lowest tenderers (L1) does not have the capacity to supply the entire quantity, balance quantity may be offered to (L2) firm at the same price and terms and conditions.

(b) Depending upon monthly consumption of an item, minimum turnover of eligible tender shall be indicated. Tenderers shall be required to furnish audited balance sheet along with their offer.

(c) It shall also be made clear that no brand name should be mentioned on the items supplied against tender and Kendriya Bhandar shall be within its right to procure branded items outside tender system.

6. Branded Products

(a) Branded product shall be excluded from the purview of tender system. For procurement of such items Kendriya Bhandar shall approach manufacturers for direct supplies at rates applicable to bulk purchases in case they express their inability to do so in writing to Kendriya Bhandar the same shall be procured from distributors authorised by them.

(b) The number of approved suppliers for different brands of same product shall be restricted to five for items having sale upto Rs. 5 lakhs per month. For items sale exceeding this limit number of suppliers e.g. photocopier paper and machines, computers etc. shall be restricted to (10) except in case of furniture where there are at present (20) suppliers wherein the objective shall be to reduce it to 15 nos. A sale target shall be given to all the suppliers including new supplier at the time of registration which should be reviewed annually (six monthly for new suppliers).

(b) Before registering a new manufacturers for furniture items their manufacturing unit shall be visited by a team of officers to assess their capacity and to determine their category depending upon their infrastructure, plant and equipments, experience and sale to private customers.

(c) There are a large number of items specially different varieties of papers for which demand is unpredictable e.g. Maplitho paper, Art card, Art paper etc. for which normally stocks are not maintained, neither manufacturer not their authorised distributors are interested in giving supplies to Kendriya Bhandar. In that event a tender should be invited indicating name of mills etc. asking interested suppliers to indicting their source of supply etc. and lowest rate from authorised tenderer may be approved.

(d) Registration of suppliers shall be valid for one year and shall be renewned thereafter. At the time of renewal supplier shall be required to furnish their latest ITCC, balance sheet, sales target etc.

(e) Kendriya Bhandar shall normally sell a product on fixed margin of profit ranging from 3% to 9% except in case of submitting its quotation against tenders wherein its margin shall be reduced upto 50% of the normal margin. In order to facilitate follow up against Govt. tenders consisting of number of items a supplier registered with Kendriya Bhandar for more than 60% of value of order (covered in the tender) shall be permitted to execute entire order at rates not exceeding those approved in Kendriya Bhandar, if any.

(f) In order to sell capital equipment, furniture etc. Kendriya Bhandar enter into price agreement with the suppliers, who will be required to do marketing of their product on behalf of Kendriya

Bhandar. Capital items being costly, normally inventory shall not be maintained by Kendriya Bhandar.

(g) There are certain items (e.g. photocopier machines) on which rate of local sales tax is much higher than that in the other states. Further, as per existing Govt. policy manufacturing units located in a particular area are either totally exempted from Sales tax or lower rate of Sales tax is applicable. Since Kendriya Bhandar's objective is to make available goods to its customers either at a lower price or at the same price it is available in the market such products may be sold to the customers on the agency sale basis. In such transactions suppliers shall raise their bills directly to the customers. Customers shall however send the cheque to Kendriya Bhandar for entering before forwarding it to the suppliers. Kendriya Bhandar shall receive agency commission on such transactions.

As a policy "agency sales" shall be discouraged and will be permitted only in exceptional cases.

7. Approval on case to case basis

(a) Whenever requirement of special furniture and other items are received Kendriya Bhandar shall invite limited tender from the registered suppliers and the lowest rate out of minimum three tenders shall be approved.

8. Payment terms for Stationery Items

(i) Tender items	-	40 days credit
(ii) Branded items	-	As per terms mutually agreed between Kendriya Bhandar and manufacture or their authorised distributors
(iii) Capital equipments, furniture etc.	—	After realisation from customers

9. Handling of Tenders

(i) Preparation of Tender Notice for Advertised Tenders

With a view to enable intending tenderers to have a clear idea of the stores to be purchased by the Kendriya Bhandar, a brief and clear indication of the items required should be given.

(ii) Fixation of time for receipt and opening of tenders

The date and time for receipt and opening of tenders should be indicated in the tender notice as well as tender enquiry. In case of advertised tenders, it should be not less than 4 weeks from date of publication of tender notice and in case of limited tenders it should not be less than 2 weeks.

(iii) Time allowed for offers to remain open for acceptance.

Normally the tenderers should be asked to keep their offers open for acceptance for a period of one month from the date of opening. But for difficult items for which tender samples are to be tested or in other similar cases, a longer period may have to be fixed for the tenders to remain open.

Ordinarily there should be no occasion to seek extension of time beyond the original validity period. Extensions should be sought in exceptional case for such period within which it is expected to cover the demand.

(iv) Postponement of opening date of tenders

Request for extension of the opening date of tenders will have to be decided on merits. when a decision regarding postponement of the date of opening of a tender is taken, it should be communicated to all concerned well in advance of the originally stipulated date of opening, in order to avoid complaints.

(v) Sale of Advertised tenders

Tender sets should be sold at the cash counter on payment Rs. 200/- per set. Acopy of the advertised tender notice shall be sent under certificate of posting to registered/likely suppliers of that items. In all events a copy shall be displayed on notice board.

(vi) Limited tender Enquiries

Those enquiries should be sent to all the past/ likely firms under certificate and should also ensure that the list is kept upto date by removing the names of those firms who have been black instead/suspended/banned and including new supplies and past suppliers.

(vii) Receipt and Custody and opening of Tenders:

All the tender should be received in sealed tender box kept for this purpose. The tenders should be entered in a register kept for the purpose. The tender opening committee should consist of the following officers:

1. Accounts Officer/System Analyst

2. Purchase & Sales Executive

It any of the officer is not available, Divisional head may nominate any other officer.

(viii) Opening of Tenders:

The committee opening the tenders should verify that only authorised representative of the firms which have actually submitted the tenders are present at the tender opening. The unauthorised representative or representative of firm which have not submitted the tenders should not be allowed to be present. The tendering firms should be requested to indicate the name and address of the representative who would be attending the opening of tenders on their behalf.

The committee opening the tenders should prepare on the spot comparative statement of the quotations received indicating the salient features thereof. Each tender should be numbered serially, initiated and circled on the front page. Each page of the schedule of the prices, delivery period etc. should be circled and initiated. Blank tender should be cancelled under the initials and date by the committee members opening the tenders. Overwriting/ corrections in the tender, if any, made by the firm should be initiated by the officer opening the tender. No amendment to the tenders will on any account be permitted after the tender opening has commenced. Under no circumstances tender in which the prices quoted are doubtful be considered.

(ix) Late and Delayed Tenders:

The tenders or modifications to tenders received after the specified time of opening are treated as 'Late' while tenders and modifications to tenders received before the time of opening but after the due date and time for receipt of tenders are considered as "Delayed" tenders. Late/deplayed tenders should not be considered. The question whether a firm submitting Late/ Delayed tenders should be called for negotiation, in case it is decided to have negotiation after opening of tenders. The Late/Deplayed tenders should not be normally considered and not called for negotiation. The question whether a firm who have originally submitted their offer in time but makes a post tender revision should be called for negotiation.

The post tender revision should not be considered. However, if negotiations are to be held for solid reasons which are in no way connected or influenced by the post tender revision by a particular firm that firm should also be called for negotiation. In case post tender revision is not affecting the ranking of their offer and Kendriya Bhandar is gaining then only the post tender revision may be accepted.

(x) Comparative Statement - Preparation of

After the tenders have been opened and on the extract prepared, the P&SE concerned will prepare comparative statement indicating necessary details concerning the firm's offer such as rates, delivery, quantity offered discounts etc. together with any other relevant information. The P&SE will also be responsible for the correctness of the comparative statement.

The quotations received from the tenders for consideration of a particular demand should be carefully examined by the Purchase & Sales Executive. The comparative statement should thoroughly be checked vis-a-vis the tenders received from the firm so as to avoid the possibility of any mistake.

(xi) Revision of Rates

While considering the fixation/revision of the rates, the Purchase Committee shall consider whether the revision is necessitated by

(a) general increase in price of raw materials;

(b) increase in the quantum of levies/taxes etc. by the Government and

(c) any other relevant factor

10. Purchase Committee for procurement of items shall be as follows:

(a) Purchase Committee for Stationery Goods

1.	DGM (Sty.)/AGM (Sty.)	—	Chairman
2.	CAO/AO	—	Member
3.	P&SE (Sty.)	—	Member-Secretary
4.	Supdt. (Sty. Godown)	—	Member
5.	Sr. Manager/Manager/ Incharge Sty. Counter	—	Member

(b) Purchase Committee for Consumer Goods

1.	AGM©	-	Chairman
2.	CAO/AO	—	Member
3.	P&SE©	—	Member-Secretary
4.	Supdt. Consumer Godown	—	Member

(c) Purchase Committee for Grocery Goods

1.	AGM (G)	—	Chairman
2.	CAO/AO	—	Member
3.	P&SE (G)	—	Member-Secretary
4.	Supdt. Grocery Godown Mahadev Road	—	Member
5.	Supdt. Grocery Godown Pushpa Bhawan	—	Member
6.	Incharge Masala Unit	—	Member (for purchase of spices only)

Chairman/G.M. may Co-opt or reconstitute the purchase committee depending upon the need.

11. Quality Control

(a) Pre Testing:

Pulses, rice, spices purchased through tenders may be pre tested before releasing the sale. The random samples from the bulk supply lifted by quality control division and sent for testing in laboratory. On receipt of the test report confirming to specification, goods shall be released for sale by the godown. Goods may be shifted from the self service store by the quality control division randomly and the sample may be tested in laboratory. In case goods, are not confirming as per specification of goods purchased, the sale of that lot/batch may be stopped and action may be taken for replacement. The random post testing shall also be applicable for stationery items. Any edible item should be tested before introduction in Kendriya Bhandar.

(c) Sty. Items:

In order to ensure quality, to the extent possible, items should be procured in original manufacturer/mill packing at the time of acceptance of items by Supdt. (Godown)/ Manager concerned, quality of goods procured shall be physically checked with reference to approved sample and other physical parameters such as weight, size, packing labels etc. Samples may also be drawn at regular intervals and sent for testing in the laboratory. In order to ensure that spurious items are not supplied to Kendriya Bhandar some samples of the items should be sent to the original manufacturer to certify the authenticity of the item.

12. Indemnity

(a) The terms and conditions applicable between Kendriya Bhandar and its customers against supplies made by the supplier shall also be applicable to them on back to back basis.

(b) In event of any damages being claimed by any customer of Kendriya Bhandar or any statutory authority for whatsoever reason against any product supplied by the suppliers shall be applicable to them and will indemnity Kendriya Bhandar and its employees in such case.

(c For edible items the supplier should submit their bill with warranty certificate as prescribed in P.F.S.

13. Delegation of Power

Financial Powers for making purchase will be as under.

(a) In case supplies are proposed to be procured/ purchased from manufacturers or their authorised distributors, manufacturers/distributors will be identified by the purchase committee and the rates obtained.

(b) In case of articles like pulses, other food grains, spices etc. efforts should be made by the purchase committee to procure the requirements from State Cooperative Marketing Federation and registered supplier.

(c) G.M. may accord approval for purchase of goods worth Rs. 20 lakhs at any time. If the value exceeds Rs. 20.00 lakhs approval of Chairman shall be obtained.

(d) Registration of new supplier and introduction of new item shall be introduced only after the approval of Chairman.

(e) General Manager may accord approval of revision in price of existing product or may authorise to divisional head or any other officer depending upon the product. He may also authorise divisional heads for purchase upto Rs. 1 lakh.

(f) G.M. shall be competent to write off damaged goods worth upto Rs. 1 lakh and for value exceeding this limit approval of Chairman shall be required.

List of Tender Items

S.No.

1. Exercise Notebooks
2. Notesheet pads
3. File Covers
4. File Boards, Flaps, Index file, Dak pad
5. Ruled Registers
6. Diaries
7. Fax Rolls, Amonia paper
8. Different varieties of paper
9. Envelopes
10. Shorthand Notebooks, Slip pads

Stationery Counter-II

11. Table Glass
12. Tags, Thread Balls, Paper Weight
13. Tat, Sutli, Rubber Ban, Ash Tray, Drawing Pins, Hammer
14. Towels

Stationery Counter-IV

15. Brushes, Brooms, MOPS etc.
16. Bleaching Power, Gamaxine, Soda Ash
17. Dusters

EXTRACTS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21ST OCTOBER, 2000

AGENDA ITEM NO. Consideration of the points raised by Elected Directors in regard to Purchase Policy

The points raised by the Elected Directors regarding Purchase Policy were considered and following decisions were taken:

(a) In case of procurement of it was in deviation of the guidelines laid down in the Purchase Policy, approval of the clauses may be obtained. However, such cases should be placed before the Executive Committee in their next meeting.

(b) It was decided that in case 60% of the value of the order covered in the tender are to be supplied through registered suppliers, the same supplier may be permitted to supply the remaining items also at the rates not executing approved rate in Kendriya Bhandar even though he may not be registered in Kendriya Bhandar in respect of the remaining items.

(c) It was decided that new it was not on the existing list of Kendriya Bhandar shall be introduced with the approval of Chairman and the same may be brought before the Executive Committee subsequently for its information.

(d) It was decided that damaged goods may be written off as per delegation of powers defined in the Purchase Policy, however, such cases may be placed before the Executive Committee for its Information. Shri M.D. Pandey was of the view that damaged goods in the store may be identified and a Committee may be formed to consider writing off the said items. This was agreed to and a Committee was proposed to be considered under the observation of Chairman.

(e) It was decided that in case of purchase of any item of more than Rs. 20 lakhs from source other than established manufacturer or their authorised agent approval of the Chairman may be obtained and the source should be placed before the next Executive Committee.

Statement II

UPS

The comparative statement of UPS showing existing approved rate inclusive of K.B. margin and rate approved against the limited tender is as under:-

Description of item	Range of last rate (Rs.)		Rates approved against the tender (Rs.)
	from	to	
1 2	3	4	5
1. 150 VA	1505	1635	1417.00
2. 250 VA	2028	2384	1995.00
3. 400 VA	2512	2997	2520.00
4. 500 VA	3446	3962	3517.00
5. 1000 VA	6812	7442	6562.00
6. 1500 VA	9195	10361	8925.00
7. 2000 VA	10899	14225	11287.00
8. 3000 VA	17423	18785	17850.00
9. 5000 VA	23159	29031	26250.00
Voltage Stabilizer (Single Phase) Servo control Voltage stabilizer			
1 2	3	4	5
1. 1.0 KVA	4799	5654	4725.00
2. 2.0 KVA	5314	6260	5355.00
3. 3.0 KVA	6250	7363	5880.00
4. 5.0 KVA	7446	8773	7560.00
5. 7.5 KVA	11563	13623	11,130.00
6. 10.0 KVA	16189	19073	14700.00
7. 15.0 KVA	24522	—	21315.00
8. 25.0 KVA	32096	—	32413.00
Line Interactive offline UPS System			
1	2	3	4
300 VA	6812	—	4704.00
500 VA	8855	—	5460.00
625 VA	9877	—	6615.00
1.0 KVA	12261	—	11340.00

1	2	3	4
1.5 KVA	—	—	16695.00
2.0 KVA	—	—	22575.00
3.0 KVA	—	—	Not quoted
4.0 KVA	—	—	Not quoted
5.0 KVA	—	—	Not quoted
Sealed Maintenance Free Batteries			
1. 12 Volts-7	954	1132	735.00
Ah	2044	2572	1732.00
2. 12 Volts-15 AH/17AH	2725	3189	2362.00
3. 12 Volts-26 AH	4087	5343	3675.00
4. 12 Volts 40 AH	6812	9261	5250.00
5. 12 Volts 65 AH	10004	10898	7717.00
6. 12 Volts-100 AH			
UPS online Without Battery			
0.5 KVA	16117	17029	16800.00
1 KVA	27454	32015	22579.00
2 KVA	39097	49097	33163.00
3 KVA	68117	72135	39513.00
5 KVA 10 to 10	95364	104630	66326.00
7.5 KVA 10 to 10	122611	138769	77616.00
7.5 KVA 30 to 10	-	-	102900.00
10 KVA 10 to 10	149858	192122	98784.00

1	2	3	4
10 KVA 30 to 10	-	-	139650.00
10 KVA 30 to 30	-	-	159600.00
15 KVA 30 to 10	-	-	183750.00
15 KVA 30 to 30	-	-	215250.00
20 KVA 30 to 10	-	-	247800.00
20 KVA 30 to 30	-	-	294000.00

UPS offline Without Battery		Range of last rate		Rates approved against tender (Rs.)
		From	to	
1	2	3	4	5
300VA	15 Min	5858	-	4525.00
	30 Min	5858	-	4525.00
	60 Min	5858	-	4525.00
	120 Min	5858	-	4525.00
500VA	15 Min	6429	8960	4525.00
	30 Min	6429	8960	4525.00
	60 Min	6429	8960	5670.00
	120 Min	6429	8960	6090.00
625VA	15 Min	8670	8970	5680.00
	30 Min	8670	8970	5680.00
	60 Min	8670	8970	6930.00
	120 Min	8670	8970	7455.00
IKVA	15 Min	10543	12971	9471.00
	30 Min	10543	12971	9471.00
	60 Min	10543	12971	11970.00
	120 Min	10543	12971	11995.00

1	2	3	4	5
1.25KVA	15 Min	13230	15728	11655.00
	30 Min	13230	15728	11655.00
	60 Min	13230	15728	13125.00
	120 Min	13230	15728	13125.00
1.5KVA	15 Min	20897	21323	13891.00
	30 Min	20897	21323	13891.00
	60 Min	20897	21323	17220.00
	120 Min	20897	21323	18270.00

UPS online Without Battery		Range of last rate		Rates approved against tender (Rs.)
		From	to	
1	2	3	4	5
2KVA	15 Min	27232	27788	19950.00
	30 Min	–	–	19950.00
	60 Min	–	–	19950.00
	120 Min	–	–	19950.00
3KVA	15 Min	–	–	32550.00
	30 Min	–	–	32550.00
	60 Min	–	–	32550.00
	120 Min	–	–	32550.00
4 KVA	15 Min	–	–	37800.00
	30 Min	–	–	37800.00
	60 Min	–	–	37800.00
	120 Min	–	–	37800.00
5KVA	15 Min	–	–	44000.00
	30 Min	–	–	44000.00
	60 Min	–	–	44000.00
	120 Min	–	–	44000.00

Inverter Without Battery		Rates approved against tender (Rs.)
1		2
500 VA	30 Min	5504.00
	60 Min	5504.00
	120 Min	5504.00
625 VA	30 Min	7056.00
	60 Min	7056.00
	120 Min	7056.00
IKVA	30 Min	9878.00
	60 Min	9878.00
	120 Min	9878.00
1.25 KVA	30 Min	11995.00
	60 Min	11995.00
	120 Min	11995.00
2 KVA	30 Min	16934.00
	60 Min	16934.00
	120 Min	16934.00
3 KVA	30 Min	33516.00
	60 Min	33516.00
	120 Min	33516.00
4 KVA	30 Min	39028.00
	60 Min	39028.00
	120 Min	39028.00
5 KVA	30 Min	51156.00
	60 Min	51156.00
	120 Min	51156.00

Rotomac

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates (Rs.)	Rates against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ball Pen Rotomac Fine 07 TC Ball	4.50	3.66
2.	Rotomac Mirror	2.40	2.20
3.	Rotomac Speed Ball Pen	13.00	11.90
4.	Jotter Pen Rotomac Fighter	12.50	10.58

Add Gel

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates (Rs.)	Rates against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Add Gel Pingel 300	21.28	21.25
2.	Add Gel Ball Pen LF-100	8.53	8.50
3.	Add Gel Ball Pen PG-500	23.76	23.80

Luxor

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates (Rs.)	Rates against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Pilot Pen V-5 Luxur (No. 810)	30.04	30.04
2.	Pilot Hi-Tech Luxor 801 Point	19.23	19.23
3.	Pilot Pen V-5 Luxor (No. 811)	28.85	28.85
4.	Highlighter 5 No. Set Luxor (No. 886)	57.70	57.70
5.	OHP Market Luxor (No. 968)	62.39	62.39
6.	Sketch Pen 920 Fibre Tip Set of 12 Assorted Color Pens packed in a plastic walled Luxor (No. 920)	40.38	40.38

Kores

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates	Rates against tender
1.	Ball Pen Script Fine Kores (Black/Blue/Red Colours)	Rs. 4.42	Rs. 4.53

Flair

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates (Rs.)	Rates against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ball Pen Half Steel	13.76	12.74
2.	Flair 210 Hi-lighter Pen	12.84	11.76
3.	Jotter refill Blue/Black/Red	6.42	5.39

Kebica

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates (Rs.)	Rates against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ball Pen Holder-906 (VIP)	3.39	3.39
2.	Ball Pen Holder-950 Golden VIP	9.70	9.70
3.	Ball Pen 951	11.64	11.64
4.	Ball Pen 930	5.88	5.88
5.	Jotter Refill metal	3.63	4.12

Note: The rates are under finalisation.

Bulbs and Tube Lights

The comparative statement of bulbs and tube lights showing earlier rates and rates now against the limited tender opened on 9.7.2001.

Item	Philips		ECE		Wipro		Crompton Greaves		Osram		Cona		Mysore	
	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
100 Watt Bulb	9.84	9.84	8.35	7.34	7.79	7.79	-	7.89	-	7.89	-	-	8.70	7.78
60 Watt Bulb	9.02	9.02	8.35	7.17	7.37	7.37	-	7.67	-	7.67	-	-	8.50	7.78
40 Watt Bulb	9.02	9.02	7.88	7.17	7.37	7.37	-	7.67	-	7.67	-	-	8.50	8.00
Tube light 4"	42.39	42.39	36.87	32.75	35.50	35.50	-	36.84	-	36.84	-	-	40.00	35.08
Tube light 2"	40.65	40.65	36.87	32.75	34.73	34.40	-	36.84	-	36.84	-	-	38.70	35.90
Fitting 4"	-	161.50	-	159.12	144.05	144.05	-	-	-	-	149.04	162.50	168.25	154.00
Fitting 2"	-	148.75	-	-	144.05	144.05	-	-	-	-	-	158.91	114.40	154.00
Chock 40	140.25	140.25	106.46	106.46	117.25	117.25	-	-	-	-	91.80	111.74	-	105.00
Chock 20	137.95	131.75	106.46	106.46	70.35	70.35	-	-	-	-	-	111.74	-	105.00
Starter 40 W	8.50	8.50	5.56	5.56	8.04	8.04	-	-	-	-	6.30	5.84	6.00	5.30
Starter 20 W	-	13.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.84	-	10.50

Pens

The comparative statement of Pen showing existing rate and rate against the limited tender opened on 23.7.2001 is as under:

Reynolds Pens

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates (Rs.)	Rates against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ball Pen Reynolds 040	4.33	4.23
2.	Ball Pen Reynold 0.45	5.32	5.09
3.	Ball Pen 0.45 Define Reynolds	8.20	8.48
4.	Ball Pen 0.45 Aqya Reynolds	6.21	5.94
5.	W.B.M. (Medium) Reynolds	17.17	17.17
6.	Permanent Marker (Medium) Reynolds	12.82	12.56
7.	Permanent Marker (Jumbo) Reynolds	17.17	17.21
8.	Pen Jotter Reynolds	14.86	14.42
9.	Jotter Ball Pen Roller Tek Reynolds	20.86	20.86
10.	Jotter Ball Pen Tek Point Reynolds	33.38	33.38
11.	Jotter Ball Pen-Aeroller Reynolds	33.38	33.38
12.	Highlighters Reynolds	12.82	12.82
13.	Sketch Pen (Artoons Medium) Reynolds (Set of 12 Pcs)	52.31	57.58

Cello

S.No.	Model Description	Existing rates (Rs.)	Rates against tender (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ball Pen Crystal Cello	4.45	3.25
2.	Pointeck Gell Cello	12.95	12.75
3.	Ball Pen Gripper Cello (Gripper-II)	5.96	5.00

Photocopier Paper

The comparative statement of Photocopier Paper showing earlier rate and rate received against the limited tender opened on 22.5.2001 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Supplier's Name	Approved brand in K. Bhandar	Existing rate (Rs.)	Brand Offer	Rate received against tender dt: 22.5.2001 (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	M/s Gateway Speciality Paper Limited	—	—	Esquire	44.99/Kg.
2.	M/s Goyal Sales Corporation	Esquire	44.99/Kg.	Image	41.18/Kg.
3.	M/s Peekay Paper Enterprises	Hi-Brite	49.43/Kg.	H-Brite	49.43/Kg.

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	M/s M.C. Paper Pvt. Ltd.	Exact	62.72/Kg.	Exact	61.65/Kg.
5.	M/s Usha Fertilizer	JK brand	47.70/Kg.	JK Brand JK Easy brand	47.70/Kg. 42.33/Kg.
6.	M/s Gateway Paper Pvt. Limited	—	—	Swastik Director	44.50/Kg.
7.	M/s Raj Dealers & Distributor	Andhra Millenium	45.57/Kg.	Andhra Millenium	45.57/Kg.
8.	M/s India Paper Converter			Royal Megnum Century Andhra Bilt Power JK Brand	35.20/Kg. 41.50/Kg. 42.40/Kg. 43.30/Kg. 46.00/Kg.
9.	M/s Priyadarshani	Impression	55.05/Kg.	Impression	44.21/Kg.
10.	M/s Swaroop Paper Agency	Century	44.02/Kg	Century	43.33/Kg.
11.	M/s Karam Chand Thaper	Copy Power	44.13/Kg.	Copy Power Image Copier Globus Megnum	44.13/Kg. 38.32/Kg. 53.15/Kg.

Statement-III

Comparative Statement showing Rates of Bulbs and Tube Lights

Rates of Company/Brand

S. No.	Item	Philips		ECE		Wipro		Crompton Greaves	
		Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now	Earlier	Now
1.	100 Watt Bulb	9.84	9.84	8.35	7.34	7.79	7.79	—	7.89
2.	50 Watt Bulb	9.02	9.02	8.35	7.17	7.37	7.37	—	7.67
3.	40 Watt Bulb	9.02	9.02	7.88	7.17	7.37	7.37	—	7.67
4.	Tube light 4"	42.39	42.39	36.87	32.75	35.50	35.50	—	36.84
5.	Tube light 2"	40.65	40.65	36.87	32.75	34.73	34.40	—	33.11

Tenders For Stationery

5606. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Bhandar has invited limited and open tender for the supply of stationery and other items with a stipulated that preference shall be given to reputed manufacturer or their authorised distributor only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tenders were considered from bidders who were not authorised by the manufacturers particularly in the case of M/s Bombay dying & Mfg. Co. Limited, Mumbai;

(c) if so, why were such bids not rejected at the first sight;

(d) what action the Government propose to take to fix the accountability and responsibility in this regard;

(e) do the products of Bombay Dying & Mfg. Co. Limited fall in the category of 'branded' item;

(f) if so, why was a tender called in respect of these branded products; and

(g) 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) Yes, Sir. Kendriya Bhandar has invited tenders for supply of many items including Towel. In the tender for Towel, it was stipulated that preference shall be given to reputed manufacturer or their authorised distributor. The world 'only' was not mentioned.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise In view of (b) above.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Tender enquiry was called for Turkish Towel (Luxury) Mill made (Bombay Dying or equivalent). The purpose of floating the tender enquiry was to enable the purchasers to get competitive rates from different distributors of same brand and, if possible, to get rates for equivalent products of other manufacture.

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

Irregularities in Kendriya Bhandar

5607. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item titled "there's good news for those in Government who have a conscience" appearing in Indian Express dated July 8, 2001;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the reaction of the Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that some Hon'ble Members of this House have exposed the wrong doing going on in Kendriya Bhandar through writing letters to MOS(PP) but of no avail;

(d) the details of letters/complaints of Hon'ble Members of Parliament lying pending with MOS(PP) for action/reply and which date the same will be dispose-off;

(e) whether it is also a fact that some suppliers of Kendriya Bhandar who are trying to expose the wrong doing in Kendriya Bhandar are being victimised and no supply order are being placed on them; and

(f) if so, steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of whistle blowers from victimisation in public interest?

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. Appropriate action would be taken by the government as and when the recommendations of the Constitution Review Commission is received and accepted by the Government.

(c) No Sir. Every letter from Members of Parliament are accorded the highest priority and every case referred by them is followed up.

(d) A large number of letters/complaints have been received from Members of Parliament. Replies of all such letters are being expedited.

(e) No, Sir.

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

Catalogue of Registered Medical Specialist

5608. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Delhi Medical Council is going to launch a catelogue of registered medical specialists in Delhi and the needy patients can ring up Council office for available specialists in their area;

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

(c) the time by which a catalogue of registered medical specialists is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to Delhi Medical Council they are providing information to general public, like name of doctors, their qualification, telephone numbers, place of practice with regard to the doctors registered with them through 'Data Bank del Doc' launched on 2nd July, 2001. In addition, the Delhi Medical Council is providing this information on telephone as and when the same is sought. The Council is in the process of bringing this information on a Website. They will also bring out booklets to inform the public about the medical facilities in Delhi.

AIDS Patients

5609. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the AIDS patients are being treated indifferently by AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the action initiated against the doctors who have shown indifferent attitude towards the AIDS patients;

(d) whether detailed guidelines have been issued to Hospitals in this regard;

(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) and (b) HIV/AIDS patients are being treated without any discrimination at AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. Detailed guidelines on clinical management of HIV/AIDS patients have been issued.

Voting Rights to Indian Citizens

5610. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question no. 480 dated 15.7.1996 and state:

(a) whether the proposal in respect of grant of voting rights to Indian citizens living in Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh is pending with the Government since long;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether the Government propose to give this right to these Indian citizens in the near future; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the issue of voting rights for Indian citizens living in Indian enclaves in Bangladesh. India has no administrative control or access to the Indian enclaves in Bangladesh. They are to be exchanged as per the India — Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974. The exchange of enclaves is directly linked to the completion of joint demarcation of the boundary between India and Bangladesh. The joint demarcation of about 6.5 kms of the India-Bangladesh land boundary is yet to be completed. The Government of India is keen on an early settlement of all boundary-related matters with Bangladesh and the two Governments have set up two Joint Boundary Working Groups to address the pending issues including completion of demarcation and exchange of enclaves and territories in adverse possession in a focused and systematic manner. The first meeting of these Groups was held in Dhaka in July 2001.

Talks on Siachen

5611. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to send army officers to Pakistan for talks on Siachen;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in resolving the Siachen problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In keeping with our traditional quest for good neighbourly ties, and also to create a conducive environment prior to the visit of the Pakistan President to India (14-16 July 2001), on 6th July 2001, Prime Minister

instructed the Director General of Military Operations to meet his Pakistani counterpart so that processes of peace along the Line of Control (LoC) and the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) can be strengthened and stabilized. Pakistan's response is awaited.

(c) India is committed to establishing good neighbourly relations with Pakistan. For this purpose India initiated the Composite Dialogue in 1998, which seeks to build trust and confidence, establish a stable structure of cooperation and address outstanding issues. Under the Composite Dialogue, direct bilateral dialogue is held on the subject of Siachen, in addition to the subjects of Peace & Security including CBMs, Jammu & Kashmir, Tulbul Navigation Project, Sir Creek, Terrorism and Drug trafficking. Economic and Commercial Cooperation and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in various fields.

Distorted MAP

5612. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a map showing Aksai-Chin as part of China has been published as reported in the Indian Express dated July 9, 2001;

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

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The map does not accurately reflect the external boundary of India.

CAG Findings on MIG

5613. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MIG-21 deal has been indicated by the Comptroller and Auditor General for a series of bad decisions such as violating of contract and the transfer of old weaponry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decisions were taken by a Committee constituted by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General indicates that the manufacturer did not honour the contract provisions for transfer of technology (TOT) and insisted for payment for TOT and that the manufacturer supplied certain weapons with old propellant.

(c) to (e) A joint techno-economic study was carried out in 1992 and the proposal for upgradation of MIG Bis aircraft was found to be comprehensive and cost effective, which has since been approved by the Government.

Kendriya Bhandar

5614. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 4719 dated April 18, 2001 regarding higher rates in Kendriya Bhandar wherein it has been stated in (iii) of part(a) that Kendriya Bhandar obtains an undertakings from its suppliers that they will not sell the items at a price lower than quoted to Kendriya Bhandar:

(a) the reasons why suppliers have been de-registered on the ground of charging higher rates than the market rates-the suppliers have supplied the items at the rates approved by the Kendriya Bhandar;

(b) whether in the directory on Stores on Rate Contract 2000, DGS&D has in the Preface to sub-para has made it incumbent on Government departments to obtain their requirement only through rate contract wherever available; and

(c) if so, why has the Kendriya Bhandar has been purchasing tubelights and bulbs of Philips brand at higher rats than the DGS&D rate contract-Philips brand tubelight and bulbs being on the DGS&D rate contract?

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) Kendriya Bhandar approved the competitive rates of the item being supplied by the suppliers. At the same time an undertaking is taken from suppliers that they shall not supply/quote the rates lower to any other customers than the rates offered to Kendriya Bhandar. Some suppliers violated the terms of the undertaking and hence they were deregistered.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Wherever DGS&D have entered into rate contract, Kendriya Bhandar insist on the suppliers on matching the same price and a small margin is added to meet Kendriya Bhandar's overhead expenses for maintenance of its office and employees' wages etc. which is not in the case of DGS&D. Further Kendriya Bhandar usually stocks more than one brand and supplies the brand as preferred by the consumers. If the consumer does not give any preference, the lower cost brand is supplied.

[Translation]

Social Justice Committee

5615. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plans for the year 2001-2002 for providing reservation and social justice to the most backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the details therefor;

(d) whether the Government have constituted Social Justice Committee for the most backward classes at the State level; and

(e) 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) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has already been providing 27% reservation in Civil posts and Services under the Government of India to persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) subject to exclusion of Creamy Layer.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Government of India is already ensuring that the benefits of reservation and of various developmental schemes go to the most needy among OBCs by introducing the concept of Creamy Layer and prescribing the income limit for determining their eligibility under each scheme.

[English]

Collection of Security Deposit by Kendriya Bhandar

5616. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar a Multistate Cooperative Society is collection security deposits @ 25,000/- for one item and Rs. 50,000/- for two items or more from its registered suppliers;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that DGS&D which is a purchase policy makers and adviser on the Government purchases are not collecting any security deposit from their registered suppliers;

(c) whether DGS&D is asking for Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) from unregistered suppliers participating in ad hoc tenders but Kendriya Bhandar is asking for EMD from its registered suppliers in the case of tenders called for deciding rate contract;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is no sales guarantee given by the Kendriya Bhandar in consonance with the security deposit asked; and

(f) if so, whether there is any proposal to ask the Central Registrar, Multistate Cooperative Societies to go into the whole aspect of taking security deposit by the Kendriya Bhandar?

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) Yes, Sir. However, against adhoc contracts security deposit (Performance Security) at the rate of 10% of the contract value is obtained from all suppliers irrespective of their registration status.

(c) Kendriya Bhandar requires all participants in open tenders to provide EMD. This is as per provisions of General Financial Rules.

(d) and (c) The purpose of asking Earnest Money Deposit is to ensure that the suppliers do not withdraw their offer after opening of the tenders. This deposit has no relevance to the sales guarantee.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) & (e) above.

Corruption in Kendriya Bhandar

5617. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the indents submitted by the Government departments to Kendriya Bhandar for the purchase of stationery and other items, where items are not specified by brand names, the Kendriya Bhandar instead of issuing branded items of competitive price issue items of other brands in which they have vested interest;

(b) there is any proposal to go through the Government indents received by the Kendriya Bhandar in the last six months to find out the manipulations by the Kendriya Bhandar therein;

(c) the corrective steps taken in this regard;

(d) whether there is no lawful procedure to quote the rates of items asked for by the Government departments and the rates of those items are quoted where the Kendriya Bhandar has vested interest;

(e) whether some Members of Parliament have written to the Minister in this regard specifically giving instances; and

(f) if so, the action 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) Kendriya Bhandar sells the items/brands as per indent of Departments of Government. Where any brand is not mentioned, the items at lowest rate available in stocks, is supplied.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No action in view of reply to (a) above.

(d) The rates are quoted by Kendriya Bhandar at approved rate for available items in accordance with approved guidelines.

(e) and (f) Suitable replies have been given to Members of Parliament in this regard.

Setting up of Development Centres

5618. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Computer Sciences Corporation India, a 100 per cent subsidiary of the $ 11 billion US-based CSC, propose to set up two offshore Development Centers in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places where these centres are likely to be set up;

(c) whether the Government have agreed to this proposal; and

(d) if so, the time by which these new Centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) M/s Computer Sciences Corporation India (P) Ltd. formerly known as Policy Management Systems (I) Pvt. Ltd. (PMSI), wholly owned subsidiary of Policy Management Systems Corporation (PMSC) of Columbia, USA — is an offshore development until under STP scheme at Optel Software Technology Park, Indore. This unit became operational in May 1997 and currently has employee strength of about 240.

No other proposal have been received in this Ministry/ Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, from the company.

Sale of UPS, Inverters, Batteries and Stabilizers

5619. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the suppliers of UPS, inverters, batteries, stabilisers etc. are asked to market their products in the Government offices by the Kendriya Bhandar and their payments are released to only after the realization of the payments from the Government departments and the Kendriya Bhandar does not stock these items with them;

(b) if so, how does the Government expect fair and reasonable prices of these and other items from the suppliers;

(c) what action does the Government propose to direct the Kendriya Bhandar to stop such uncalled for and unwanted activities and to stock the items with themselves, to sell the items themselves and to release the payment of suppliers in the agreed number of days; and

(d) if not, the justification of the Government not issuing directions to the Kendriya Bhandar 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) For these items, rate contract has been issued on DGS&D pattern. The rates are competitive with the DGS&D prices. Further, Kendriya Bhandar also obtains price guarantee undertaking from suppliers not to sell at lower price to any other customer.

(c) and (d) Due to space constraints, it is not possible for Kendriya Bhandar to stock all the items. As regards the release of payment to supplier, it is not possible to release the same unless the goods are sold and payment are realized from customers. However, to encourage the realization of payment, Kendriya Bhandar has a provision for 2% special discount to customers in case of advance payment or payment against delivery.

Kendriya Bhandar

5620. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar has deposited crores and crores of rupees in FDRS with the bank; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the sources of that money?

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 details of FDR's from different Regional offices of Kendriya Bhandar are being collected.

Vitamin A Supplementation

5621. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the policy of Vitamin A Supplementation recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact on children of two doses of Vitamin A Supplementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government had organised a National Consultation with experts on benefits and Safety of Administration of Vitamin A to Pre-school children and Pregnant and Lactating Women in September, 2000. the Consultation, inter-alia, concluded that the magnitude of clinical Vitamin A deficiency has declined significantly in the country but exists in scattered pockets. It was recommended that the current practice of administering five doses of Vitamin A to children between the age of 9 months and 3 years should be continued. It was recommended that pregnant/lactating women with symptoms of night blindness should be treated with appropriate doses of Vitamin A. For sustainable elimination of Vitamin A deficiency, production and consumption of Vitamin A rich foods must be strongly promoted in the community, particularly among pregnant and lactating women and children. The consultation recommended that administration of Vitamin A should not be linked with campaigns like the Pulse Polio Immunization. Instead, alternative approaches may be adopted for improving Vitamin A coverage.

Extensive clinical and field trials conducted earlier by the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad indicated that 2,00,000 IU of Vitamin A in oil miscible form, when given orally to children between 1-5 years of age, not only prevented keratomalacia but also reduced the prevalence of Bitot Spots by as much as 75 per cent. A large five-year longitudinal fielled trail, covering over 60,000 children from the slum areas of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, reveals that six monthly administration of massive oral doses of Vitamin A brings down the incidence of corneal xerophthalmia by 80 per cent. Repeat surveys of National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau conducted in the same villages of 8 States indicated that there is a decline in the prevalence of Bitot's Spots in preschool children from 1.8 per cent in 1975-79 to 0.7 per cent in 1996-97.

[Translation]

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 788(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2000 appointing 17th October, 2000 as the date on which the provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to come into force issued under section (1) of the said Act.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4067/2001]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 87 of the Information Technology Act, 2000:—

(i) The Information Technology (Certifying Authorities) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 789(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2000.

(ii) The Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 2000 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 791(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2000.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4068/2001]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 790(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2000 constituting the Cyber Regulation Advisory Committee consisting of 21 members issued under section 88 of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4069/2001]

[English]

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): On behalf of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai, for the year 1999-2000.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4070/2001]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4071/2001]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehra Dun, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehra Dun, for the year 1999-2000.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4072/2001]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 1999-2000.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4073/2001]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad, for the year 1999-2000.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4074/2001]

[Translation]

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): Sir, 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 Ministers during various sessions Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:—

TENTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. XLII Sixth Session, 1993

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4075/2001]

2. Statement No. XXVIII Thirteenth Session, 1995

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4076/2001]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. XXIII Second Session, 1996

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4077/2001]

4. Statement No. XXII Third Session, 1996

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4078/2001]

5. Statement No. XXII Fourth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4079/2001]

6. Statement No. XIX Fifth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4080/2001]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

7. Statement No. XVIII Second Session, 1998

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4081/2001]

8. Statement No. XV Third Session, 1998

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4082/2001]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

9. Statement No. XI Second Session, 1999

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4083/2001]

10. Statement No. X Third Session, 2000

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4084/2001]

11. Statement No. VI Fourth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4085/2001]

12. Statement No. IV Fifth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4086/2001]

13. Statement No. III Sixth Session, 2001.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 4087/2001]

[English]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th August, 2001 agreed without any amendment to the Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment)

Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th August, 2001."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th August, 2001, agreed without any amendment to the Energy Conservation Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th August, 2001."

(iii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Thursday, the 16th August, 2001 adopted the following motion in regard to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:-

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one Member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Shri N. Thalavai Sundaram, resigned from the membership of Rajya Sabha and resolves that the House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, one member from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, Shri R. Kamaraj, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to the said Committee.

[Translation]

12.01½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Twenty Fourth Report

7. SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on "Undermining of Parliamentary Financial Control".

[English]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Fifth and Sixth Reports

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (Adilabad): I beg to present the Fifth and Sixth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

[Translation]

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals:—

(1) Fifteenth Report on Pricing and Availability of Drugs/ Pharmaceuticals.

(2) Sixteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals (1999-2000) on 'Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO)'.

(3) Seventeenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals (1999-2000) on 'Demand, Availability and Import of Potash/Potassic Fertilisers'.

(4) Eighteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report (13th Lok Sabha of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals (2001) on 'Demands for Grants-(2001-2002) of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals'.

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

(5) Nineteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals (2001) on 'Demands for Grants-(2001-2002) of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers, Department of Fertilisers'.

[Translation]

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Setting up of Non-Lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund for Indian Railways.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Speaker Sir Hon'ble Members would recall that the safety of the travelling on the Railways has been a growing concern, and has been under frequent discussion in various fora. Many high level inquiry Committees have been engaged in the past to go into the issue of Railway Safety, namely, the Shah Nawaaz Committee (1954), the Kunzru Committee (1962), Wanchoo Committee (1968), Sikri Committee (1978). More recently, the Railway Safety Review Committee (1998) under the Chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna has also examined this issue. The Railway Safety Review Committee gave its interim report in August, 1999 and final report in February 2001. In its report it had interalia recommended that in the interest of safety of the travelling public, the Central Government should provide a one time grant to the Railways so that arrears in the renewal of vital safety equipment are wiped out within a fixed time frame of 5 to 7 years. The Committee had also recommended that one time grant of Rs. 15000 cr. be given by the Central Government to the Railways to wipe out arrears of replacement of over aged assets. The cost of replacement of such over-aged assets has been re-assessed at current price level as Rs. 17000 cr.

The Government has been siezed of this issue and I am glad to inform the House that the Cabinet has, on 27th August 2001, decided to set up a non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund to wipe out the arrears of replacement on the Railways in a fixed time schedule, as recommended by the Justice Khanna Committee. This Special Railway Safety Fund will be funded through two sources viz. (1) Railways' contribution through the levy of Safety Surcharge on passenger traffic and (2) through additional financial assistance to be given by the Ministry of Finance.

It is expected that with the levy of the Safety Surcharge, the Railways would be able to raise Rs. 5000 cr. over a period of 6 years including the current financial year, which will be credited to the newly created non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund. The remaining Rs. 12000 cr. would be provided by the Ministry of Finance. In the current financial year the Ministry of Finance have agreed to provide Rs. 1000 cr. towards this fund. The balance amount would be provided over the next five years.

The Safety surcharge would be levied as a flat amount depending on the class of travel with a certain surcharge for travelling distances upto 500 kms. and a higher surcharge beyond 500 kms. The second class (ordinary) and second class (mail/express) passengers will have to pay @ Re. 1 and Rs. 2 respectively of the distance of journey performed. In the sleeper class the levy would be Rs. 10 for distances upto 500 kms. and Rs. 20 for beyond 500 kms. For passengers travelling by the AC Chair Car and First Class, the surcharge would be Rs. 20 upto 500 kms. and Rs. 40 beyond 500 kms. In AC 3 Tier it will be Rs. 30 upto 500 kms. and Rs. 60 beyond 500 kms. AC 2 tier Rs. 40 upto 500 kms. and Rs. 80 beyond 500 kms. and in AC-I Class, it will be Rs. 50 upto 500 kms. and Rs. 100 beyond 500 kms. As far as the monthly season tickets are concerned, it will be Rs. 20 for First Class and Rs. 10 for the second class travel. The surcharge would be levied with effect from 1st October 2001.

With the creation of this non-lapsable Special Railway Safety Fund, Railways expect to be able to wipe out its arrears of replacement of assets in a time bound manner and thereby considerably improve the safety of the travelling public.

The identification of these arrears is in an advanced stage. Only the replacement arrears, as approved by the Expanded Railway Board, would be charged to this Fund and will be incorporated in a separate book of sanctioned projects called the Green Book.

[English]

12.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Eighteenth Report

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, are you allowing a discussion on the statement made by the hon. Minister of Railways?

MR. SPEAKER: No.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

12.07 hrs.

RE: REPORTED DEATHS DUE TO STARVATION IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker Sir, the poorest people in several of our States have been facing the prospect of starvation and many have died even during the course of this Session. It is shocking that such tragic events are occuring while our granaries are absolutely overflowing with food stock; it is not only that but a lot of food grains are actually rotting.

It is heart-breaking that deaths due to starvation are taking place in today's age. It is even more painful that this should be happening when we have about sixty million tonnes of buffer stock in our godowns. All this, we believe, is entirely due to bad planning and bad management of our stocks and bad distribution system.

Instead of mobilising on a war footing, the Government has been extremely slow; and, perhaps, even been a mute spectator. In view of this unprecedented situation, which is getting worse by the day, as we see in the news and as we see in the newspapers every day, we demand that the Government should formulate and announce immediate short-term and long-term steps to alleviate the sufferings of our poor people in many different States of our country. Food for work programmes ought to have been launched on a massive scale long, long ago. Even today, it is not too late. Suggestions have been given by experts as well as by Chief Ministers. I know, for instance, that Chief Ministers of our Congress-governed States have come up with a suggestion that the Government should set up food grain banks.

But apparently, this suggestion too has fallen on deaf ears. For months as the crisis worsens, nothing significant seems to be done. We feel that the Government must formulate a clear-cut policy for enhancing the storage capacity before more foodgrains goes waste. Therefore, I seek, on behalf of my Party, the Government's urgent and immediate attention on this burning issue. Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I support the hon. Leader of the Opposition in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I have given a notice on this subject and it has been allowed...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my party has also raised this serious question. It is not that this issue has been raised for the first time but we have been raising it since long. They must have read today's Times of India. I do not read newspaper. In Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)* In Uttar Pradesh also...*(Interruptions)* Starvation is prevailing on a large scale all over the country...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a serious subject. Please understand it.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am raising the issue which concerns the entire country. The same situation is prevailing in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and in Gujarat also. It is a very serious matter. Unfortunately our godowns are full of wheat, sugar, rice and other foodgrains. Rs. 30-40 crores are being spent everyday on the maintenance of these foodgrains but we have come to know that 35% of the foodgrains has been rotten. Under the mounted pressure of rich foreign countries, Government has decided to cover the budget deficit on priority basis ignoring the starving people. 800 adivasi children in Maharshtra have died in a year due to hunger. A woman from Bihar went to Calcutta with her one year old daughter for their livelihood but when she failed she started crying on the crossing and appealed to save her child. She sold the child for a meagre amount of 300 rupees. The situation in Orissa is so grave that people are compelled to sell their children for Rs. 300 only to make their both ends meet. Girls are being sold Rs. 5 thousand. Labourers are harassing their wives. Not only

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

in Orissa but the same situation is prevailing all over the country...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, How can he talk about Orissa? He is making a wrong statement...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: How can you stop him? Please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, we, the Members from Orissa have given notice. Hon. Member Shri Bikram Keshari Deo who is from Kalahandi has given notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

MR. SPEAKER: Please take you seat. I am calling the names of the Members who have given the notice. Please understand it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling the names of the Members who have given notices for the 'Zero hour'. How can you stop him?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, I was saying that children are being sold off due to starvation and in such compelling circumstances. Labourers are harassing their wives. Women are compelled to indulge in flesh trade for their livelihood and are even committing suicides. Just now, I have narrated an incident where a woman sold off her child for Rs. 300 just to keep him alive. Why such a situation has emerged? I have stated that rich countries have mounted pressure on multi-national foreign companies. Therefore, I would like to caution you that if such a situation continues, we would be compelled to announce to the masses not to indulge in the cowardly act of committing suicide but to loot the over-flowing godowns. They will not be left to die due to hunger. Government should understand that such a situation is going to emerge soon. Then we will ask the people not to commit suicide but allow themselves to be killed by the Police. Several people were killed in indiscriminate firing by the police in Hardwar and Baghpat. Innocent people are being killed in police firing...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, there are other Members also who want to speak on this.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, I am going to conclude but they are interrupting. I was saying that we do not want that situation to come. Earlier Gujarat faced the havoc of earthquake now starvation is prevailing there. It is right that even if you did not have the foodgrain, you have had to arrange the foodgrains but what is the reason that 35% foodgrain is rottening. What are the compelling reasons behind it. Through you, I would like to reiterate the fact to hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that if the Government fails to make adequate arrangements of foodgrains, starvation will spread all over the country. Supreme Court has also questioned why starvation deaths are taking place in the country when our godowns are full of foodgrains. Whether you will not comply the order of the Supreme Court? If people die of starvation or commit suicide we will tell them the reality. We will not let them commit suicide. Godowns will be looted and sugar, rice and other foodgrains would be taken out forcibly. We will try to satiate their hunger. Foodgrains will be looted from the godowns and distributed among the hungry and poor people. Therefore, I am saying that please do not let this situation to come. A discussion should be held on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE (Sarangarh): Sir, I have given notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you.

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Sir, continuously for the last three days I have been giving notice to raise the matter during Zeor Hour, but I have not been given the opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call you after Shri Somnathji.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, it concerns my area; KBK...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: It concerns other areas also. I will call you also.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I can very well understand the anxiety of my hon. friend to raise this issue, which should not be treated as a partisan matter. We are not treating it as a partisan matter. It is a question of life and death of people of our country. Unfortunately, Sir, what the situation is, it is a reflection on everybody, the entire political system that the judiciary has issued directions in this matter.

Sir, we have been raising this issue from time to time. The other day when we were discussing the issue of disinvestment, we had said that they are giving primacy to disinvestment, but they should also look at the situation in the country. That is why, we have said that this is a very inappropriate manner to take certain decisions which they have taken because the people are dying when the godowns are full. This is an anachronism in a system that we have developed that the people are not getting the food when the food is available.

Sir, imports are coming in. Yesterday, we got a report that now rice is being imported at cheap rate from Thailand, Indonesia and Burma. Now, even our peasants, our farmers are facing difficulty in selling their product. What sort of policy is this Government following in the name of WTO, in the name of globalisation? Cheap rice is coming and our rice is not sold. Rice is inside the godowns, but it is not being made available to the public.

So far as Food for Work Programme is concerned, it has been extremely useful, it has saved many people in the past and it will help in the national reconstruction and development of infrastructure. In the year 2001, we have to now even cry inside the House that give food to our people in the country.

It is a shameful situation. I am not trying to score a political point, although a lot of points can be scored. I do not want to raise those issues now. The Government must take it extremely seriously. Please do not treat it as a pure Party matter that we are trying to raise.

I am glad that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has given primacy to it. Therefore, I am requesting immediate intervention and change of policy.

I will take half a minute and then I conclude. Disturbances are created not by coming into the Well of the House only. Please see that the business is conducted in a proper manner. I compliment the efforts that are being made by the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister today in bringing reason to somebody.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter regarding Haridwar is very serious...*(Interruptions)* I have also given notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has given the notice.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, a news item appeared in the *Times of India* today saying that people have died of starvation or by eating mango kernel or because of malnutrition. It is a matter of serious concern and I definitely share the view of the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi on this. However, the sole blame should not be upon the Government because for a majority of the time, Congress Party was in Government in Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): Your partners are running the Government in Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, please understand that they did not say anything about the Government in Orissa. What is this?

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, during 1985-86, starvation deaths appeared for the first time in Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): The Leader of the Opposition talked about the situation in many States and not about the Government of Orissa....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a serious issue.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: So, our Government is also committed to eradicate poverty and starvation in the KBK Districts. They have planned a long-term action plan for mitigating poverty in these areas.

I urge upon the Government that this should be implemented immediately so that such cases do not occur

[Shri Bikram Kehari Deo]

in future. I also agree with the Leader of the Marxist Party that no partisan attitude should be taken on this issue because it is a humane issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that they are supporting you.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Therefore, I urge upon the Chair also to give a ruling that some sort of immediate and emergent actin should be taken in these areas where distress has been seen. Our Government is committed to eradicate starvation and poverty in these areas and programmes have been prepared. However, at the same time, I am sorry to say that the previous Governments never looked into the problems of these areas where 80 per cent of the people live below the poverty line. The previous Governments, which ruled Orissa, I would like to categorically name the Congress Government, did nothing. When a writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court, it gave a direction. The High Court also gave a direction. It was pointed out that the starvation deaths had taken place due to the neglect of the then Government. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Matter of Haridwar is very serious. I would like to speak on it.

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: (Guna); Sir, this is a very important issue. Before the Parliament adjourns on 31st, could we not have a discussion on this important issue?

MR. SPEAKER: If you can find time, I have no objection.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: We are sitting up to 8 o'clock every day. So, let the country know that we are concerned about this. This is a very major issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We should discuss the entire food situation in the country *vis-a-vis* the starvation deaths that have taken place in Orissa, which are the highest. Before this Session comes to an end, we should discuss this very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Let there be a discussion. No issue is more important than this. People are dying of starvation...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They are asking about Half-an-Hour discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please understand that I am trying to find a solution. What is this?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, we have to have a discussion on this. It is a very serious issue, so let us find time for this.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier also the House has discussed this issue two-three times. Nothing can be more shameful than if a man dies due to hunger.

It has been rightly stated that starvation should not be the reason of death if our godowns are full. Both the sides stated time and again that it is not a political matter but even then the matter was politicised. They blamed the Government for not doing anything in the matter...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The hon. Leader of the Opposition did not mention any particular State anywhere. Orissa's name was not even mentioned.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not mention the name of any particular State. I talked in general, and I talked of the poor people of India who are dying...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You can see the speeches of Shri Somnath Chatterjee and her also ...*(Interruptions)* did not interrupt you while you were speaking.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We did not mention any names. I did not make it a partisan issue. I have not mentioned any State...*(Interruptions)* Is this the attitude of the ruling Party? If you want to make it a political

issue, we will also do it. We have a lot of things to say about this Government....*(Interruptions)* They want to hide their inefficiency by accusing others...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You can see the newspaper. It is reported in the newspapers that people died of starvation in Orissa...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have tried to politicise the issue...*(Interruptions)* Government has made announcement in the House to provide foodgrains to State Governments free of cost for implementing the scheme "food for work" for the people whether living below the poverty line or above the poverty line. Any State can take the foodgrains but it is State Government's responsibility to get the foodgrains transported in their respective State. It includes all the States irrespective of the fact that which party's Government is in power there be it Congress Government, BJP Government or any other party's Government is in power there. Foodgrains are provided to them free of cost....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Starvation deaths are happening and, that is why, we are mentioning them...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue should not be politicised...*(Interruptions)* They are not letting me speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There should not be any politics in it.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter concern humanity, it is not a political matter. Therefore, it should not be politicised. Starvation deaths should not take place...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Is he Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to give the reply?...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Can I reply?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would like to know whether Shri Pramod Mahajan is the Cabinet Minister or Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Everyday, he gets up and tries to give the reply...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am defending my party. It is the responsibility of the State Governments. Sonia ji and Mulayam Singh ji should direct their respective Governments in different States to accomplish this task. Likewise, Shri Somnathji should ask the West Bengal Government to get this work done. Foodgrains are being supplied to the States free of cost...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is the spokesman outside and not inside the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Only the Parliamentary Affairs Minister should speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do we take it that we cannot raise an issue on a non-partisan basis and it has to be politicised?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They can always raise the issues, but they cannot blame the Government for everything...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You are dragging the issue of disinvestment unnecessarily...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If the Government wants to politicise it, we are also prepared. We have more to say than they can say against us...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the starvation deaths have taken place in Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): It is a wrong policy which they are following.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have to see the reality. There is no doubt that we have buffer stock this year. On the issue of minimum support price, we pressurised the Government of India, and the FCI procured a lot of rice this year. There are no exports this year. Last year, by this time, 35 lakh tonnes of rice was exported, but this year, we have not exported even a thousand metric tonnes of rice. In this scenario, a high-level meeting should be called to discuss the issues. The Prime Minister should call all the political party leaders to discuss about the disposing of stocks. We are facing drought and floods on the one side, and starvation deaths due to lack of food on the other side. In this connection, the Supreme Court has also given a direction. In this scenario, a high-level meeting should be called to discuss all these issues.

Sir, it is better to convene a meeting. We will get the information about the ground realities as they are prevailing and feed it to the Government. The Government of India should take a policy decision in the matter. That is my suggestion.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether any rule will be followed? Whether we will not be allowed to speak?

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? You please sit down. It is not possible to call all of you at the same time.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present Government makes like Antoyoda, Annapurna...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is ready to give reply. You are not allowing him to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of opposition and other hon'ble Members have definitely...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Raghuvansh Babu is using inappropriate words.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told that nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is there is the record.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not in the record. You please sit down. What are you doing...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pappu Yadav, this is not proper. How are you behaving in the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they should lend me an ear as I am raising the issue concerning the people...*(Interruptions)* If I will be interrupted in such a manner...*(Interruptions)* Am I not allowed to raise the issue concerning people...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pappu Yadav, please take your seat. We are discussing a very serious problem here and you are disturbing the House. I do not understand the attitude of the Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Whether we will be restricted to raise such issue of public importance.

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Babu are you not serious about this matter.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have drawn the attention of the Government towards the seriousness of the issue.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was stating that the leader of opposition and other hon'ble Members have definitely raised an important issue, I was not aware that she was to raise this issue today in the House otherwise I would have asked the concerned Minister to be present in the House...*(Interruptions)* Why are you getting so impatient? Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is wrong in what I have stated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhury, you are doing the same thing always.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, I am only suggesting...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was just going to state that there should have been prior intimation if she wanted to speak during Zero Hour because I think that the concerned Minister, should be present in the House when the leader of opposition raises any matter in the House. I am saying this as per the convention of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of opposition has raised a very important matter. I agree to Shri Somnath Babu that the issue should to be politicised. It is shameful for any society when their godowns are over flowing but people are dying due to starvation. On other issues we can indulge in allegations and counter allegations but the issue of starvation deaths should be kept away from all this because starvation deaths have happened in many States. Different parties are in power in different States.

Therefore, I agree with the views expressed here by various members that Central Government have godowns over flowing with foodgrains. I do not want to go into the number of such godowns or the quantum of foodgrains stored there; but everybody will feel aggrieved if starvation death takes place in spite of over-flowing godowns. Together, we all should evolve a solution to this problem. What Shri Mulayam Singhji has suggested is a kind of revolt. Before that we should evolve a peaceful solution to provide foodgrains to the needy persons from the godowns.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I have raised the same point that people should not be compelled to grab the foodgrains forcibly. If the prevailing situation continues, they will be compelled to do the same.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: That's why I was saying that we should make some provision. With the same view, I would like to mention here two points.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is but natural that Centre possess a large stock of foodgrains because Centre procures larger quantity of foodgrains in comparison to the State Governments. Therefore, State Governments possess small stock of foodgrains. Hence,, the responsibility lies with the Centre to provide foodgrains to the starving people. However, responsibility to lift the foodgrains from Central Government's godowns lies with the State Governments. It is the duty of the State Governments. I am not talking about a particular party's Government in a State rather I am talking about all the State Governments that it is their duty to make arrangements for providing foodgrains to common man. In my view Central and State Governments together should make some arrangement so that people on the verge of starvation should get foodgrains. I would like to assure that there will be no dearth of efforts on the part of the Central Government. A suggestion to hold a discussion on it before the prorogation of the House has been given. Government do not have any objection, members may fix the time of the discussion. The concerned Minister will also be there in the House during that discussion. Another member has given a suggestion that Prime Minister or any other Minister should call an all party meeting in this regard. I can not give the time without taking permission from the Prime Minister but Government have no objection to it. Leader of Opposition has requested to seriously consider the suggestions of Chief Ministers. Government has no objection even in this regard also. Therefore, without politicising the matter, I would like to assure the House that Central Government will not withdraw this issue and cooperate the State Governments to evolve a solution to the problem.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the Central Government is doing cheap imports. That is also creating problems...*(Interruptions)* People are buying foodgrains at cheaper rates...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Please say something in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have a list of 60 notices today. I am calling the Members one by one.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand the situation. I am having 60 notices today. Shri Ramjilal Suman, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not allowing other Members to speak. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have all the notices with me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kaliappan.

...(Interruptions)

*SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (Gobichettipalayam): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, we have been talking about ensuring forests and saving wild life. We have separate Ministry and a Cabinet Ministry for that. But still the monitoring mechanism has failed to protect wild-life and it is unfortunate.

The recent seizure and confiscation of animal hides and skins in Uttar Pradesh has shocked the animal lovers of the entire world. At Kaka in U.P., seventy leopard skins, two hundred and twenty-one deer hides, eighteen thousand leopard nails and 132 tiger nails were confiscated. This big seizure was followed by the confiscation of 185 kgs. of leopards' bones. Totally the body parts of 1400 leopards and 60 tigers were taken away from a smugglers den. This is a very big seizure in the entire world. Mr. Valmik Thomar, the President of South Asian Save Wildlife Project has stated that wildlife products worth 12 billion dollars are being smuggled out from this region. Last year, 50 leopard hides and 3 tiger hides were confiscated near Ghaziabad.

We have 25 tiger sanctuaries all over the country. Operation Tiger Project is there on the side. But at the same time, tigers and leopard are mercilessly hunted down on the other side. Their body parts are smuggled out. At Nandan Kanan Zoological Park in Orissa, thirteen tigers died last year. Those who are responsible to ensure their safety kill these rare species of wild animals. It is an irony that the protectors themselves prey on the protected ones. This only shows the mis-management of affairs in protecting the wildlife in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? This is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am calling one by one.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K.K. Kaliappan, please take your seat. You cannot read in the 'zero hour' please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising a very important issue of two railway lines of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways that the work on Mudkher-Adilabad and Mudkher-Bolram railway lines...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to cooperate with the Chair. Then only you will get a chance to speak. Otherwise, you will not get a chance. You can take only a minute or two, not more than that.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: The work on these two projects was started in 1996-97. These projects are among the projects initially implemented in the country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jadhavji, it is not a debate. Please wind up in a minute or two.

SHRI SURSH RAMRAO JADHAV: Sir, HUDCO had sanctioned Rs. 100 crores to these projects but till date not a single penny has been released. The earth-work on these two railway projects has been completed. We all, members of Shiv Sena Party, MPs from Marathwara

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

* Not recorded.

region and Members of T.D.P. have met the Chairman, HUDCO, Minister of Urban Development and Minister of Railways also but no progress have been made so far. Through you, I would like to submit to hon'ble Minister that these two projects are very Important. Therefore, I demand that at least Rs. 120 crores should be given immediately for the completion of these projects....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this House a shocking news regarding the attacks against nuns in Gujarat. This attack was done by the Bajrang Dal and VHP activists without any provocation. For quite sometimes, the State of Gujarat has attained notoriety in attacking Christian missionaries and their institutions.

Sir, it seems that the uncalled for and provocative comment of the Prime Minister regarding the Christian missionaries and their priests has acted as a new impetus to these hooligans.

Sir, in this regard, the Government should come forward with a *suo motu* statement in the House. This House wants to know as to what is happening in Gujarat. So far, nobody has been arrested. No case has been registered. Everybody Christian institutions, their nuns and priests are being attacked in the State of Gujarat. The Government should inform this House about all this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and Shri Hannan Mollah may also associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, there is another matter also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, this is a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with a deep regret I am raising this issue in the House. On several occasions I have raised this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I have also given a notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have given a notice to raise a different issue and not to raise the same subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: No, Sir. I have given a notice to raise the same subject...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, you can also associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, I called your name also. You can also associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, Shri Hannan Mollah and Shri Ramesh Chennithala can associate with Shri Suresh Kurup.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If every hon. Member wants to raise it, how can I accommodate all?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: There has been severe devastation due to the flood at Kadhagola in Katihar district falling under my Parliamentary Constituency. No relief operation is being conducted there by the Government...*(Interruptions)* Navgachhiyanmandal has also been flooded and the people there are in distress....*(Interruptions)* The people are vacating their houses and are migrating elsewhere...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, Shri Hannan Mollah and Shri Ramesh Chennithala — the three of you — can associate with Shri Suresh Kurup.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Through you, I would like to request the Government that it should make some arrangement and should protect people who are dying of hunger...*(Interruptions)* If the Government at the State is not willing to lift the foodgrains, the Central Government should itself make arrangement to send foodgrains there and should remove inactive State Government...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are other hon. Members to raise issues. Please take your seat. Now, Shri Ashok Argal.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suresh Kurup, the hon. Minister has to find out the facts. How can he give a ready-made reply? Please understand it. You have raised the matter and the Minister will find out the facts.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Ashok Argal.

...*(Interruptions)* *

MR. SPEAKER: You can all raise the matters one by one. Please sit down. You are not allowing the other hon. Members to speak. Shri Jos, this is too much. Now, Shri Argal.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat first. First take your seat. Even senior Members are doing the same thing. What are you doing? Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Murena): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the deteriorating law and order situation in Madhya Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: The law and order situation is a State subject. How can you raise this issue here in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. It is not proper.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards severe power crisis...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Argal, please take your seat. I have called Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari; and he is the senior most Member in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the severe power crisis in different parts of the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to respect him for his age also.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: You go to trans Yamuna area, there has been 12 to 14 hours load shedding for months. Presently the situation is such that there has been a shortfall of 5000 megawatt of electricity in Uttar Pradesh alone and there is a shortfall of 600 megawatt of power in Uttaranchal. Apart from this the Central powerhouses are threatening the states to make payment of the arrears of their outstanding dues. Uttar Pradesh alone has to pay Rs. 5000 crore to the powerhouses. If the Central Government and the State Government together do not prepared any programme to solve out the problem of shortage of power it will adversely affect the industries, agriculture and trade as it has started affecting them. Daily the newspapers are full

of news regarding the unrest and strike in villages and attack on the power distribution centres....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, what are you doing?

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: This is the situation of power in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal. Besides this there is acute shortage of power in various parts of the country. No steps have been taken by the Government to sort out the disputes with Enron. The foreign companies which were investing in power sector of the country are winding up their projects and returning to their countries. Wherever foreign investment were expected in power sector there the foreign companies are going back. I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to this important and serious situation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that it is on account of the imposition of four percent excise duty on imitation jewellery by the Ministry of Finance that it has adversely affected the livelihood of nearly seven lakh families. Most of the people employed in it belong to backward and dalits section of society and are illiterate. A large number of women are involved in this work. It is an important fact that the production centres of such jewellery are in far flung rural areas of the country. The Government have anticipated to collect nearly Rs. 2 crore for which Government will also have to spend more money. Besides this there is possibility of further exploitation of poor people as they will have to complete the formality required for the registration of excise. It is also very important that imitation jewellery is a Labour Intensive Industry where labour involvement is 80 per cent and the cost of raw material is 20 percent. The branded jewellery has an export market of Rs. 80 thousand crore which is free from any kind of duty while the imitation jewellery is comparatively a smaller industry, yet 4 percent excise duty has been imposed on it. Through you I would like to request the Government that it should reconsider the decision and list Excise Duty imposed on it so that the livelihood of seven lakh families who are directly dependent on this industry, may be secured. Thanks.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised this issue earlier also. The issue of Hardwar is very important. There 6 persons have been killed and 100 injured...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav you raised it during the Question Hour.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: You had told me that you would allow me later on. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I had drawn the attention of the House during the Question Hour. Rajasthan is a peaceful State. There had never been any riots in the past. Prior to this a delegation also visited there in which the people belongings to Communist Party Marxist. CPI and Samajwadi Party had participated. Yet tension is prevailing there. In Bhilwara and Jahajpur mosque was demolished, holy Koran was burnt, and major was damaged but the unfortunate thing is that when muslim people tried to demonstrate in a peaceful manner by wearing black bands, they were stooped in the pretext to maintain law and order situation and stop occurrence of riots. On the other hand those seven to ten thousand people who were involved in burning of holy Koran, demolishing mosque and damaging majars were allowed to raise slogans against muslim community. No relief cooperations have been launched by the Government in riot infested areas. There people are being threatened. When we visited there were opposed and the slogan like Mulayam Singh go back were raised. It is good thing that people have started opposing Mulayam Singh by black flag. Every one know that black flags were shown to great personalities like Pandit Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. There Congressmen and BJP people both were involved in protest against me. When we went to take tea, they said that Mulayam Singh should go back. The Chief Minister of the State has not yet visited the affected area. I accept that in Rajasthan Communal forces are not in the Government, however communal forces are very much strong there and Dasmunsiji, your Government is not able to counter the communal forces there. The communal forces are not being repressed even by the Congress Government, while you blame us. Please do not take it other way, in fact I am alerting you.

12.57 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

This Chief Minister of the State should have visited there. The situation there is further deteriorating. The common people do not intend to involve in riot, but the rioters are being given a free hand. Till now no action has been taken against any of the rioters. While the houses of muslim people are being kept under watch by the police personnels and district administration and they are regarded as terrorists. Till now not even a single rioter has been arrested and you very well understand that whose responsibility is it to arrest them We want

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

that the Central Government or the State Government should immediately pay attention to this. The Government should intervene into the matter. If the Prime Minister issues the statement that the temple will be built there, then it will certainly incite the sentiments of the people. Dasmunshi ji the legislator of your Congress Party resigned from the party and was involved in riots. I am alleging because of this no action is being taken by the Government. My request is that action should be taken against the rioters. The State Government harbouring the rioters instead of taking action against them...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I strongly refute the charges made against our Chief Minister by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. He has no business to drag in our Chief Minister without any reference...*(Interruptions)* He may tour the whole of India. Sir, this matter is very sensitive. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is not aware as to why these things have happened. It is known to the Chief Minister, and the Home Minister of India as to who are the elements who crossed the borders of Pakistan and took shelter there. Everything is known and within the knowledge of the Home Minister. I strongly refute the charges made that the Chief Minister organised it...*(Interruptions)* The Government should take all steps to apprehend those people. The inside story is very dangerous. If Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav wants to who are entering into this affairs, I can refer them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you please resume your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

13.00 hrs.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my notice is at number one. It is very serious issue and you are not giving me opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri P.C. Thomas.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there the people are sitting on Dharna and the entire market is closed on account of disturbances...*(Interruptions)* It is a very serious issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, atrocity is being committed against children of 12-13 years of age...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me...*(Interruptions)* At least you should listen as to what is demand of Hardwar the mistakes that have been committed by them, those mistakes...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, will you please resume your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri P.C. Thomas.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you are the leader of your party. You have already stated what you wanted to say. 'Zero Hour' cannot be monopolised only by you. Let others also speak. Shri P.C. Thomas wants to raise an important matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

13.02 hrs.

RE: NEED FOR STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL BODIES IN UNION TERRITORIES

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the Indian Constitution provides opportunity for all the States as well

as the Union territories to practise democracy in a great way. But it is a fact that inn many of the Union Territories, democratic process is not taking place. In some of the Union Territories, like Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, which is represented by Shri Mohan Delkar, though democratic process was envisaged, it is not taking place. It is high time that we should have a decentralised way of administration, as far as power is concerned, as far as economy is concerned and as far as political process is concerned. I would suggest that the Prime Minister may call a meeting of all concerned, especially those who are denied the grassroots democracy. The Minister of State for Home is present here. We took up the matter with him also. This is the position faced by almost all the Union Territories...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Delkar, why are you interrupting him?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): I have given a notice on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, my humble submission is that the Government should take serious note of this matter and call a conference of all those who are concerned in the Union Territories and others also, so that this matter could be discussed. If there is any need for bringing an amendment in the Constitution, then that may also be brought about. I would like to submit that there should be a federal way of administration. The nation will be satisfied, only when the States and the Union Territories are satisfied. Therefore, we should have a complete change in the Constitution...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas, this is 'Zero Hour'. You have to just mention the matter. You are not supposed to make a speech here.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we proudly claim that the democratic set up of our country is the best in the world while on the other hand I am very sorry to say that there is no democracy at all in the union territories in the country. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you belong to Lakshadweep and Members also came from Daman, Diu and Andaman and Nicobar. In these Union territories the entire power lies with the bureaucrats. Whether it is developmental work or administrative work, there is a no participation of elected Members. Time and again it has been demanded that the power to rule the union territories should be given to the people of the union territories. The Constitution has been amended in this regard. When Zila Parishad and Zila Panchayat were introduced the Government thought that more and more powers would be given to Union territories. Keeping this in view the Constitution was amended to create a post of Chief Counsellor. It was decided to give more power to the Chief Counsellor. Six years have elapsed since then, but no decision has been taken regarding giving more power to Chief Counsellor and district Councils. I would like to extend my thanks to the ministry of Home Affairs that some steps have been taken by the Ministry. We demand that the steps that have been taken are not sufficient and more steps should be taken in this regard. District Councils and Chief Counsellors should be given power as per the provisions of the Constitution...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the subject that I would like to raise...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is the same matter. If you shout like this, I will not give you a chance. There is a limit. All these hon. Members have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Mohan's version.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your matter is a State subject. I will not allow you.

...(Interruptions) *

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Sir, we demand that hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pramod

* Not recorded.

[Shri Mohan S. Delkar]

Mahajan ji should make reply as he is present in the House...*(Interruptions)* Sir I have not yet finished my speech...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Speaker did not allow the hon. Member from this side because he has already participated in the same matter. Should any Member react like this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: This subject is related to the reorganisation of the State...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will you put your opinion like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already given notice on the same matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan, please resume your seat. You are now spoiling your case.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already given notice on the same matter.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member is also speaking about the Union territories. Why are you speaking like this, he does not get chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not allow to raise the issue of Union territories. The Members from Andaman-Nicobar and Daman and Diu are also present.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Sir, I demand that hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should call the MPs, and the Chairman of all the Zila Parishads of Union territories and should discuss the issue with them. It should be immediately decided that the power that is conferred to the Zila Parishad and Zila Panchayat and Chief Counsellor by the constitution should be given to them. I would like that the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pramod Mahajan who is present in the House should respond to it. It is serious issue. No attention has as yet been paid to the issue of Union Territories. Through you, I would like that Shri Pramod Mahajan should reply to this.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Sir, constitutional powers were given to PRI and Urban local bodies by the House through 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments. Article 243 G relating to the PRIG deals with 29 powers.

[English]

That is 29 Departments/Subjects with funds, function and functionaries to PRIS.

[Translation]

Sir, as per the article 243 G it was decided to give fund, functions and functionaries to local urban bodies, however this power was not offered to union territories of Andaman Nicobar Islands Lakshadweep Dadar and Nagar Haveli etc. and the power is centred in few selected people who are ruling the people of these territories. Union territories, neither have Assemblies nor State Council. Therefore in view of the Panchayati Raj system. I request the Government of India that the powers that have been given by the Constitution to the Union territories should be given to 29 Departments to PRI and 18 departments to Municipal Council. One institution has been set up comprising Andaman and Lakshadweep islands which is known as Island Development Authority and the hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee himself is the Chairman of the institution. No meeting of the IDA has been held for the last several years. I request that the meeting of the IDA should be called immediately.

Sir, for the development of the Islands and for solving their problems meeting of the Authority should be called by the Government time to time of these areas. The MPs, Chairman of Zila Parishad, Chairman of Municipal Council and the concerned officers should attend the meeting so that the problems of the territories may be solved in time...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, it is an important issue regarding the union territories. This issue has been raised by those Members who are elected from Union territories. Probably you also might have such issues in your mind...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I have.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: These are important issues. You know that it is difficult for me to speak conclusively on this issue in 'Zero Hour'. I will certainly request the Minister of Home Affairs and will convey your message to him...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sumanji I always call you when your turn comes. Today the Speaker did not allow a Member to raise the State subject in the House so please tell me as to how can I allow you to raise this issue in the House. I cannot discriminate among Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am sorry that I am not able to convince you. The issue of Hardwar has come up as the Central Government have reorganized the States. The issue of reorganisation is being discussed in Hardwar...*(Interruptions)* They have certain demands for which the people of Hardwar are sitting on dharna and resorting to processions...*(Interruptions)* I regret that it is not the reorganisation of State rather it is blunder committed on the Central Government...*(Interruptions)* You are resorting to firing on demonstrators. Students of the age of 12 and 13 years are being sent to jail....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are challenging the State matter.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, please give me two minutes time. It is not a State matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today only the hon. Speaker, has not allowed a Member to raise the State matter.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You please talk to hon'ble Speaker and seek his permission in this regard....*(Interruptions)* Why are you pressurising him for this. You please take permission from the Speaker....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot discriminate one Member against another.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has already been denied, how can I allow him?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is most unfortunate. Everyday you take the floor in the process all other Members suffer.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is most unfortunate. Why are you interrupting?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, it is not a State subject....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, people are being killed. 12-13 year old students are being sent to jail...*(Interruptions)* Opposing all the incidents, we walk out from the House.

13.14 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other Members then left the House.)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence. I will give chance to all the Members to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Sir, he gets up and speaks whenever he likes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Azad, do not say that.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has given a notice. His name is there.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you, Shri Bishnoi.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Members are speaking without any notice while I had given notice much earlier...*(Interruptions)* I seek your protection in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, first of all, I would like to make it clear that I never get up without notice. ..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the matter related to the Haj Pilgrims of Bihar. You please give me a chance to speak ..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I never give a chance to anyone who has not given the notice. Please do not challenge that.

..*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I gave the notice...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notice for the last three days at number one, yet you do not give us opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)* I have also raised a very important issue and the matter is related to the centre and not to the State...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should not create noise. You are a Yogi.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: I am not only a Yogi, I am also the representative of the people. The people have elected me to this House and if I do not raise the issue of the people in the House then what the use of myself being elected as a Member? I have seen that the chances are given to only those Members who speak time and again. My notice is at number one yet. I am not given chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pramod Mahajan, please control them.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can I control this House?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the House and the Government to a very important matter because on 31st of this month, the House will adjourn. This is a matter concerning our own defence preparedness also. I read in a newspaper right on the eve of the Session that soon after the George Bush Administration was installed in the United States, they announced their policy of Air Missile Defence System. It is causing concern to all the developing nations for their own defence preparedness. It is causing concern to those who have built up their own defence system.

India is now facing a nuclear threat even from Pakistan. India is confronted with several hostile forces. I am proud of the Indian people and the Armed Forces. We have built up our own defence strength, satellite strength and everything.

At this juncture, the United States' policy for Air Missile Defence System is being supported, as reported in the newspaper, by our hon. Minister of Defence. I consider it detrimental to the interests of peace in this sub-continent as well as India and to our own defence preparedness. Therefore, I express my deep anguish and concern that the Government must come out to clear the confusion in the minds of the people and tell us as to what is the official stand of the Government *vis a vis* Air Missile Defence Strategy of the United States which is deliberately aimed at destroying all the satellite preparations and the projects of those nations that are making their own preparations to defend their countries. Take, for instance, India.

It is not a ordinary matter. I have therefore, given the notice and even its copy to the Minister of Defence. It is not a political issue. The Government should, therefore, spell out categorically and clearly as to what is India's stand. Are we under pressure from the United

States to compromise our stand? They should also make that point clear.

Are we going to suspend our preparations for launching the satellites? In spite of United States' efforts for their own system, are we competent enough to guard our territory and keep our satellite ventures intact? This is a very important issue *vis a vis* India's and the United States' relations at the present moment. Therefore, it is in the fitness of things that the Government of India should spell out its stand and policy. It should take its party, the people and the Parliament into confidence.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important issue regarding UTI....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter has been referred to JPC, therefore, it can not be raised in the House.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: It is a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It may be an important issue, but it has been referred to JPC so this matter can not be raised in the House.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, presently the advocates of Supreme Court and High Courts, are chosen for appointment as Judges of High Courts, however a large number of advocates practice in district Courts also. They cannot be appointed as the Judge of High Courts for the reason that they do not practice in the Supreme Court and High Courts. I would like to request the Central Government that advocates practising in district courts should also be considered for appointment as the Judges of High Courts and their quote should be fixed in this regard.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Respect Deputy-Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for this opportunity. I want to submit before the august House a very important matter. The Government have decided to observe this Year 2001 as the Year of Women Empowerment and on many occasions the hon. Prime Minister as well as other Ministers have proclaimed that they are committed to the welfare of women and children. They have also stated that they are committed to giving social justice to women and children. But this is only a lip service because in two days this Monsoon Session is coming to an end. The Bill to reserve 33 per cent of seats in the law making bodies, including this highest body, the Parliament, was introduced on 23rd December 1999, but it has not been taken for consideration and passing in this House so far.

This year is also coming to an end as already eight months have elapsed and only four months are remaining and we are observing this year as Year of Empowerment to Women. So, I would like to know from the Government the categorical stand that it is taking on this important matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please take your seat now, you have already placed the matter before the House.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, as the number is concerned, the Government has declared that they have majority and with the strength of Members from Congress and Left Parties there will be absolute majority to pass this Bill. So, I would request this Government to take up the issue at least in the Winter Session and see that this Bill is passed and justice is given to women, who form more than 50 per cent of total population of our country.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may be allowed to raise the issue of U.T.I....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot raise those matters here which have been referred to JPC. However, if you had to raise some other issue then I would have allowed you.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow you.

[Translation]

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: This is very important matter...*(Interruptions)* I will take very less time to express my viewpoint.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

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* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I may kindly be given an opportunity to express my viewpoint.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will get the chance.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I have given notice on two issues...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jos, I have allowed him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Vijayan, I have called Shri Ahamed, you will speak after him. Two persons simultaneously cannot go on record.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, the primary duty of every Government, whether State or Central, is to give protection to the life and property of every citizen in the country, more particularly the members of the minority community.

I am very sorry to point out the state of affairs in many of the States, where innocent and law-abiding citizens belonging to the minority community have been harassed, attacked and ill-treated. They have not been getting justice even from the police station.

Two days back, in Gujarat, in the walled city, two people belonging to the minority community have been attacked by the VHP and Bajrang Dal people and they were killed. Unfortunately, while these things are happening, the State Government is keeping mum and sleeping.

On the last Monday, in Mohod, Gujarat, a picnic party of the children led by the Christian nuns were harassed. The Bajrang Dal and VHP activists were alleged to have attacked the picnic party of children led by the Christian nuns. The Police Station had not accepted their complaint. The police officer, who passed that place, ignored this incident, according to a Press report.

Sir, India is a great country and it is one of the most vibrant democratic and secular countries. Among the Comity of Nations, India has been considered as one of the important nations in Asia. In spite of all these things, under the NDA Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who claims to uphold democracy, people belonging to the minority community have been suffering at the hands of the Administration and the communal elements.

I am very sorry to mention as to what had happened in Rajasthan. It was quite unfortunate. It should not have happened. Most of the people belonging to the minority communities have been attacked without any reason whatsoever. Though unfortunate things have happened there, the Rajasthan Government has taken the stand that the disputes mosques to the Muslim community. That is the stand which they have taken in the Court...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ahamad, this is 'Zero Hour' and you cannot make a speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED: The Constitution of India provides special protection to the minorities. As per the provisions enshrined in the Constitution, protection of life, property and honour should be made available to the members of the minority community. It is disgraceful that the atrocities on minorities are going on as a result of minority baiting campaign let loose by fascist elements.

I hope the Government will take note of the report appeared in a newspaper like *The Hindu* today on the incidents of atrocities on the minorities in Gujarat. I request the Government to take note of these things and take proper action.

*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, tension has gripped my Nagapattinam (Reserved) constituency as people there witness a series of house-burning incidents. For the past one month, one following the other huts are being gutted down. These sporadic fire incidents have spread panic in the minds of the people. Nagapattinam is a historic place with people of various faiths and castes live in harmony. These house burning incidents give rise to an apprehension that this may lead to communal and caste clashes. Several kinds of rumour are spread and it adds to the tension. We must ensure that no communal and caste clashes occur there. It is feared that there could be a diabolical design of some evil forces behind these incidents. The people of my constituency are the worst hit by these incidents. Already the farmers of my constituency in the Cauvery Delta are facing acute short supply of Cauvery irrigation waters. The Kuruvai crops are withering away. The farming community in Nagapattinam District and also the adjacent districts like Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Tiruchirappalli are severely affected. People feel that these

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

fire incidents are a deliberate design of some to divert people's attention from the problem of not getting enough water for Kuruvai cultivation. More than hundred huts have been burnt one after the other in a row. People feel insecure. Movement from village to village is curtailed. No one finds it safe to go from place to place in the evening hours. People are attacked. There is loss of property on one side and loss of hope on other side. Panic and tension too have gripped the area.

Since, Nagapattinam constituency adjoins our sea border in the coastal area, national security is also involved. Since it is a reserved constituency the safety of poor people especially the Dalits are at stake. Hence there is every reason for the Centre to investigate the cause for these chaos. The Centre has a duty to safeguard the security of the people of this reserved constituency and Centre must also ensure release of at least the minimum level of required water in River Cauvery to save the farmers of these delta region and basin districts. The Centre must evolve a viable way out convening the monitoring committee at the earliest. Save the people and their property and also Kuruvai crop which are withering away for want of Cauvery water.

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU (Pudukkottai): Sir, kindly allow me to associate with what he has said...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you to associate with him....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU: Sir, I would like to add only one sentence. The Cauvery Water Monitoring Committee is going to convene its meeting on 6th September. The farmers are put into a lot of difficulty in Trichy, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai. So, the Cauvery Water Monitoring Committee meeting, which is supposed to meet on the 6th of September, should be convened earlier so that water could be released early...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Sports, players, Sports Federation and Ministry of Sports. Through you, I am raising am important issue in the House...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)* *

* Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told you that. It cannot go on record. It is referred to the JPC. The UTI matter is referred to the JPC.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: This issue relates to Ministry of Sports. Not even one year has passed since we have overcome the problem of match-fixing and several controversies have come up during last one month regarding the use of banned drugs. Yesterday we have seen in television and today it has been published in the newspaper also that 12 weight lifters, who were on training, fled away from Patiala camp as they were expected to clear Dope testing. Just one day before this incident, Kunju Rani, who is a weight lifter, had to surrender her gold medal as she was found positive in Dope test. About three weeks ago, a list was published in the newspapers by Sports Authority of India which included 250 players who were found positive in dope test. There was much resentment among players over this. P.T. Usha had said that she will file a case against this. Shri Milkha Singh had said that there players participated in events after taking banned drugs. Sports is associated with youths and while considering this fact it is essential that the Ministry of Sports and the Government should take immediate action over this so that the problem created due to match fixing and drug abuse at international level may be tackled. Shri Milkha Singh has raised many questions regarding Arjun Award and the Afro asian Games are also at close quarter.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What the Government of India has to do? You ask this.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Yes, I want him to give an answer because it is a very important matter. It is a national matter with international ramificatios. Sports persons understand everything.

[Translation]

On the one hand players claim that they do not take drugs whereas on the other hand list is being issued giving the names of players who are found positive in tests. It is therefore necessary to know who is right and who is wrong among the federation, the Ministry and the players. Since I am a player, it seems to me quite absurd. On the one hand players say that they don't take drugs whereas on the other hand Federation says that the tests are positive. I want that the Government should give reply in this regard. 40% people of our country are youths.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In 'Zero Hour', you cannot compel the Government to give a reply. I cannot compel them.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Atleast you should give instructions to the Government Hon'ble Minister is requested to say something over this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

[English]

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN *in the Chair*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Matters Under Rule 377.

[Translation]

14.03$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need for extension of currency note press at Devas, Madhya Pradesh, at the earliest

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that earlier there was a proposal to extend the currency Note Press at Devas, Madhya Pradesh and sanction was also accorded for construction of new line but due to scarcity of water, it could not be implemented. Now, the scheme to carry adequate water from Lakhundar river is near completion. Therefore, this line already cleared should be started. Similarly, ink used for currency notes was earlier manufactured at Currency Note Press at Devas. This work can still be done there. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to accord approval for doing both the works there at the earliest in the interest of Devas Bank Note Press.

(ii) Need to Develop Gorakhpur in U.P. As a Tourist Resort

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Gorakhpur in U.P. is not only the abode of great Yoga exponent of India Acharya Guru Gorakhnath but also an important religious, historical and industrial city. This city is adjacent to southern border of Nepal and is famous for Gorakhpur temple, Geeta Press, Birth place and Salvation place of Lord Buddha, Salvation place of Lord Mahavir and Saint Kabir, Martyrdom place of Shaheed Bismil, 'Karma Sthala' of Premchand, besides, it is also famous for three important historical places like Chauri Chaura, Doharia and Virshanpur, Gathudua etc. related to freedom struggle etc. which attract thousands of foreign tourists every year. Several development schemes such as Ramgarh Taj Yojana, construction of a planetorium, construction of an auditorium (Prek shagrih), construction of an airport, development of metropolitan market and construction of overbridges over four railway crossings were proposed but only a few of them were implemented.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to implement all the pending projects without further delay while considering the importance of Gorakhpur so that it could be developed as a tourist spot.

[English]

(iii) Need to accord sanction to the proposals of Government of Kerala for development of Vizhinjam and Ponnani fishing harbours

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, there are proposals pending before Central Government for the development of Vizhinjam fishing harbour and Ponnani which is also a natural fishing harbour. I request the Central Government to sanction to project report pending before it without delay and the work could be started at the earliest.

(iv) Need to formulate a policy for safeguarding women against HIV transmission

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): Sir, at the United Nations 26th Special Session on health issue, it was for the first time that the issue of gender inequality was recognised as central to the problem of HIV/AIDS. It is clear now that women must be in the forefront of the struggle against AIDS. Women constituted 46 per cent of adults newly infected by AIDS. In the

year 2000, out of 1.3 million AIDS deaths, 52 per cent were women. There is a direct correlation between women's low status, the violation of their human rights and HIV transmission. AIDS has escalated in women because the equality between men and women continues to be pervasive. It has now been accepted that women are not just socially but also biologically more vulnerable than men. The U.N. proposed to spend 10 billion Dollars Global Fund for AIDS.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to carry forward the impetus generated by the Special Session of U.N. and formulate a policy to fight against female face of AIDS in the country.

[Translation]

(v) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Government of U.P. for Construction of Bridge on Kali River in Kannauj Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (Kannauj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kali river divides my parliamentary constituency Kannauj into two parts. There the people have to face great difficulties as there is no bridge on Kali river. Due to this the people have to travel approximately 35 kms to reach their destination which results in wastage of time also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government to provide financial assistance to Government of U.P. for construction of bridge on Kali river at the earliest so that the grave problem of years together the people of my constituency have been facing, could be solved.

[English]

(vi) Need to Provide more Railway Facilities at Hosur railway station, Tamil Nadu

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (Krishnagiri): Sir, Hosur, which is located in my Krishnagiri constituency, is well known for various industries like TVS, Ashok Leyland, Hindustan Motors etc. It is on the Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border, thereby, it serves as an important transit point between these two States, both for people as well as the industrial products. Railway transportation and the facilities in the railway station are very poor. There is only one platform in the railway station provided with shelter, which is able to cover only three to four coaches. Sometimes, the trains are halted at the other two platforms which have no shelter at all. Thereby, the people have to suffer in rain and sunshine. And, there is no public announcement system, TV and canteen facility. At present, only manual reservation system is there. It should be computerised. There is no train service to other southern parts of Tamil Nadu where most of the people come from. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce a train from Salem *via* Hosur to Bangalore.

Therefore, I request through you, Sir to immediately upgrade the Hosur railway station and provide all these facilities.

(vii) Need to restore the customs duty and surcharge on high quality Dead Burnt Magnesite to the pre-budget level of 25 per cent to save Tamil Nadu Magnesite Limited

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, due to reduction in customs duty on Dead Burnt Magnesite from 25 per cent to 15 per cent and abolishment of 10 per cent surcharge in the Budget for the current financial year, the survival of Tamil Nadu Magnesite Limited, Salem and Salem Magnesite belt, which contribute 90 per cent of the total requirement of the country, are at stake. Now, the refractory makers are going for only lower grade of Dead Burnt Magnesite at lesser price to blend with high quality imported Dead Burnt Magnesite, which has become cheaper on account of the reduction in customs duty, for their use in the manufacture of refractory bricks, as a result of which the demand for the product of Tamil Nadu Magnesite Limited has come down drastically. The situation has reached to a stage wherein 4,500 workers who are dependent on this industry will be rendered jobless very soon.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to restore the customs duty and surcharge on high quality Dead Burnt Magnesite to the pre-budget level of 25 per cent with 10 per cent surcharge to pave the way for Tamil Nadu Magnesite Limited, and to save this traditional, domestic and labour-intensive industry.

(viii) Need to check pollution caused by tanneries in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu

SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM (Vellore): Sir, the effluent coming out from tanneries in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu does not conform to the stipulated limits. The Tanneries discharge the liquid effluents into various receiving bodies, like public sewers and inland surface waters, such as Ponds, Rivers etc. On the intervention of the Hon. Supreme Court of India, a common water treatment plant has been set up in Ranipet and Vaniambadi in Vellore district for treating the effluents from Tanneries.

[Shri N.T. Shanmugam]

Sir, it is given to understand that even after the water treatment at Ranipet and Vaniambadi, the Palar river water is still contaminated and not fit for drinking as well as for irrigation purposes. Thousands of acres of land have become unfertile due to contaminated water. On the intervention of the Supreme Court, the State Government has agreed to collect funds from Tanneries and pay as compensation to these affected agriculturists. But so far, the aggrieved persons have not been compensated. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to intervene in the matter and take appropriate steps to advise the State Government Authorities to pay the compensation to the affected agriculturists immediately.

I, also request the Union Government to send a Central team with experts to assess the increasing pollution in Palar River and provide adequate funds to check the standard of the existing Common Water Treatment Plant set up for Tanneries effluents in Vellore District.

(ix) Need to Provide Special Economic Package to Bihar for All Round Development of the State

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN alias PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today entire Bihar is in the grip of flood and drought. The Government employees do not get their salaries and all industries have been closed down. Due to this the condition of workers is very pitiable. Today development is required in Bihar.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to give Bihar the status of a Special State and provide Special economic package on following grounds:-

1. to provide permanent solution to flood, drought in order to increase agricultural production in Bihar.
2. to remove closed or sick industries and set up new industry.
3. to provide employment guarantee or special allowance to unemployed youth.
4. Transport development and power generation.
5. To make education policy more comprehensive.
6. For the facility of helpless victims, child welfare, women welfare and handicapped.
7. Reforms through cultural programmes.
8. To make payment to sugarcane growers and labourers; and
9. For the revival of Dalmia Nagar factory, paper Mills of Saharsa and Darbhanga, Katihar Jute Mill, Silk mills of Bhagalpur and Gaya and all sugar Mills of Bihar.

(x) Need to introduce air Service Between Kolkata, Ranchi and Delhi

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi); Ranchi has become the capital after creation of Jharkhand State. It resulted into increase in commercial and political activities which has raised the demand for air services. Earlier there was air service between Ranchi and Kolkata but later on it was withdrawn. Certain factors link Kolkata and Ranchi closely. Hence there is an urgent need to introduce air service between Kolkata, Ranchi and Delhi in order to boost business activities.

Hence, through this House, I urge upon the Government to introduce this Kolkata, Ranchi and Delhi fright in the interest of public.

(xi) Need for Construction of More National Highways in Bihar.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): At present the average length of National Highways is 211 kms for one lakh population, whereas this is only 120 kms in Bihar. In comparison to 48 kms average of national highway 100 sq. kms area the average in Bihar is only 37 kms. The statistics of the rest of Bihar after division is even more disappointing.

Through the August House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this and urge to construct more National Highways in Bihar in order to improve the basic structure of roads in Bihar.

[English]

14.17 hrs.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles, Act, 1988 as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, with your permission, I would like to say a few words about the proposed Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill. The Rajya Sabha has passed this Bill on 6th of August.

Hon. Members know that the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 is a Central enactment, which controls the road transport and regulates it in the country. The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 replaced the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 in the year 1989. Consequently, an amendment was made to sections 66 and 67 in order to encourage the eco-friendly fuels. Under that amendment, CNG, solar energy, and electricity-run vehicles were given exemption for not obtaining permit from the State authorities, and they were allowed to fix their own fares and freights. This was done basically to encourage the use of these eco-friendly fuels.

Over the period of last seven years, CNG in particular has come into a lot of use. In Delhi, we know about the number of vehicles that are increasingly using CNG. The State Governments felt that now this is creating indiscipline on the road and, to some extent, causes safety problems because no permits were required, and fares and freights are fixed by the owners themselves. Therefore, the State Government felt that this facility should be withdrawn, and vehicles using CNG and other fuels should also come under the control of the State authorities.

It is with this intention that this Amendment is being proposed. It is in the interest of the road discipline and also, to some extent, safety and security of the road travellers to allow the State Governments to have adequate control on such vehicles also. Therefore, I move that the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2001 to further amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a piece of legislation which is going to have a far-reaching effect on our society. Today, people are using eco-friendly fuels for running their vehicles. It is a fact that this Central legislation is guiding the total motor transport activities in our country. An amendment to sections 66 and 67 was made earlier to give a boost to the use of more eco-friendly fuels. As a result of this, more and more people in our country are coming forward to use eco-friendly fuels and, therefore, the Government has to encourage it.

Now, the Government has come before this august House to change or alter the earlier amendment to give powers to the State Governments to regulate these activities. This is like a double-edged sword. Please look at Delhi. This Government has created a total mess in the Capital City, Delhi. There is the Supreme Court judgement. In order to avoid pollution, the Government was directed to see that all the buses and vehicles plying in Delhi use eco-friendly fuels. This very Government had given an assurance to the Supreme Court that by the 30th of September, they would see that all vehicles use CNG.

In the Capital City, yesterday, there was a *bandh* and all the schools were closed. People who are responsible for the mess have sponsored the *bandh* and that is the irony of the situation. Who is controlling petroleum and natural gas? It is not the Delhi Government, it is not any State Government, it is the Government of India which controls petroleum and natural gas. The Union Government, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, is responsible for the proper distribution of fuels in our country. Without visualising the effect, without assessing the situation, the Union Government assured the Supreme Court that it had enough fuels with it, enough gas with it, and it would see that all vehicles in Delhi use CNG. The situation will be more grave after 30th of September. The poor people are suffering a lot. They are not getting vehicles, they are not able to get proper transport in the Capital City, Delhi. I do not understand as to why the State Government is being blamed. All the newspapers are flooded with this news.

Yesterday, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas had a meeting. The hon. Minister is present in the House. He should assure the House, and the people through this House, about the alternative measures that are being taken in the Capital City, Delhi. They cannot blame the State Government. They cannot shift the responsibility to the State Government. Unfortunately, they are totally politicising the situation. The Central Government has not performed its duty.

Sir, they are not even ready to attend to this issue. On the contrary, they have started an agitation and life was practically brought to a halt yesterday. All the schools were closed. Normal life in the city was disrupted. I would like to know whether this Government has a primary duty towards the citizens of this country or not.

Sir, now this amending Bill seems to be an attempt to punish the people who have changed their vehicles to the CNG mode. It is because they have invested huge sums of money to get their vehicles converted to the CNG mode. Now, they are not getting the gas. Long queues could be seen at the Gas Filling Stations and

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

the Government is not granting licence for opening of more new Gas Filling Stations in the capital. The Government is not able to provide them with adequate fuel in this new mode. Now, through this amending Bill, we are proposing to regulate them and punish them more.

Sir, my suggestion is that some protection should be given to those people who have got their vehicles converted into the CNG mode by investing huge sums of money. Secondly, there should also be some incentives for them. It is because those people are already suffering. I feel, by this amending Bill we are going to punish them more. People got their vehicles converted into the eco-friendly fuel mode because they were then getting these kind of facilities by amendments of section 66 and 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act. Now we are proposing to withdraw that. Such an act would tantamount to punishing them more.

Sir, now we are giving this authority to the State Governments so that the State Governments would decide about the permit; about the fare and freight and no incentive also is being provided to those people who have changed their vehicles to the eco-friendly fuel mode. My request is that some protection as well as incentive should be given to those people who have already got their vehicles changed over to the eco-friendly fuel mode. Then, more people would come forward for this change over and we would be able to encourage this use of eco-friendly fuel in our country. I do not understand as to what the Government proposes to do. I do not know whether the Government is going in for any other alternative fuel or not. Today in the newspapers, there are reports like, 'Intense lobby for ordinance allowing alternative fuel' and 'Home Ministry to press for petrol in autos and LSD run buses'.

Sir, I would, through you, like to request the Government that the Government should assure the people of Delhi in particular and that of the people of the country in general that the Government is seriously thinking about some alternative fuels so that the panic that has set in the capital city and in other parts of the country could be soothed. Now, the Government is talking about the use of low sulphur content diesel in our country. I would like to know whether they would be able to give an assurance that are there are enough reserves for this in our country or not. What would be the arrangement for that? Would the Government provide for more and more filling stations for this purpose? How could the Government provide for more and more low sulphur content diesel? These are the questions that need to be addressed.

Sir, today the people of Delhi especially, people in the other parts of the country are also suffering, because of the judgement of the Supreme Court and the decision taken by the Central Government. After a thorough assessment, the Government should come forward with a new proposal, otherwise, this situations will aggreviate. We should not punish those people who have changed their vehicles to the eco-friendly fuel mode.

Sir, lastly I would like urge upon the Government to come forward with specific measures to redress the grievances of the people who are suffering on the roads of Delhi.

It is my apprehension that if the Government does not take stringent measures by the 30th of September, the situation will become further grave. It is the duty of every Government to provide proper facilities of transport for its people. Unfortunately, the Central Government has failed in this. The Government should come forward and assure the people that appropriate steps will be taken in the coming days to smoothen the transport arrangements in Delhi.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Sir, I stand in support of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

I heard Shri Chennithala speak. About 80 per cent of his speech was on Delhi and the CNG problem being faced in Delhi. This situation is more like that of a frog in the well. Once he goes into a well, he cannot come out; the well becomes his entire world. So, rather than thinking about the wider ramifications of the Bill, it seems he restricted himself to brick-batting the Minister on this issue.

[Translation]

Sir, while not taking the issue of CNG alone, I would like to mention some other points. If you see the statement of objects and reasons in that it is written that the main purpose of this amendment is to encourage eco-friendly fuels. In the second para it is written that the number of such vehicles has increased on road. In the last line of the same para it is written that there is a possibility that the number of such vehicles may increase.

Sir, on the one hand we talk about eco-friendly vehicles and on the other hand we are apprehensive that the number of such vehicles may increase. In the third para it is written that under above circumstances there would be traffic indiscipline on roads which may result in frequent accidents. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the proportionate percentage of

vehicles plying on CNG or other mode of fuel or solar energy. In the 4th para it is written that in all the proposed amendment is in the interest of maintaining road security and pollution free environment.

Sir, in 1994 the hon'ble Minister had said that this Bill has been introduced with the purpose of reducing pollution through use of non-polluting fuels. Alongwith this he has also said that since the number of CNG vehicles is increasing, it is causing safety problems. I would like to know as to whether this safety will increase if this facility is withdrawn or restricted. I remember that 16 years ago, a law was passed. It was stated that people drive vehicles using full headlights on national highways and in cities which cause problem for the vehicles coming from the opposite direction. For that, a law was enacted that atleast half of the headlight should be painted black so that it may not cause any problem to the vehicles approaching from opposite direction. But even today this law is not being followed. In Delhi or at any other place outside Delhi we find that head lights are not painted black.

A few years ago, there was also a rule that tinted glasses should not be used in vehicles as it causes problem to the drivers and result in frequent accidents. These glasses should be used to the extent that the driver and the passengers can easily watch the traffic movement but today not only on the roads of Delhi but in entire India we find many vehicles with tinted glasses.

Sir, it is true that the State Government depute traffic police to regulate and control traffic on roads but I would like to know as to how many people know traffic rules? Today people are getting licence easily. While travelling on highway, the hon'ble Member might have observed that accidents are most frequent on roads. We should also consider as to why such accidents occur? I would certainly like to congratulate hon'ble Minister for creating golden trianble on National Highway. What else can take place than accident with people who get fake licence, have no knowledge of traffic rules and resort to rash driving in a drunk state. Effect of dazzling headlights is also one of the reasons of accidents because this dazzle the driver and thus accident occur. Hon'ble Rajesh Pilot had also met an accident due to this only when he was going from his constituency to Jaipur. Today traffic rules are not being followed. Already there are a number of rules and whether framing more rules would be helpful in reducing accidents, is a matter worth considering. I think, it is all the more important to implement the rules strictly.

It has been found that speed breakers are constructed without any specification and it may be at a short distance of 10 metres and as long as at 10 miles. There is none to look into its height and appropriateness. Today there is a need of patrolling on National Highway. Even if a small accident takes place, the villagers construct a speed breaker wherever they wish to. Such speed breakers also lead to accidents.

The issue here is not related only to CNG and other fuels. We have to see as to how we can check the accidents. In foreign countries equipments are installed to monitor the speed of vehicles and if it is found that the driver has violated the rules by not driving in specified speed then he is penalised. There is also an equipment to test the driver whether he or she is drunken. They immediately find out whether the driver has violated the traffic rule or he is under the influence intoxication. If found so, the licence of the driver is cancelled. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, in order to regulate traffic, it is necessary to make people abide by the traffic rules strictly.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Sir, I am just concluding. I have got two more points. Then I will conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Thank you. I am very grateful to you, Sir.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of very high speed of vehicles like BMW, Mercedes and other vehicles also, there is a need to impose a speed limit so that frequent accidents, as we read in newspapers everyday, can be averted.

[English]

We should have governance on these vehicles.

[Translation]

The speed limit of all commercial and high speed vehicles on national highway should be fixed.

Today drivers do not want to stop the vehicle at red light though they may not have any urgent work at home. Sometimes it results in traffic jams also. Some time ago, I myself didn't know anything about traffic rules.

[Shri Kirti Jha Azad]

Perhaps no one knows the concept of right of the way. Usually it is said that overtaking from right hand side is correct but in Delhi and other big cities we find that generally traffic is stopped at round about. The police generally traffic is stopped at round about. The police personnel stop the traffic at right side and allow the vehicles coming from main road to pass through which results in traffic jam.

I conclude my speech here itself but I request you to consider all these points and see that accidents occur not due to CNG and other fuel only but due to many other reasons also. Therefore there is a need to keep every aspect in mind.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Bill is intended to take away the exemption, which had been enjoyed by vehicle owners who had been using Compressed Natural Gas. The CNG fuel was introduced on instructions from the apex court in order to control the increasing pollution in the country. Naturally, Delhi being the Capital City, the Supreme Court intervented in this matter. But pollution is increasing everywhere, not just in Delhi or in Mumbai. So, we have to take note of these aspects while amending the law.

The first point that I would like to highlight in respect of this Bill is an apprehension. In Delhi, the use of CNG has almost become a common one. As far as the Metropolitan Cities of Kolkata, Chennai are concerned, as also of other cities, what I found is that the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2001 is applicable to them also, since it is a Central legislation. That means, it is applicable to the whole country. Then, what was the main purpose for giving such a concession or exemption only for Delhi? What about other cities?

We had given these exemptions under section 66 and under section 67 of the Act. These concessions and exemptions were being given to those vehicles, which use CNG, in order to encourage them to use eco-friendly fuel. This is the main purpose of sections 66 and 67 of the original Act. Now, most of the vehicles started using CNG and it has become a common feature after the directive of the hon. Supreme Court; and it has now become mandatory also.

My point is that the vehicle owners in Kolkata, Chennai and other cities also would like to switch over from diesel to CNG. I would like to know whether they would also be given such exemptions. I would like to get a clarification from the hon. Minister. If section 66 and section 67 were removed from the Motor Vehicles Act of 1988, then what would be the fate of other vehicle owners in cities other than Delhi?

If you go through the statistics of pollution throughout the world, Indian cities are shown to be the highly polluted cities in the world. Therefore, we need to improve the grades of our existing vehicles and our systems. At the time when the CNG, as fuel, was made compulsory, there was a big chaos; there were *lathi* charges; and people set vehicles on fire. When we introduce CNG, there should be proper facilities.

The auto rickshaws have to wait, atleast for four to five hours at the petrol pump for refuelling. There are long queues. They are also charging more from the commuters. What happened yesterday, the 28th August, 2001? Due to the transporters' strike in Delhi, a large number of buses, auto rickshaws, taxis stayed off the roads. With the result, school children and office-going people found it difficult to reach their destinations.

Sir, from today's newspaper, I came to know that in a high level meeting which was attended by the Union Ministers and Delhi BJP MPs and which was chaired by the hon. Home Minister, it was decided to request the Prime Minister to consider issuing an ordinance banning the new CNG auto rickshaws and taxies and allow the low sulpher diesel, which is also an eco-friendly fuel, as an alternative fuel for buses.

Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister what will be the fate of the CNG taxies and auto rickshaws? Earlier, you asked them to convert from petrol engine to CNG engine. Now you would again advice them to convert from CNG to diesel engine. It would be very difficult for the law income group people. So, you have to provide both the facilities.

So far as the motor accidents are concerned, in most of the cases, the victims are pedestrians and cyclists. These cases should be taken into consideration more seriously in order to decrease the number of accidents on roads.

The earlier speaker has already spoken about the highway patrolling system and I also agree with this. It is because if there is a patrol vehicle on the highway, there will be less accidents. In foreign countries, there are many ways of controlling accidents. Sir, they can enquire about the speed governors. If the system of speed governor for limiting the speed is introduced, there would be less accidents and driving would become safe.

Sir, what facilities are available to a victim of accident? According to the Act, he can claim compensation under Sections 158 and 160. He can file a claim application before Motor Accident Claims Tribunal. This right was given to the injured or the relative of the victim if he dies in an accident. The compensation was being made available to the victims. As per Section 140, if an accident has taken place due to the negligence of the owner of the vehicle in which he was riding, the victim was entitled to the interim relief. Under Section 140, the victim of the accident or his relative or his legal representative in case of his death, can file an application for a claim. But what has happened after the judgement of the Supreme court? It is a difficult situation.

All the Motor Accident Claims Tribunals have been barred from making payment for claims at once. I do not understand the reason behind this judgement of the Supreme Court. According to the sources, only Rs. 5000 are being paid in advance and the rest of the amount is deposited in the nationalised bank. According to the direction of the Supreme Court, the victim of an accident or a person whose father or other relative has died, can get the compensation only after a lapse of five years period.

He has to go through mental agony. He also requires money for treatment. What is the purpose of making delay? I urge upon the hon. Minister to look into this matter and I hope the Minister will bring a comprehensive Bill so that such things may not occur again.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to welcome the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2001. The original Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 was amended in 1994 keeping in view the limited operational mobility of the compressed gas vehicles at that time. Now, with the recent trends of changes and the Supreme Court's instructions that nobody is entitled to pollute the roads and environment, the CNG is made operational and compulsory. Most of the public transport vehicles have been given time to convert themselves to the Compressed Natural Gas upto 30th September. I am afraid whether the Government would be able to meet that situation by converting all the buses of public undertakings and public motor vehicles into CNG. That has to be explicitly stated by the hon. Minister. If so, what are the steps which he is going to take because there is only one month from now? As it is, we have seen the difficulties faced by the common man yesterday. Very thin attendance was found in the offices on the pretext of not getting public transport and many have abstained themselves from office. The situation was paralysed creating losses. That is one aspect.

The other thing is, today, why has the court given such direction to convert buses and taxis to CNG? There are also other Government vehicles in many States which are more than 10 to 15 years old. The vehicles are running by diesel and emanating smoke. When we go behind the diesel-run vehicles, we have to necessarily stop at some places. The hon. Minister for Petroleum, Shri Ram Naik may also be aware of this problem in Mumbai.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): It is there even in Hyderabad. It is there all over India.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: It is there in my place also. But why this discrimination is there? I suggest you to be impartial. If at all we show some leniency, this leniency should be shown to the weaker sections, namely, the public transport and not the Government-run buses. But most of the taxis which are being run are owner-driven. Now, he has been put to a lot of pressure like now whether he could convert it or not. As an alternative, the Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel (HSD) is also being offered. I want to know whether this also can be taken into consideration or not. This Ultra Low Sulphur diesel oil could also be provided as an alternative fuel so that the difficulties will be minimized.

If you want to take in any reform in a haste overnight, it will boomerang. It will not work. The reforms have to take its natural process. You have to give them a time limit and not overnight to make things happen. In a country like ours, we are having so many polluting industries and transport by automobiles is one of them. But we are giving them time. If necessary, you have to convince them in the court and give them proper time and see that the common man and the operators are not facing difficulties. As far as Delhi Transport is concerned, it is all right. You can do it because it is a Government undertaking. Government has the will to operate them by converting them into CNG and open their own petrol bunks and CNG filling stations. But if you want the public transport system by private operators to operate like that, it will create problems. So, kindly take this into consideration, make suitable amendments and suggestions, give them a smooth process so that our country is free from pollution.

We are all worried about pollution. We find clouds of smoke in Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and other big metropolitan cities. The other day, in Kerala, there was a red rain. It is not because that red Government was there till yesterday and not because red Government lost and green Government has come.

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthy]

That is all due to pollution. In Vishakhapatnam, during most of the winter mornings, flights get delayed because of clouds of smoke. The sky will not be cleared upto even 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This is all due to pollution. So, what I mean to say is that this Bill is only a beginning. This is a good step but at the same time, it should be impartial. It should be applied to all vehicles including Government vehicles. should be brought under Bharat-II version. How many vehicles are operating under Bharat-II version?

The multinational companies have already brought out Euro-III version and you cannot see any pollution after that But we are also having Bharat-II version. You can see our new vehicles being manufactured under Bharat-II. Let the Government be a model while making Bharat-II version compulsory for all buses, cars and taxis. You should create models and only then others will follow you. Unless you do this, people will think that the Government is harsh towards the common man. It is because a person running an auto or taxi is standing in the queue for a couple of hours and not able to get his turn thus losing his heir thus one day earning. How are we in a welfare society making the common man comfortable? This is the situation prevailing today. Yesterday's *bandh* is one of the eye-openers for all of us. We should meet the situation adequately. At the same time, there is nothing wrong in whatever you have done earlier. Permit was not necessary in the past for eco friendly vehicles. Fare fixation could be done by the taxi owner himself. Today, you are regulating all of them putting them on the common front. Everybody should be equal before law. Everybody should be given equal opportunity. But this equal opportunity is not being given to them. Government vehicles are escaping from it. I am not talking about buses. You should bring the Govt. cars and taxis under Bharat-II version so that you can insist on others also to come and fall in line. By this, we can all escape from the dangers of pollution in this country, to a larger extent.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARM RAJ SINGH PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, now a days CNG is being used as fuel for vehicles. A few days ago the hon. Minister of Petroleum, Shri Ram Naik made an announcement regarding use of LPG as fuel for cars. Through this House I would like to draw the attention of the Government and public towards news items published in various newspapers regarding accidents in CNG vehicles, though use of CNG as fuel for vehicles was started only some time ago.

15.00 hrs.

CNG buses have caught fire and in some cases CNG refil stations have also caught fire. The hon'ble Minister of Petroleum has made arrangements for running vehicles on LPG. The Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways are also present here. I would like to know from them as to what measures have been taken for safety of millions of people who will use CNG or LPG as fuel for their vehicles in future? Further, what arrangements have been made for safety of passengers in case of leakage of gas of CNG or accidents of vehicles whether it is bus, maruti or any other vehicle? I would also like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any arrangements have been made for the safety of life and property in close proximity of the vehicles which meet with accidents?

As far as the issue of shortage of CNG is concerned, the hon'ble Minister has stated just now that more CNG vehicles would not be issued licences in Delhi as shortage of CNG is felt here. So far, we could not provide LPG to common man living in villages and when so many vehicles will use CNG and LPG then certainly they have to stand in queue for a long time. I would like to know the measures taken in this regard?

Several hon'ble Members have drawn the attention of the Government towards increasing number of road accidents. Former MP Rajesh Pilotji and former President Giani Zail Singh died in road accidents. When people provided escort die in road accidents then what could be the position of the common man caught in road accidents. I would like to know the provisions made in this Bill in this regard? Through out the country probably hundreds of people die in road accidents. All the people who die in road accidents do not have insurance cover and also do not leave behind proper arrangements for livelihood for their families. I would like to know the provision made for such people in this Bill? I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that certain provisions should be made for safeguarding interests of those people if it has already not been done in this Bill. At the time of registration of new vehicles, one time third party insurance cover should be made essential so that in case of accidents by these vehicles family members of the victim could be provided compensation.

Besides, I would like to make one more point regarding road accidents which take place every now and then. Once my vehicle also met with the accident. I tried to stop my vehicle but thousands of people surrounded my vehicle and I was compelled to flee to save my life. In such a situation if a person dies in

accident by vehicle of an MP, then what provisions have been made for the safety of the owner and the driver of the vehicle involved in the accident.

The provision should be made in the Bill to provide security to the driver of the vehicle involved in the accident to encourage the said driver to take the injured promptly to hospital to save the precious life in the same vehicle or in any other vehicle. No person deliberately collides vehicle against the other vehicle and provision of punishment should be made if any one deliberately does so. Today millions of trucks and buses are plying on roads and millions of people have chosen driving as profession. Unemployed educated youth who do not get employment purchase vehicles, autorikshaws and taxi on loan Personnel's from traffic Department and Police Department harass them and extort money from them. It should be checked.

An hon'ble member submitted that these days many a vehicle are fitted with red lights. Displaying red light has become fashion. The hon'ble Minister should clarify that who can be authorised to fix red lights on their vehicles. Whether MPs, MLA's and Chairman of District Council can display red lights. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I am intervening in the debate. I am aware of the constraints of time. I am also aware and probably the House is also aware of the difficulties...*(Interruptions)*

The Supreme Court is also seized of the issue. Since the matter is *sub judice*, I will keep that also in mind. I would acquaint the House with facts only so that it will help the debate further.

I must make it clear that whatever assurances we have given to the Supreme Court, they will be honoured. Whatever buses and other vehicles should come as per the order of the Supreme Court, they would come. That work will be done. We do not have the CNG available for what comes beyond that. That is what we have submitted to the Supreme Court.

When the Supreme Court made the original order in 1998, it was limited to buses only, the number which was expected was about 10,000 or 12,000. But in March, 2001, the Supreme Court extended the area of its order. It said that the autos and taxies also would be covered by that order. That is why, some difficulties have been there in the city of Delhi. I am also very sorry when I see very long queues. In the month of March, when that order was there, there were only 11,000 autos in Delhi. In the last four months, the number has become to 27,000. So, 16,000 new autos have come. That is also creating some difficulty. I will explain about that aspect also.

Similarly, CNG taxies were just 4,000. Now, there are 11,000 taxies. So, a wider thing has come. We are trying to address that thing also. That is why, we have made submissions before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has also desired that the *Amicus Curiae* and our Solicitor General Shri Salve Should try to sort it out.

Two meetings have been held between our Ministry and the Delhi Government. I have also met the Chief Minister of Delhi. We are trying to sort out the issue through *amicus curiae*. We have made two important submissions which have relevance to all of us. According to the order of the Supreme Court in 1998, the diesel sulphur content in Delhi should be 0.5 per cent. Then, it was reduced to 0.25 per cent. Now, it is available at 0.05 per cent. There is a definite per cent progressive change. We have submitted to the Supreme Court that this 0.05 sulphur content diesel is a clean fuel.

I am just quoting the figures for some important developed countries — Canada - 0.05 per cent; all the European countries — 0.05 per cent; Japan — 0.05 per cent; Singapore — 0.05 per cent; and the USA — 0.05 per cent. This is the diesel which is being used all over the world. We have upgraded our reservoirs and we are giving 0.05 per cent sulphur content diesel by investing Rs. 10,000 crore. We have submitted to the Supreme Court that this would be treated as clean fuel because it is being used all over the world.

The second thing we have done is that we have requested that there should be two modes of fuel. CNG is fine but only CNG is not desirable. From that point of view, we have requested and submitted to the Supreme Court that it should accept the principle of duel fuel — CNG plus petrol plus diesel. There also, I would just like to quote some important cities of the world to show as to what is the ratio of total bus fleet and as to how many CNG buses are there. In New York, the total number of buses are 5,675, out of which only 358 are CNG buses, that is, just six per cent; In Toronto, Canada, which is very rich in petrol and gas, out of 1,500, only 125 are CNG buses; in Berlin, Germany, out of 1,700, only 10 are CNG buses; in Paris, out of 4,000, only 53 are CNG buses; and in Sydney, Australia, out of 3,900, only 254 are CNG buses. That is why we are requesting

[Shri Ram Naik]

the Supreme Court to kindly look at the different countries of the developed world. Single mode of fuel is not desirable in Delhi. This is the second request we have made.

I would dwell only on what we are going to do in the immediate future. The Supreme court had said that we should establish 80 CNG stations by September-end, but we would be establishing 87, that is, seven more CNG stations. We are importing 14 new compressors, out of which five have already come and we are in the process of airlifting nine compressors. All of them would be installed before September-end. By that time, all the queues would be over. People of Delhi have to bear for one more month till the compressors come and the same are installed. The Government of Delhi has not given electricity connections to 11 CNG stations so far. We are only using generators in those CNG stations. I had a meeting with the Chief Minister of Delhi. She has also agreed and said that she would try to give electricity as early as possible. The people of Delhi have suffered a lot. It would be our endeavour to ensure that all the problems are over by September. The Government of Delhi has also assured co-operation. With this, I feel that the long queue would be the thing of the past by the end of September. That is what I wanted to say...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Is 0.05 per cent sulphur content diesel available throughout the country?

SHRI RAM NAIK: At present, 0.05 per cent sulphur content diesel is available in full quantity in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. Probably in the next six months, 0.05 per cent sulphur content diesel would be available all over India.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): From the statement of the Minister, we could know about cities like Sydney, Canada and other places. I would like to know whether the Supreme Court has overstepped its jurisdiction.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I would not like to comment on the Supreme Court's order.

15.16 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*)

SHRI S. MURUGESAN (Tenkasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity. On behalf of AIADMK, I participate in this debate with regard to the Motor Vehicles Act, 2001 in this House. I support the Bill that has been passed by Rajya Sabha in view of safety, security and environmental clearance.

In the newspapers, there are reports everyday about major and minor accidents due to negligence of drivers or due to mechanical faults. A lot of people lose their lives due to such accidents. The noise and environmental pollution are creating several diseases among the people of our country. These incidents are occurring everyday. Through this Amending Bill, the Government should come forward to control these serious incidents.

As per the amended Act of 1994, sections 66 and 67 provide that the eco-friendly fuel vehicles are exempted from the requirement of permits and the owners of such vehicles shall have a discretion to fix freights for the goods as well as fares for the passengers. So, a large number of vehicles are plying without permits. There is no control over these vehicles either by the State Authority or the Authority designated by the Legislature. There are a lot of demands for conversion of State Highways into National Highways. But the Central Government is not allotting the necessary funds for such conversion. Even though the Central and the State Governments are taking steps to control the road accidents, these have not been successful in the past. Now, the Government is bringing forward this new legislation in order to control both accidents and pollution. I wish the Government all success for the present legislation for controlling the growing road accidents as well as pollution in our country.

Last week, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, *Puratchi Thalaivi* Dr. Jayalalitha introduced a new scheme in the Budget Session to have first aid centres on the national highways at a distance of every 50 kilometres in order to provide first aid to the affected persons.

There were also a proposal from the Central Government to launch three pilot projects in Tamil Nadu for blending ethanol with the vehicle fuel. The infrastructure facilities are available in Tamil Nadu. But due to some reasons, these have been diverted to other States like Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. So, I request the Government, especially the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, to launch the above mentioned pilot projects in Tamil Nadu, as has been proposed earlier, where the infrastructure facilities are already available. A group of MPs has already submitted a petition to the hon. Minister. So, I would request him to look into the matter and take early action.

Further, I would suggest one more point regarding the provision of smart card for the drivers. These may

be introduced uniformly throughout the country. All the Transport Authorities should be connected among themselves through the software system. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2001. Sections 66 and 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act encourage eco-friendly fuels. The eco-friendly fuel, namely, CNG is being used only in Mumbai and Delhi.

Sir, I would say that it is a partiality. There is a need for encouraging such fuel in other parts of the country, more particularly in metropolitan cities, like Chennai, Kolkata, etc.

I would like to urge upon the Government to look into the important factors like road accidents. The traffic rules and regulations are not being properly implemented. As a result, so many accidents are taking place. Everyday, we find a number of accidents taking place in the country.

Regarding issuing of driving licences, I would say that there is too much corruption in the system of issuing driving licences. In other countries, it is impossible for a person to get a driving licence. Unless he is perfect in driving, he cannot get a licence.

Here, I would like to say that we have to prohibit drivers from drinking. Now-a-days, on National highways one finds a number of liquor shops. So, there should be total prohibition on highways. Section 66 says, 'all vehicles plying on the road, whether State carriage, contract carriage or taxis, should have a permit.' If the vehicles are allowed to ply on electricity, battery or on compressed natural gas or by solar energy, they need not apply for any permit at all. Road safety will be maintained and innumerable number of accidents which are taking place due to indiscriminate number of vehicles being allowed to ply, will be reduced.

As far as road accidents are concerned, the benefit available to a victim is compensation. A victim of an accident, or his legal heir or legal representative in case of his death in accident, can file an application for claim. But after the Supreme Court judgement, all Motor Accident Claims Tribunals have been barred from making the payment of money. They can get the compensation only after a lapse of five years. I think, it is inhuman and unjust. We have so many accident victims in our country and nobody is able to get relief or compensation in time. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this aspect also.

I would also like to say that to avoid road accidents, the breadth of the roads must be increased. In Tamil Nadu, there is a long pending proposal of conversion of Cuddalore-Chittor State Highway road to National Highway Road. I would request the hon. Minister to look into this and clear this proposal. At the same time, the four-way lane road from Chengalpattu to Madurai in Tamil Nadu has so far not been completed. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister to take a note of these and the work relating to the strengthening of the road, formation of four-lane road, and conversion of State Highway to National Highway in Tamil Nadu be implemented as early as possible.

I would also like to bring one more fact to the notice of the hon. Minister that maximum number of transport buses do overloading. So many RTOs are corrupt and inefficient. Even though it is a State subject, we must try to improve things mutually. In the interest of road safety and security of our countrymen, the proposed Amendment Bill has been brought before this House. It is a welcome step taken by the hon. Minister.

With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has brought the Bill to make amendments in the Motor vehicles Act. Law enacted in 1988 was amended in 1994. It had been stated in Rule 66 and 67 that vehicles run on eco-friendly fuel like CNG, solar energy and battery are not required to obtain permits and these will be free to fix the fare for transportation of man and goods. These will not be under the control of administration. Increasing pollution and vehicles emitting gases like sulphur dioxide etc., which cause serious health hazards are the reasons for encouraging eco-friendly fuel. When vehicle stop at red light uneasiness in breathing and itching and irritation in the eyes is felt. Environmentalists opine that 2 to 3 thousand tonne of smoke is being emitted everyday and is causing heavy pollution.

At that time this law was enacted to encourage eco-friendly fuel. This Bill has been brought to repeal rule 66 and 67 which provides that vehicles run on eco friendly fuel need not obtain permit but now CNG has become a popular fuel. I accept the fact that forcibly Supreme Court has made CNG a popular fuel. Use of solar energy which is going to save scarce resources of society and the country and use of battery and electricity as a fuel for vehicles are not in similar position and must be popularised. I feel that the law brought for CNG should

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

not exclude vehicles run on solar energy, battery and electricity. These should also gain popularity. Why all the clauses are being repealed at the same time. Three-four points regarding eco-friendly fuel have been mentioned in it. I would like to make a suggestion that clause 66 in totality should not be repealed but only the word, CNG should be excluded from it and electricity, battery and solar energy should remain part of the clause.

Secondly, I would like to know whether assessment of only Delhi has been made for judging popularity of CNG or this amendment is being made for the whole country. Problem of pollution is also being faced in other parts of the country and must be taken into account. You wish to repeal the whole clause 66 whereas only CNG should be removed and solar energy, battery and electricity may remain there to make these popular. If need be later on these could be removed.

Several hon'ble members raised the issue of growing number of accidents. The number of accidents has risen since CNG fuel was adopted. Some measures should be taken in this regard. The hon'ble Minister of Petroleum stated that 3 lakh CNG vehicles are plying in Delhi whereas there are only 85,000 CNG vehicles in USA but there is no complaint of accidents. The annual rate of accident is between 1.7 per cent and 1.8 per cent. But in India CNG vehicles catch fire and people are scared of such accidents.

Today, the Government is working as an employee of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave a judgement and fixed the cut off date for a type of vehicles, but arrangements for CNG could not be made. Transporters, whose buses, tempos and other vehicles plying in Delhi are facing great difficulties. They have to awake whole night for getting CNG. I would like to submit that the Government should present their case effectively in the court. I do not know that in what way the Government presents its case in the court. The Supreme Court rebuke the Government and issues orders that use of .5 sulpher diesel is not acceptable. Why court is not satisfied with your pleas? Whether only sulpher causes pollution? Adulterated oil and technical fault in engine may also be the reasons for pollution. Tempos and buses also cause noise pollution along with air pollution. But the Government has no arrangements for checking all this. People of Delhi are facing lot of problems due to shortage of CNG.

The hon'ble Minister of Petroleum is just making statements. What purpose will it serve? In view of the shortage of CNG some other measures should be taken in this regard. He is telling us about the merits of low sulphur diesel. Adulteration in petrol, diesel and kerosene should be checked. The adulteration spoils the engine due to which more smoke is emitted. Proper arrangements should be made in this regard. With this, I conclude.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the Government the Bill has been moved by Major Gen. Khanduriji and I support it on behalf of my party. I would like to raise two three points. The overall objective of this Bill is to ensure road safety and pollution free environment. We all hope that roads will be safe in the hands of the hon'ble Minister of Road Transport who is a retired Major General. One of the hon. Minister is trying to ensure road safety and another hon. Minister Shri Ram Naik is taking care of pollution free environment. Fortunately both the Ministers are good and are working effectively. I hope that the Government should pay attention towards my two-three suggestions to ensure safety and security of the lives and property of the people. Is the arrangements of road proper in the country? 70 per cent of them are in dilapidated condition. A new policy should be formulated to improve the condition of these roads. I would like to make two-three submissions regarding clean environment. First of all the vehicles of state Governments and the Union Government should be made pollution free. Two three days ago from the main gate, I got announcement made for my vehicle but it did not come as the driver was sleeping. Then, I myself went to the parking and saw that some people were pushing a vehicle which belonged to the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is a reality and I had seen it myself. When I asked them about the position, they replied that Ministry of Home Affairs is poor. It such is the condition of Government vehicles then what about the other vehicles? That vehicle was emitting lot of smoke like a train engine. I urge upon the Government that first of all the government vehicles should be made pollution free and then other vehicles should be taken up for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir during 11th Lok Sabha, I visited North Korea. There common man is not allowed to keep personal vehicles. In North Korea only politicians and film stars can keep personal vehicles. But in our country in some houses, husband, wife and even children have separate vehicles. I would like to make a suggestion that number of vehicles purchased by people should be restricted. I would like to know whether the Government would formulate a policy or make amendment in existing law to encourage one family one vehicle norm.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

English]

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, actually I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the Motor

Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 1994 was brought by the Congress Government on the footing economic reform as you have mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons for this Bill. You said: 'Special provisions are made to provide that vehicles operating on eco-friendly fuels shall be exempted from the requirements of permits and also the owners of such vehicles shall have the discretion to fix fares and freights for carriage of passengers and goods'. This is actually a method of economic reform. The need of the hour is to make the people aware of this. Therefore, you can produce the vehicles with this stipulation and you can run the vehicles so that the people can take advantage of the eco-friendly vehicles. That is why this exemption was given.

I do not know how many vehicles have come up taking advantage of this exemption. The Statement of Objects and Reasons has said that there is a tremendous demand for CNG and also plenty of vehicles have come to that we want to regulate them. Here, I would to read one portion of the present Government's Hydrocarbon Vision-2025 — one of the five major points — which says: 'To have a free market and promote healthy competition among players and improve the customer service'.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to one issue and ask as to why this type of opportunity is given for certain people for certain ventures to go in for producing the vehicles. If you allow this demand which was created as per a directive of the Supreme Court to ply only this type of vehicles, then you have to ply them within the city limits of Delhi and Mumbai. Even in Tamil Nadu, in automobile centres like Karur and Coimbatore, the vehicle production is very heavy there. They can do any wonder. They can deliver any type of vehicles. That type of technology is there in Tamil Nadu. In the same way, you create that type of technology everywhere. We can create new vehicles. We can allow them to ply and the operators can settle for themselves as to what should be the fare and freight charges. If you allow it like this, it will be good. This is only a storm in the teacup. But even this storm in teacup could not be tolerated by the Central Government. When we are having some problem in the cities of Delhi and Mumbai alone, we are coming forward to drop the proviso which gives an economic reform.

Sir, both the very powerful and sincere Ministers are here. They can very well manage it by allowing this provision to continue so that new people can come and new ventures can come. At the same time, we can also have the pollution-free atmosphere in the cities of Delhi and Mumbai. I am very fortunate to have the assurance given by our hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik that the ultra-low sulphur diesel will be available throughout India within six months. That is a very happy news. According to certain scientists, this ULSD is the foremost one; next is the LPG and the third is the CNG in terms of pollution-avoidance. The carbon monoxide emission in CNG vehicles is much more harmful according to certain people concerned with global warming. Therefore, if you make this ultra-low sulphur diesel available throughout India, then all the villages, town and cities will be having eco-friendly vehicles in their places.

Therefore, it is very fortunate to have such type of target. If they have got that type of target, why should they not be able to convince the Supreme Court to have CNG alone in Delhi so that they can fulfil all the demands which were made within the short period of six months, by 30th September - the deadline fixed by the Supreme Court? I would suggest that we can convince the Supreme court if we are clear enough in telling the Supreme Court that we will take it as a venture and we are going to bring in eco-friendly vehicles throughout India.

I would like to suggest that giving this type of bureaucratic grip to the State Governments to make rules and also to fix the fares and freights would lead to many bus owners and vehicle owners always going behind the officers and politicians for getting some favour. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Government should have some thinking on this.

Sir, if the entire Government is committed to reforms, I think, this type of a small thing can be used as a specimen case to show how best we are doing reforms in India and that we are really having the competence and we are not afraid of the small barricade that comes in our way.

In the same way, I would like to get some particulars. I would like to know how many CNG vehicles have actually come in this sector? I would also like to know whether there is any demand in cities other than Delhi and Mumbai. In which way is it useful? In which way are they afraid? Do they think that there will be more demand and more fares will be there? They will fix fare more than that of ordinary diesel vehicles which are now plying. I want to know whether the fare of CNG vehicles is at par with the present vehicles or it is going to be raised. What is the fear that the Government has got to come forward to delete this proviso from the Act?

In the same way, I would just like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Bhure Lal Committee

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

Report which has been given to the Supreme Court, which said that electricity or battery-operated vehicles alone can serve as clean, eco-friendly vehicles. As the hon. Minister has clearly mentioned that diesel with 0.05 per cent sulphur content can be supplied and it is acceptable as per the international norms, and therefore, it can be used throughout India and it will be helpful also.

At this juncture, I would like to draw the attention of the hon Minister to the fact that we have imposed a cess on petroleum products. In the same way, how are we going to use the income from this cess to increase the usefulness of the infrastructure, the road maintenance? The hon. Minister has mentioned in another debate that Rs. 16,000 crore are being spent on laying of roads in India. Every time, there is increase in the allocation for laying of roads. How best are we going to maintain the roads in a proper way? Laying of road is something different, but maintaining them is much more important. Therefore, that should also be taken into consideration.

Finally, I would submit that certain road Projects have not been executed. In Tamil Nadu, East Coast road is also not executed. That may also be considered at this juncture. Therefore, I would like to suggest that reform is not just disinvestment. The reform should start in each and every field and in each and every village. Then only we will see the effect of reform, which will help in the eradication of unemployment.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I am grateful that ten hon. Members have made valuable contribution by making valuable suggestions and observations. I am also thankful to Shri Ram Naik who intervened in the debate and explained certain aspects which were raised by the Members.

Sir, basically a number of points have been raised. The limited object of this Bill was to remove certain facilities or certain exemptions which were included by the amendment of 1994. That was the limited aim. On that, a number of Members have raised queries. There are two types of queries raised. One is that why we have included electricity and solar energy in this Bill. The second query is about the number of CNG vehicles that will come up, and why we wanted to go in for this amendment.

Sir, I want to submit to the House that there is a certain provision in the act, which permitted individuals to ply their CNG fueled vehicles on the roads, and the thrust of this Amendment is on that. In the beginning, it was thought that it would be good to encourage people to come out, invest some money and start this. The time has come now when the State Governments are feeling that this type of arrangement is causing administrative problems. This problem became very apparent, particularly in Delhi. During the Budget Session when I introduced this Bill, I was requested a number of times by the Delhi Government that as they were facing problems, the type of encouragement given at a particular point of time, that is, in 1994, was not required now.

I agree that encouragement has to be given, particularly to solar and electricity-run vehicles. We want to give it in another form rather than giving freedom to vehicle owners to ply wherever they want to ply and to fix fares and freights. Though the State has no control on this, they have all the accountability. Even today, we are giving a number of concessions and encouragement. I have a long list of it, but I do not want to go into it. We are giving financial encouragement, exemption in excise and customs duties, and various types of experiments, such as, using batteries, solar energy and different fuels, which are latest, are going on. We would like to give encouragement to these people in a manner where it is more useful and does not create any administrative problem. That is the main thrust of this Amendment. The State Governments have been saying that this is becoming a little unmanageable. The hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has given some figures about the vehicles plying in Delhi. That number is expected to increase greatly, maybe, to 60,000 or 70,000. Right now, there are over 2,000-3,000 buses alone. Therefore, it is for the purpose of administrative convenience and not to discourage anybody that we have brought this Amendment. We can assure that we will give various types of concessions for vehicles using electricity, solar and other non-conventional energy sources.

A number of questions were asked about accidents. It is a separate issue. We are taking various actions in terms of education, in terms of education, enforcement engineering measures and awards. My Ministry has done a lot in this regard. We are gradually moving forward. Of course, there are financial constraints. For the last couple of years, we are giving ambulances, cranes, and training to people. A large number of drivers have been trained. Refresher training classes for two days were held for them. These encouragement is going on side by side. Similarly, the States are also taking steps. Accidents are a major problem. Various types of action are being taken in terms of giving encouragement, financial assistance, and widening of the roads.

Some members have talked about maintenance and increasing the width of the road and so on. That is also

going on. The last speaker, Shri Nacthiappan, has talked about national highways and other things. I have already informed the House that this Government has taken a very major initiative for improving the roads in terms of quality, width and also in terms of increasing the quantum of national highways. Therefore, I do not want to repeat that. As much as Rs. 60,000 crore worth projects are right now under implementation and they are to be completed in the next six or seven years. I am quite sure, the result will start coming or become apparent in the next two years. Thereafter, the road improvement will take place.

Some Members have talked about other things. Shri Kirti Azad raised a number of points such as licensing, people driving after taking drinks, etc. Some Members said that the bars should be prohibited to operate on the national highways.

There has also been a mention about over speeding. Certain actions are being taken. I do not want to merely say that it is the prerogative of the State, but basically, law and order is maintained by the State. We have had a number of meetings with the States. We are trying to evolve ways and means.

A number of Members had raised queries about licensing. We had come out with a smart card programme. It has already been suggested to all the States. We are trying to provide as much help to them as possible, including computerisation and various other things. We are now allowing the development of computerisation out of the Central Road Fund, and the money which is being given to the States is to the tune of Rs. 1,000 crore per year. We thought about the means to control accidents, over speeding, drunken driving, bad roads, etc., and all these things are being taken care of in a package.

But I am sure that Members will agree that it will take a little time. We are doing our best from our side.

Another point that I would like to highlight is about the kind of traffic that we have on our roads. We are comparing our country with other countries. Nowhere in the world would you find in a four-lane national highway, starting from a pedestrian to a cyclist, to a bullock cart and a camel cart coming from the opposite directions. But all these things are there in our country. If you want to have a four-line national highway and then have lesser number of cuts on the roads divider then they make cuts at every point in the national highway and want to cross it. So, these are some of the causes that need to be taken into account. We are educating the people. I am quite sure that with better and wider roads, people would also understand as to which way to go and which way not to go and thereby reduce the number of road accidents.

As regards the safety norms for the CNG vehicles, I would like to say that these have been issued. To start with, there are some problems. The State Government machinery is in place to see that the norms are properly followed. All these things are being done. But initially there is a little problem.

I have tried to cover all the major issues. The main thrust of this Bill is very limited.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Please tell us whether you are going to give any incentive to those who have got their vehicles converted into the CNG mode.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Shri Bansal, I have already told that presently there are some incentives available. We want to give more incentive but not freedom from law. It does not mean just allowing them to ply without registration and things like that. It does not mean that they could just select their routes for plying the vehicles. Most of the vehicles are plying on good routes and on difficult and unremunerative routes, lesser number of vehicles are playing. Therefore, these are all administrative arrangements.

As far as the question of providing incentive is concerned, we must give them incentives that are available.

With these words, I commend that the Bill be passed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there is one more speaker from our side. Could you please allow him just for two minutes?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, The hon. Minister has already replied to the debate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Minister for...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already made your speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Mr. Chairman,

[Shri Kirti Jha Azad]

[English]

I have to ask a clarification on licensing. It is a very important matter.

[Translation]

I submited that licences are given to such persons who do not know driving at all. Just now the hon'ble minister was saying that bullock carts, tractors, elephants and horses all are allowed on national highways.

[English]

There should be a National Driving Institute or something like that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, today we have two hon. Ministers with us here. The question today is where should people be driving and where should they be parking their cars. This situation has so arisen because the number of vehicles in 1950 was three lakhs and now it has gone up to three crores. During this period, passenger traffic has increased by 70 times and goods traffic has increased by 88 times.

Sir, in 1947, the total length of the national highways was 21,440 kilometres. Now, at the beginning of the Ninth Plan, it has gone up to 34,298 kilometres. During the first three years of the Ninth Plan, an additional, 17,712 kilometres has been added to the national highway network. Now, the number of vehicles is increasing at the rate of ten per cent, whereas the increase in the road network is at the rate of four per cent.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any perspective plan for the future in order that we could accommodate the cars in proper way so that they could ply on the roads safely. Secondly, yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister stated in this House that the roads being constructed by your Department are of international standard.

So far as my knowledge goes, in developed countries, an amount of Rs. 12 crore is spent for construction of one kilometre of road. Are you maintaining the standard of construction of roads in India?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You take your seat. You have made your points.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, may I ask the hon. Petroleum Minister whether the Government is prepared to meet the demand of CNG in Delhi?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chowdhary, please take your seat.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: This is for the Petroleum Minister, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot ask the Petroleum Minister now.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: It has been found that CNG is not totally free from pollution because of carcinogenic elements.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Speed breakers are not to be made on national highways because speed breakers cause pollution and accidents on national highway but nothing has been told about it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will respond now.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, Shri Chowdhary has raised two issues. One relates to whether we have got any perspective plan of increasing and improving the roads. In a nutshell, as I informed earlier, on this Government is going to spend Rs. 60,000 crore on improving about 14,000 kilometres of our roads to better standards.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: But still India is suffering from road famine.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Today, we have got 33 lakh kilometres of roads out of which the national highways are only 58,000 kilometres. On the other extreme, there are 26.5 lakh kilometres of rural roads. In between, there are State highways. So, this Government has taken a very big programme for road development. As you are aware, apart from the national highways, the States are getting Rs. 1,000 crore per year. We will continue to give. Last year we gave Rs. 990 crore. This year we are giving Rs. 1,000 crore for State highways. An amount of Rs. 2,500 crore is being given for rural roads in order to increase the rural road network. All villages with a population of 1000 will be connected first.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one year ago under the scheme for backward states

and flood prone states, national highway number 104 and another highway was sanctioned. I would like to know the progress made in this regard and whether it is being constructed or not at all?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: At present I am telling about the matter related to Motor Vehicle Act only.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: You are replying to them and not to us.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I will tell you about it separately on tea. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have replied to the discussion. Now I request the House that Bill should be passed.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, I have only one question to ask. Please allow me.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed you. Please do not behave in this manner.

[English]

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

16.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

New Telecom Policy, 1999

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up item No. 15 – Discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: (Raiganj): Sir, I rise to speak on the Discussion under Rule 193 on the Telecom Policy, 1999 and its effect on the licences and revenue generation of the Government in general, and limited mobility issue in particular.

Sir, this very House had witnessed acrimonious debates and stalling of the proceedings of the House...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, should I speak or not?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagariya): Atrocities should not be committed on women.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Renuji it is not fair to disturb the House by speaking while sitting Debate is being conducted in the House under Rule 193 as per the agenda.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, please take your seat now.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this House had witnessed acrimonious debates and the process of stalling the proceedings of the House for more than ten days when Shri Sukh Ram was the Minister of Communications and when the Telecom Policy, 1994 was announced, which started giving effect since 1995.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

I do not like to argue for those days. Just for the reference purpose, I would like to bring it to the knowledge of the Treasury Benches and all the Members of the House as to what happened at that time questing the *bona fide* awarding of the licences and nail of corruption in those days in the DoT. Rightly our wrongly, my dear friend Shri Sukh Ram is not on our side now but he is on the side of the Treasury Benches. It is his time to justify his words to the Government in his own way, for which I will not plead or oppose.

Sir, the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi dreamt to dream. He tried to make reality to his dream that every village of India should be connected with telephone, and if possible, the low earning group, followed by the poorest of the poors, should have the advantage of this modern communication network. The dream was initiated by C-DoT mission and a very great public servant in those days, without taking salary or anything, Sam Pitroda, tried to contribute to it to the highest extent.

I am glad and I thank the hon. Minister's path that successive Governments, including this Government, have been insisting to implement that dream into reality, to increase the tele-density of this country in a largest possible manner.

Sir, I am not questioning Shri Ram Vilas Paswan in his capacity as a Minister or as an individual. He is an outstanding political personality of our country who has come out from the struggle. He struggled for the poor, he struggled for the people and he struggled for the *dalits*. I have the highest admiration for this man. When he was in the United Front Government and when Shri Deve Gowda's Government got collapsed after withdrawal of our support, it was me who went to him saying, "why do you not chair the country as the first *dalit* Prime Minister of the country? I will ensure the support." Such is my regards for him, and I shall continue to regard him in this fashion. There is nothing personal between me and the hon. Minister.

But I am very much concerned about the manner in which the Department of Telecom is functioning, the manner in which the unusual pressure is being mounted on the TRAI by the Department of Telecom to suit their own desires in a manner which are described non-transparent.

Sir, the whole world knows the history of the Sankhyavahini project. The House did not have the privilege to discuss it in depth. Deliberately, it was not discussed, though many a time, it was brought to the notice of the House. However, I know that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan cannot deny it. Even he was not in the knowledge of it. He was kept in the dark as to how the Sankhyavahini project was conceived and how it was executed at last. Even the DoT Secretary was at the mercy of the Prime Minister's Office. Finally, the DoT Secretary had no other options but to write a letter on 6 October, 1998 to Arunachalam regarding this, saying.: "As you will all well appreciate, even though the proposal of IU-NET has the blessings of the Government at various levels, we will still be required to go through the prescribed approval process." It was the letter of 1998. What are the 'various levels', Shri Ram Vilas Paswan only knows; I do not know because at that time it was not in the process. It was done in a very fictitious manner, in a manner for which only Prime Minister's Office could be answerable to the nation and not the DoT at that time.

So, I am not charging you for that. But just for reference. I am passing it on to you as to how the process of non-transparency had started in DoT and the distance between the PMO and the DoT is not very far. Therefore, Mr. Minister, unfortunately, since you are heading the Department, you have to reply to all these charges which I am leveling. The sankhyavahini project was conceived in a non-transparent manner keeping the entire DoT in dark, routing through various departments, as justified by a letter of Shri Anil Kumar Vij dated 6th October, 1998 and then came to your desk just to give a stamp and say, "Yes, your Lordship, we stand by you," That is how Sankhyavahini was conceived.

Sir, what is the reason for changing the NTP-99. I would fully share my information. I have gone through the details of the paragraphs of NTP-99. It was precisely aiming (a) to expanding the tele density net work, (b) to generate more revenue by which DoT itself can take care of the expansion programme and projects of their network and (c) in the liberal economy of our country where market forces shall work, where private houses and foreign investors will come, to maintain transparency in all manners and level playing field.

I would first take up liberty. I would quote from the Seventeenth Report of the Standing Committee on Communications. In this very House, seven days before the distinguished Human Resource Development Minister, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi was trying to justify every movement of this Policy of Education, when we accused him of saffronisation, by quoting umpteen number of times paragraphs of value-based education from the Standing Committee Report of Shri S.B. Chavan saing that he tried to implement it meticulously. I know that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is not in the garb of Dr. Murli Manohar

Joshi but is in the Council of Ministers. I would like to draw his attention to page 21 of the Seventeenth Report of the Standing Committee on Communications.

> "The Committee, after considering the views of COAI, ABTO, DoT as well as TRAI, feels that when the development in technology permits new and an affordable facility to the consumers, such facility should not be denied to the consumers including those in rural and inaccessible areas. However, any likely adversely impact on the proper operation of the entire system and particularly so far as existing operators are concerned who are entitled to conditions which provide for level playing field is to be kept in view and means found out to mitigate the same, if necessary."

I would congratulate the Minister if the level playing field would have been denied in terms of MTNL, BSNL, the public sector vis-a-vis other houses. Here, it is not the case. Here, the case is precisely for a few corporate houses against a few corporate houses at the cost of the gross national revenue generation programme of this country. In the same Report, in page 22, it says:

> "The Committee urges upon the Department to take every possible care in consultation with TRAI to see that advantages accorded to BSOs in the form of "limited mobility" should not act as deterrent to the expansion of Cellular operations and continuous review should be made of the effect of the decision taken, consistent of course with the interest of the consumers and faster expansion of the telecom network at affordable tariff."

Followed by this, I would quote from paragraphs 21, 22, 23, 27 and 28 from the Standing Committee Report. I will not take much time of the House. In that also, in paragraph 21, the Committee says:

> "The Committee fails to understand why incomplete applications were entertained at all. Secretary, DoT's contention that it was not possible to scrutinise each and every application at the time of receipt does not convince the Committee as some time limit should have been fixed to scrutinise the applications in the interest of fair play. On what parameters the defective applications after amendments, are to be considered, require an explanation."

If further says:

> "Secondly, the plea of open-ended situation and unrestricted entry cannot justify lack of provision for a cut off date for receiving and scrutinising applications which obviously have led to ambiguities and uncertainties. The Committee finds that there is no stipulation as to how many players will be inducted, and the whole process seems to lack transparency."

This is not my report. This is the Report of the Standing Committee against DoT. The Standing Committee Report is the Report of Parliament. It was adopted with the consent of all the Members cutting across party affiliations. Had I spoken without quoting the Standing Committee Report, there is every risk of me being misunderstood. It would have been said that the Member is speaking against 'A' Company and for 'B' Company. Unfortunately, the atmosphere is so surcharged that if any one points out that there is corruption in 'X' Company and that it is involved in FERA violation, the easy answer that would be given is that the rival company is being defended. It is not so. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and other Members know that we have not come to Parliament at the mercy of any corporate house. We have come to this House because of the will of the people. The people's mandate is that if we find something wrong, we should bring it to the notice of the Minister, the Government and Parliament and ask as to why it is being prepetuated.

The recommendations of these two Standing Committe make it clear as to how things went wrong. In Mahabharat, I think, to kill Bhishm, Shikhandi was used. If I am wrong, please somebody correct me. Without Shikhandi, Bhishm could not have been killed. In this Ministry, if you want to hit somebody and favour somebody else, you have to use Shikhandi, and the Shikhandi's name is TRAI. I have all respect and sympathy for TRAI. Before participating in the debate, I sent a letter to Chairman, TRAI requesting him to send me in depth the recommendations made by TRAI. He very promptly sent me the recommendations. He was very kind and I thank him for that. There I found that he had made certain recommendations not only on TRAI's desire but also on the desire and request of DoT to reconsider certain recommendations. The NTP 1999 says very clearly that TRAI's recommendations are required and they are not always mandatory. In a reply to the House, the hon. Minister replied, 'Yes, recommendations are certainly entertained, but not mandatory'.

I wish to point out two things. Please do not take it as a charge against any officer of the DoT. I respect all the officers. I have no personal malice towards anyone nor do I know anyone individually. But it surprises me that TRAI gave the recommendations long before the NTP 1999 was announced. After the TRAI gave the recommendation, Secretary, DoT again sent back a letter on 9th October, 2000 to TRAI to reconsider certain other matters than that of the recommendations of the TRAI. When TRAI recommended that roll out obligation should

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

be done in this manner, the Government replies that in the free market involvement, it will be in the interest of service operators to do such things, but we desire that you should also reconsider your views. The time is very short.

Sir, if the following points: (a) the letter of Secretary, DoT; (b) recommendation first received from TRAI; (c) further request by the DoT to reconsider a few areas; (d) the Policy announcement; (e) the policy of 'first come first served'; and (f) the guidelines later on issued, are placed before a Joint Parliamentary Committee or any other Committee as you like, they will come out with a Report which will blacken the face of DoT and it would show as to how arrangements have been made to suit certain specific purpose detrimental to the interest of national exchequer and the gross revenue of the country.

Sir, the time is short and I cannot read out all the recommendations and the queries sought by DoT insisting on TRAI to please reconsider things in this manner or in that manner.

DoT asked the TRAI whether it has bank guarantee. But they requested it to reconsider the case. In so many ways, difficulties are created. This is my first charge.

The second thing that I say is this. The hon. Minister is there to answer this question. I have gone through the entire recommendation of the TRAI. I wrote a letter to the Chairman, TRAI. He is very intelligence. He did not straightaway answer to me. He only asked me to go through all the paragraphs. Mr. Minister, did you recommend that in case of limited mobility, there should be no tender? Did you recommend that the case is to be decided on the first-come first-served basis? Is that the policy you recommended? Did you recommend any spectrum technique policy? In the case of spectrum policy also, the Chairman, TRAI, made some observations which I respect. There was no recommendation. On the other hand, the NTP 1999, categorically said that to maintain transparency and fairness, tender should be there. Have you ever heard of it in any part of the world that for doing any kind of business — whether it is one rupee or one hundred rupee, one pound or one hundred pound, one million or one billion — the Government can conduct business through any operator as it is done in a cinema house? The cinema house would display the board saying that the house is full. If one has to see the film Sholay, one who first goes to the counter of a cinema house will get the ticket. It is given on first-come first-served basis. The Government has clearly opened the shop in the DoT. In the limited mobility case, the criterion adopted is first-come first-served.

On 26th January, this nation and the whole world witnessed a most shocking earthquake in Gujarat. The Prime Minister in the Raj Path Parade Ground. By 9.30 a.m. the first news came. Can you believe that on 21st January, the policy was announced. Application were invited on first-come-first-served basis. With all the fault, applications started pouring in the DoT. On 26th and 27th January, the whole nation was witnessing the earthquake. The DoT was busy in sorting out the applications on first-come first-served basis in their own method and arrangement. It is very shocking. I found no recommendation made by TRAI that there should be the first-come first-served policy based on which it should be decided.

What is the basic service operator's zone? What is the fixed service operator's zone? What is the limited mobility system? No technology in the world says that there can be mobility which is full or partial or anything like that. It is simple.

I use a cellular phone in Calcutta. I can also use it in the entire city of Patna and Delhi. I will use another mobile hand set within a range of 10 kms from the basic service zone or the fixed service operator's zone to a limited area. Both are mobile. Both are useful. Without spectrum technology, even the mobile and mobile handset cannot work within five kms. range. Spectrum has a fee. I calculated that the spectrum fee, used by the operators of the cellular mobile service as the licence fee awarded, is to the tune of Rs. 7,400 crore. The spectrum utilisation in this case would not have been more than that. The gross deficit of the national revenue is to the tune of Rs. 14,000 crore.

Time is too short. I could have analysed the per megahertz rate one after the other. What is the total megahertz available? Milk is measured in terms of litre. Gold is measured in terms of grams. Power is measured in terms of watts. In the case of spectrum evaluation, we measure it by megahertz. So, per megahertz rate is not varying. It, of course, varies in some difficult areas. I can understand that the spectrum utilisation in the hill terrain of Himachal Pradesh could be a little different. But the spectrum utilisation in respect of Malda town of my constituency, which is the headquarters of my constituency, the spectrum utilisation in rural Delhi or Sabarkanta of Gujarat are the same. What is the spectrum utilisation in the city of Ahmedabad? But who will earn the money there? No opposition party or no political party would earn money. It is the Government which would earn money. The Government is crying for money. It asks people to give money because it wants to build roads, provide help to the poor people, the farmers etc. The Prime Minister is announcing programme after programme from the Red Fort. But he does not look at

the fact that his own Government's money is being plundered by his own Department to favour a few agencies. This is called the scam.

My point is not about individuals. Why is your Department not serious in this matter? I would like to draw the attention of the House to the National Telecom Policy. What fixed service providers are doing under the garb of affordable services for common man and rural coverage is really surprising. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan asked me a question. Are you opposed to the WLL? I said, 'No.' Are you opposed to telecom fee of Rs. 1.20 per call? I said, 'No'. Many of our Chief Ministers have asked that such technology should be provided in various parts of the country. We are not questioning the technology; whether CDMA is blessed by the United States of America or whether GSM is blessed by Europe, that is not our contention. Our contention is about transparency. What prevented you to open tenders of those who want to quote in limited mobility? It has been proved beyond doubt by the DOT-IT Committee. The Prime Minister is the Chairman of the DOT-IT Committee. It comprises of your Ministers. They say that the entire thing of limited mobility is not mere limited mobility but it is an additional value added service, outside the scope of limited zone or area. There, you are not charging money. Mr Minister says that in the public meetings. In the public meetings it is alright. But in Parliament you have to justify. In the public meetings they say that.

[Translation]

The hon. Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji has provided telephone facility to all the poor — clappings. Now rich people pay Rs. 40 for a call whereas poor people have to pay Rs. 1.20.

[English]

who can afford fixed service and handset mobility? The poorest of the poor can afford fixed service and handset mobility. Could you please explain, Mr. Minister? Even in your own constituency, Hajipur, the poorest of the poor make you hero of their future. Who is that poorest of the poor? The poorest of the poor cry before the Prime Minister for giving subsidy for fertilizers. Shri Yashwant Sinha says that he cannot. The poorest of the poor ask subsidy for kerosene. Shri Yaswant Sinha says that he cannot. The poorest of the poor ask subsidy for petroleum products. Shri Ram Naik would reply that he cannot because the oil poor deficit is increasing. The poorest of the poor cry and you are saying that you are giving to the poorest of the poor.

I have a fixed service at home. I would take handset with me when I go to my office. My wife uses fixed service. When I am on my way to office in car, during that time, I use my handset service, an additional one, which has the limited mobility of 10 km. zone. I am a poor man. In the language of the Finance Minister, every telephone subscriber is a taxpayer. Do the Minister like to say that the poorest of the poor are feeding the tax network in India? How do you judge? You can say that you are lessening the burden of the middle-class. I appreciate you for that. You say that you are lessening the burden of those who pay call charge of Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 by bringing it down to Rs. 1.20 per call. I appreciate you for that. But do not take the name of the poor people. Do not take the name of the vast masses of the country.

What are you offering? You say that you are giving subsidy. I charge the Government that it fails to give subsidy to the farmers; I charge the Government that it fails to give subsidy to the commonest of the common man in the villages. But the Government is subsidising the telephone rates of the middle-class, traders, businessman in the small towns and small areas at the cost of long distance charge rate which is charged by VSNL to subsidise it in the limited mobility rate. It is not magic that by CDMA technology, we make payment at the rate of Rs. 1.20 per call. It is not any magic. Do not give that credit to the Government.

[Translation]

Our Government has done magic. One has to pay Rs. 1.20 for using one equipment and one has to pay Rs. 40 for using another equipment. But the people using long distance call from Ahmedabad to Calcutta or out of the country, one free call is given if rent paid on it is passed on here.

[English]

This is the truth. I demand that the false claim of this Government that they are not subsidising it should also be probed by an appropriate committee and the committee should give the findings as to whether my allegations are true or not. This is how the Telecom Policy is now being operated.

I will now tell you as to what is happening in the optical fibre area. It is very tragic. On the day of the disinvestment debate, I have said a lot of things about VSNL, Air India, etc.

But I advise the hon. Minister, "Please take care of your Department very carefully."

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Optical fibre worth Rs. 5,000 crore is normally to be planned for a year. A unit called Sterlite once got a stricture by the Department of Telecom for a particular tender. I am not saying about all tenders. Of course, you are worried enough to get BALCO. You will know the fate of BALCO after 15 days. Let the Report of the C&AG come.

Do you know what is happening? A few companies are floating their sister organisations by the names 'x', 'y' or 'z' and making a cartel. In that 'millibhagat', they are trying to quote the same tender with a little variance of Rs. 100 or Rs. 1,000. They joint the cartel and share the benefit in the ratio of 50:50. In the optical fibre case, it is very shocking for me to quote all these things.

From official notes, I had a privilege to know about what had been happening in the DOT. It is an observation by the Finance Department and the Legal Department:

"While examining the price reasonability, it was found that the actual quoted prices were 21.45 per cent higher than the last tender price and CET has recommended a counter offer price at 7.17 per cent higher. It was felt that an exercise may be made to ascertain the possible reasons for such a quoted increase of 21.45 per cent over the last tender price and hence a further scrutiny of the bids was made.

While scrutinising, we find:

"In such a situation, it is very much doubtful whether the Department would be in a position to get competitive prices if the companies of one or more groups take stock of the opportunity and dictate the prices to the Department."

I also quote what he further mentioned:

"Unconditional acceptance to all our conditions may be obtained from all the shortlisted bidders before placement of orders."

This note is by one Shri V. Rajendran, ADG of Finance Section. He made this nothing on 11 July, 2000. He detected how things were going wrong. He warned the Department in July, 2000.

In August 2000, there is the same cartel: STL, STOL, ARM. You have Sterlite brothers and sisters: VTL, BEOL. These are Birlas. The Department gave a detailed nothing What is there in this nothing? The Department says that in their observation, they found it shocking. What could be a glaring example of scam. The Department says:

"We have become extremely concerned about certain factors in respect of the following bidders who are bagging more than half of the total value of the tender for the optical fibre: Group I — ARM Ltd., Sterlite Industries, Sterlite Telecables, Sterlite Telelinks; and Group II — Vindhya Telelinks and Birla Ericsson."

Further he says:

"It is found that the power of attorney is issued to all these groups in the name of same Director, same address, same place. He is called 'Navin Aggarwal'. It is the same thing in the case of Birla Ericsson: Priyamvada Birla, VD Jain, R.G. Munda, and in the case of Vindhya Telelinks, they are: Priyamvada Birla, VD Jain, R.G. Munda, Shrimati Radhika Birla, M.P. Rajan."

16.29 hrs.

(SHRIMTI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

Do you know how have they made the cartel? The cartel is like this. I read out the constitution of the cartel. The whole nation will be shocked to know how the DoT is operating. I know, you have not yet finalised it because you know that the debate is coming. The tender was opened on 24th July, 2000. It is dated 24th July and opened on 10th August, 2001. Here is STL cartel. How it was conspired. STL quoted optical fibre price of '12-F-60,000' at Rs. 62,450.

"...His brother quotes Rs. 62,500; his sister quotes Rs. 62,700; Sudarshan quotes Rs. 63,000; Unifax Rs. 64,000; Birla GTS Rs. 66,500; BUL, Rs. 66,600." The rule is first eight will get. They come in the first eight. Which are the first eight — would get 4 each. They are the same. What is the lowest? It is 57,000. If I say that it is not 21 per cent hike, even ten per cent manipulation there is Rs. 500 crore.

Will the hon. Minister not take any action? We have no enmity with him. I want him to be the fighter to remove corruption from DoT, in implementing NTP 1999. Why is he keeping quiet? Why has such a legal observation been made by his department (Finance Branch) in July 2000? They allowed them again to come to the bidding. They allowed to cartel to operate in spite of department's noting. They are still continuing this practice till this date and the hon. Minister feels that the Opposition should not raise any finger. I know, many ruling party Members also raised objections.

The hon. Minister took it personally. I would like to ask the hon. Minister why does he take it personally. He

is not to take it personally. I know, whatever he may say, he may find time or not, he is too busy in his public and political works and sometimes he is the victim in the hands of some Superboss and that he cannot do anything, which comes from otherwise. But in the interest of the nation, he has to expose. If he does not do that, people would doubt his bonafides. People will question him.

Who are doing all these things in the name of Telecom Policy Implementation Programme, in the entire optical fibre tender management, right from the last three years? I demand this from the hon. Minister. He can appoint on his own, a committee to investigate and invite us. We will substantiate documents and papers and book the culprits who are looting this country's money, not to the tune of hundreds of crores but to the tune of thousands and thousands of crores. They are talking of poor people not getting food in Koraput and Bolangir. They are facing starvation deaths and the cartel is looting the money.

Sir, for even a Member of Parliament, if he cannot give the notice before 10 o'clock, he has no right to raise an issue in the House. If a Minister is caught in a wrong statement in the House, it becomes a matter of privilege. But in the case of limited mobility, mobility is limited, looting power is unlimited. Looting is unlimited, zone is limited. What is happening?

I had been to Australia and New Zealand to represent Shri Pramod Mahajan. They are very superior in the telecom technology. I asked them in their country whether there is any policy of 'First come first serve' basis. They were laughing. In our country, it is 'First come first serve'.

[Translation]

You have to stand in queue for getting ticket for cinema. You will get ticket if you reach there early or you have to purchase ticket in black.

[English]

Has it ever happened?

I am not questioning any company's bonafide. Any company which is coming in the field of telecom policy — they are all Indian companies they have good engineers, technocrats, etc. — is welcome. I have no personal interest for or against any company. But I am talking of transparency in the policy, where they have failed. This is what is happening in optical fibre tender documents. If the hon. Minister wants, I can certainly send all this information to him. It is with him and he knows that too. But I think, because of certain pressure on him, he cannot act. Sooner he gets out of that pressure, it is good for the country.

Madam Chairman, the Minister of State for Communication is from West Bengal. He is a fine man, very pro-people, unfit in the company, but he is a good man. He was kind enough to call all the MPs of West Bengal in Kolkata to discuss telephone problems. I must say that for smaller problems whenever I approach him, he does it. He is a Minister having enough access for poor people rich people, and everybody.

Sir, I raised the issue of limited mobility for silver licence. Time was too short so he said, we would discuss it later on. Maybe on 21st, I do not remember the date, *The Business Standard* released that a licence has been issued in spite of the fact that the opinion of the Solicitor-General was not sought.

I wrote a letter to the Minister of State and asked, whether it is a fact that you have issued some licence on the 20th when the matter is lying before the Tamil Nadu High Court, and whether it is also a fact that you did not seek the approval of the Solicitor-General. I am not going to read the letter because of the time constraint.

Long back, the Additional Solicitor-General, Shri Venugopal gave an advice. His advice is with me. It says: 'Look, on the matter of Tamil Nadu jurisdiction. I cannot say anything because a proceeding is there. But for other circles, it is up to you to decide.' He did not give any specific comment.

I say with authority, Mr. Minister—if you deny, I will apologise — that the licence was issued on the 20th August and after my letter, when the queries were on, it was found that the licence was issued on the 20th August and the informal opinion of the Solicitor-General was sought on the 21st. If the Minister wants, I can produce that noting also but I do not like to embarrass the Minister too much. Otherwise, somebody again will refer it to CBI. Anyway, I will tell you that this is how the DoT is functioning.

[Translation]

Task is performed before taking approval.

[English]

This is how the Department is functioning. The Minister of State is smiling because he knows that I am speaking the truth!

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Madam, we were abused when we were in Government that whatever we did in regard to Telecom was wrong. In our time, a sum of Rs. 22,000 crore generation was prospected in the bidding process by 42 bidders. With the so-called opening of the economy and with the so-called motivation of the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister to the entire foreign investors and the local investors, how many bidders came for the fourth cellular licence bidding process? In our time, it was 42 and generating Rs. 22,000 crore. Now, because of the scam in DoT and uncertainty in the Telecom Circle, there is no chance for level playing field and no foreign company has given its bid for the first time for any of the circle. In regard to the Indian company also, there is such a lethargy to touch the DoT and the total strength of the bidder is six, and the revenue generation is Rs. 1,225 crore or a little more. So, it came down from Rs. 22,000 crore to Rs. 1,200 crore. The poor Finance Minister is crying, From where we will get money. The Prime Minister is saying, 'please give me money'. Netaji said, 'Give me blood, I will give you freedom.' The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister say, 'Give me money, I will give you road, this and that.'

[Translation]

Ram Vilasji says that you will not be given. He has made arrangements that money will flow out.

[English]

I want to know as to how the Government will benefit. Were all the reporters - Shri Krishnan, Shri Sunil Dev and others - wrong? The other day, Shri Arun Shourie was telling that the Media reports, possibly, are also the plant of corporate houses. About the visit of Pervez Musharraf, Media was accused as unpatriot.

[Translation]

Media will write about disinvestment and we will quote them here. That is the conspiracy. Telecom will be written at length by the media. Media may extend support to Shri Ram Vilas for going ahead in this regard. How that will work.

[English]

Media predicted five times that uncertainty was prevailing in the Telecom matters and asked to defer the bid for some time, and activate your Department in an aggressive manner to get more money for the fourth bid.'

[Translation]

what will you do? Marriage is fixed and dowry has been taken it is not a serious thing if date for it has not yet been decided. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am talking about the fairness of your own Government. Please do not interrupt me. I am not talking for me. Shri Maheswar, Shri Devendra ji and Shri Anant Geete are there. I am not talking against any individual.

[Translation]

This all is being done for favouring two-three persons.

[English]

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, you have been guiding the debate many times when you were in the Opposition.

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, can you tell me this? When our jawans were giving their lives in the battlefield of Kargil, the Prime Minister was crying for money, for war fund, for grants. Then, the total dues claimed to be fixed by these houses of the country was to the tune of rupees one lakh twenty-eight thousand crore.

[Translation]

The Government has to get Rs. 1,28,000 crore from business houses. Since the Kargil war the hon'ble Prime Minister has asked for the funds. You entered into the migration package. Please forgive them. You should not pay. Arrangement for it will be made in 1999.

[English]

How much we lost? The country lost to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, please conclude.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, I will take two minutes more. We lost Rs. 50,000 crore in the migration package. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, please tell me this. Had you been in Opposition and if Shri Vajpayee would have been here, what will happen? You had done it. Did you allow Parliament to run even for a day? Did you allow the Indian train and bus to move in the street?

[Translation]

the Government has spent Rs. 50 thousand crore.

[English]

Why did you tolerate this migration package?

[Translation]

Mulayam Singhji speaks in favour of the farmers about he does not write off Rs. 50,000 for them

[English]

essential corporate houses, on the plea that they have gone to the court and it would delay, you have allowed rupees one lakh and twenty-eight thousand crore of this country. You say everything is transparent, everything is clean; and everything is perfect. I said this earlier and I say this again.

In the name of limited mobility, we have not opposed. In the name of WLL, we have not opposed. We oppose your four things.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): It is very good.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You are saying very good. Please listen to first what I am saying and then give compliments.

[English]

Firstly, in the name of first-cum-first served, you have shown favouritism. You have connived with some groups and individuals to suit the purpose of some authority in the Government, which I do not know. You can spell out it. Secondly, you pressurised the TRAI to reconsider your desire, which is detrimental to the interest of the country, and compelled him to recommend again. By this action of yours, you have transgressed your authority. Thirdly, in the name of optical fibre tender, in spite of the observation by your Legal Department and the Finance Department that they are looting and looting through an organised cartel, you have encouraged them, allowed them by deliberately entering into certain kind of arrangement by the Department at the cost of the nation's exchequer. That you are required to probe and we demand a probe. Finally, what was done in the limited mobility will benefit a middle-class person like Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, a trader, a shopkeeper, a consumer in the semi-town and town. It is not in the interest of the commoners. The so-called one rupee twenty paise is not a charge for innovation of technology but a subsidy from the long-distance call. So, these things should be exposed and exposed to the wind.

I charge the Government, therefore, that you have destroyed the revenue of the country. On limited mobility alone, by wrong calculation of this taking of charge, the benefit was to the tune of Rs. 14,000 crore. You have destroyed the revenue of the Government to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crore by the migration package. You are accountable to the nation for this fraud played on this Parliament and the nation by not exposing the truth.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Madam, Chairperson, I rise to participate in the debate initiated by the senior Member of this House, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, on the important subject of New Telecom policy.

Madam, I listened to the speech of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi very attentively. He spoke for about 45 minutes. It is correct that opposition parties are there to point out the lacunae in the functioning of the Government and to guide it to the right path. But I have seen that except criticism not a single word has been said in praise of good work done by the Government.

Madam Chairperson, the Government should also be praised for the good deeds. Hon'ble Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi quoted excepts from the standing committee of Parliament where the Government's working was criticized and not those portion where standing Committee praised the Government. However, the Government has not been praised even a bit and even the suggestions for changing scenario were not offered.'

Madam, Chairperson, the hon'ble Member raised the issue of rural areas but forgot that present Government has reduced the amount of security for installation of telephone in rural areas. We should not forget the telephone is not used by affluent class only but it has become a necessity of common man. Not only in cities but telephone has become a necessity of common man in villages.

Madam Chairperson, at first I would like to congratulate the Government for pace of progress of telecommunication during the last three years. Today optical cable fibre is being laid in all the villages. The government has fixed the target of 2002 and made an announcement that by the year 2002 telephone facility

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

will be provided in every village and every house. I admit that it is a uphill task but fact is that pace of work cannot be increased without fixing higher targets. I think the hon'ble minister also knows that providing telephone connection to every house by the year 2002 is not possible but this fact cannot be ignored that work on this project expedited after the fixation of higher target and now telephone facility is reaching everywhere...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: This is not the way. We did not disturb the hon. Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi...*(Interruptions)* We should hear the hon. Member very patiently.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Madam Chairperson, I was saying that providing telephone facility to every house by the year 2002 is not an easy job but it is not totally impossible too. I do not want to comment anything about Pt. Sukhramji. The whole world and this House knows as to what happened during his tenure. a giant leap was taken by him in the field of telecommunications and now the hon. Minister is carrying the torch of. Today telephone facility is being provided in every village. Now people living in remote areas feel that telephone is within their reach. I thank the hon'ble Minister for expansion of telecommunication network...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Madam, Chairperson, I would like to remind Shri Maheshwarji that in my speech I stated that the hon'be Minister has taken further the work initiated by late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I congratulate him for all that.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: You congratulate the hon'ble Minister in personal capacity because he is your friend. But you have not said a single word in praise of the work done by him, what a good way of extending congratulations. You are also my friend and I will congratulate you for your good deeds too.

Madam, so far as the work of optical cable fibre is concerned, it is being undertaken by two agencies. One is your department which has been accorded the status of corporation (Nigam) and the other is "project site". Earlier the work of optical cable fibre was being undertaken only 'project site' but now small part of this work has been handed over to the department. I suggest that there is no need of two departments to handle one work. There is no need for two parallel departments. I have seen that earlier when this work was being undertaken by only project site, then for awarding the contract of optical cable fibre laying the concerned department was accountable for achieving the target. I would like to cite an example that there is Deputy General Manager looking after the entire Himachal Pradesh.

There is an area of fifty five thousand square kilometres there and the GM incharge of it sits in Ambala and the entire area of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir comes under it. The G.M of this area sits in Delhi. Hence, my suggestion is that this parallel system should be quashed. If there is a large circle then project sits should be abandoned and the circle should be opened in bigger states so that this agency may work. I would like to congratulate the Government for this thing that it has done away with the monopoly in regard to awarding tenders. Earlier the tenders were invited for only these persons who had some past experience of the work. Now, the Government have given an opportunity to work to the unemployed persons in villages by lifting the condition of experience. However, I would like to say that the percentage of work allocation to the villagers should be enhanced.

Secondly, I would like to mention that there is a greater need of co-ordination between the Public Works Department and Department of Telecommunications in the State because sometimes the work get hampered unnecessarily, though, I admit that sometimes it may be held up due to the mistake of the contractors. This leads to the delay in completion of the works like laying down the optical fibre cable line. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay attention towards it.

Now, I want to say about the availability of euqipments. The Government have stated that the telephone exchanges will be set up everywhere by the end of 2002. However, how can it be possible until the equipments like MCPC for Macessible areas are not made available. There are many places like hilly areas where the duration of the working season is very less. I hail from the region comprising of inaccessible and tribal areas like Lahaul and Pangi wherein the working season is of only four month's deviation. Rohtang pass is officially closed from 15th September onwards. How the telephone exchanges at these places can be set up, if MCPC are not made available at these places on priority basis. Through you I would like to bring it to the kind attention of the hon. Minister that MCPC could not be installed in Lahaul as per target fixed last year and the year also, telephone exchanges can not be set up there if the MCPC are not made available before 15th of September. To cite an example, the telephone exchange at Khoksar, at other side of Rohtang Pass and at Khirat in Udaipur are not functioning due to lack of MCPC.

So far as MARR system is concerned, who in this House or in the country is not aware of the fact that this system has proved a failure everywhere in the country. There MARR are dying in lakhs even in a small state like Himachal Pradesh. Your have stated that you will replace it with WLL system. However, this WLL system has only been functioning at two places namely Kausli and thereafter in Himachal Pradesh on trial basis. It has been noticed that the Government has been saying for long that MARR system will be replaced by WLL once the trial is successful. However, I would like to submit that there is a need to expedite it because MARR system is not functioning anywhere and thousands of its equipments are lying in stores and are in the process of being junked and destroyed. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that this material should be disposed of so that some money may be fetched for the department and it could be utilised for purchasing new equipments and the work in this direction could be accelerated.

Now, I would also like to submit that there is a need to appoint casual labourers for the maintenance of telephone exchanges. Though at many places, workers pay a lot of attention towards exchanges, however the complaint of the linemen negligence are received from certain places. It is complained that the linemen switch off the entire exchange rendering the entire system unfunctional and restart it in the morning. Hence you must also make arrangement for recruiting casual labourers at such places especially in the unaccessible areas wherein the telephone exchanges are situated at a distance of six to eight kilometers.

So far as the INMAR set is concerned, I would like to congratulate the Government on the behalf. Though there INMAR sets were costly earlier, now the Government has started to install them at normal rates. There sets are also being installed in inaccessible areas. However, these sets are still under the complete control of the Government. I know that this is a very costly equipment and it can not be provided everywhere. But I hope and would like to submit that these sets should be given to societies etc. in lieu of depositing certain security sum in those areas where the Government offices are not located. I hope that you will certainly make arrangement in this regard. However, so far as the payment of Bills is concerned, it is a big problem. The people in rural areas have to travel upto 50 kilometres for paying a bill of Rs 50 to 100 only because there is neither a post office or any other office there where he may pay his bill amount. I had suggested that such kind of arrangement should be make in banks. Some steps have been taken in this regard. Besides, the arrangement for the payment of these bills should be made in the village post offices also. The reason cited for the lack of this arrangement is that as there is no arrangement for keeping the money secured and embezzelment may take place. I would like to say that village postmaster is also a responsible person. It must be make obligatory for the post master to deposit the sum so received in the nearest bank and the post offices should be given some commission because the opening of a post office in a village is a big problem for the Members. Whenever I demand for opening of a new post offices, stereotype reply comes from your Ministry that "with reference to your D.O. letter No...dated... so and so regarding the opening of a post office in village Dhar, post office Olva; Tehsil Ani, district Kullu, H.P., it is stated that the proposal of opening a post office in the said village has been examined and it has been found that the distance of the nearest post office from the said village its Six kilometres and it has a small population, and estimated income from the proposed post office comes to only 4.28 percent of the estimated total expenditure likely to be incurred on running it which is far below the target of 15 percent fixed by the department. Hence, in view of the non-fulfilment of the department criteria there is no justification for opening a new post office in the said village at present. Whenever I write a letter, such kind of already prepared reply is given to us. You will have to consider this thing because yours is not a commercial department. Hence, with a view to provide facilities to the people, such a policy should be evolved that a post office and a Panchayatghar in each village is set up. So far as the distance is concerned, six kilometres in hilly areas are enough to create fatigue in persons. Hence, this criteria of distance should be released in regard to the hilly areas. The Government should ensure that a post office should exist in each Panchayat and also that the people get the basic facilities at their door steps.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made it a general debate.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: I express my gratitude for giving me time to speak. At the same time I would also like to express my gratitude to all the hon. Members especially those belonging to opposition for listening my views carefully because frequent interruptions are the common feature here. I hope that other Members will also get an opportunity to speak like me.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

17.00 hrs.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Maam, as recently as on the 8th of January, 2001 the hon. Minister of Telecommunications at a mass rally of his party held at Delhi announced that by March, 2002, telephone facilities

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

would be made available to all the villages in the country. I do not understand as to what he meant by that. Probably what he meant by that was that this Government would go by that time and so he would not have the responsibility to fulfil this promise.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Are you saying by 2002 or 2022?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: When the new Telecom Policy was announced, the same kind of an assurance and the same kind of declaration was made that telephone would be made available on demand by the year 2002. But today if you look at the situation, although as many as 42 circles have been opened for the cellular operators and basic telephone services, yet till today in respect of basic telephone services — correct met if I am wrong — only four, some of them in a very limited manner, are only operating.

Sir, If we compare ourselves in respect of the tele-density with the year 1998 — just one year before the NTP was adopted — we would see it was at 1.5. In the period 1999-2000 it has been raised to 2.86 and the Government expects that it would be 3.5 by the year 2001. I wish them well. What had been the achievement of China during this period? In regard to cellular phones, they have surpassed the United States. It is 128 million.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): They have more population than us.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: So what? They were not having telephone connections at all in many parts of the country. China is considered to be a poor and a developing country. They took up the reforms process, in their own way, only in the year 1978. It is not only China, many other countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand have also done well. But here we find that we have engaged ourselves in controversies over technology. We are engaging ourselves in litigation between the cellular operators and what the basic operators can or cannot provide. I am not going into the points raised by my esteemed colleague. I shall come to them later on. Before that I would like to come to the question of technology.

Sir, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) is of course a technology by which we can reach the rural masses, the distant people and the inaccessible areas in a big way. When it was asked to state categorically whether introduction of WLL limited mobility would improve the tele-density in the country, the Secretary, DoT replied that it would certainly help a faster roll out of the network. I am quoting from the report of the Standing Committee on limited mobility. But limited mobility is not a new thing. It is because WLL technology has been there for quite some time. In the first generation mobile radio system based on analogue transmission techniques, was introduced in developed countries like USA, Japan and such other countries in the early 1980s.

The second generation mobile radio systems introduced in the public telecommunication network since the early 90s are based on digital transmission techniques. These systems, optimally designed for car telephones, can be tailored to WLL applications. These systems have a cell radius of 20 to 30 kilometres and can serve a large number of subscribers from a single base station.

In India, there have been field trails for some such WLL technologies. One of them as the CDMA technology. It was decided by the Telecom Commission. Then, there was the CT-2 technology for WLL application. Field trail of CDMA technology by a multinational company, Qualcom of USA, was conducted at Delhi. CT-2 technology of Messrs. Dassault A/T, France, was tried in Kolkata. There are two other technologies.

A Professor in Madras IIT, Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunuwala, with his team, came out with a technology called cor DECT technology. Unfortunately, there is a serious complaint in the matter of allocation of spectrum. Allocation of spectrum is a very important thing. In the Bill itself it is a grey area. Now that the Convergence Bill has been cleared by the Cabinet, as far as I could gather from the papers, it will take care of this particular part, the security aspects and all those things which we raised at the time when *Sankhyavahini* Project was tried to be pushed through. We had said at that time, I myself said it, that Pentagon had a technology called Echelon technology which they had tried to apply to USSR to collect data. If *Sankhyavahini* was allowed to operate in India, very sensitive conversations in the Defence area, between the Ministers and others, would be monitored by such technology. Today, even in India, our security people are using some such technology, as it happened in the case of finding out one of the foreign operators in the cricket match fixing case. It was done by this technology. This is published in a very important Indian journal.

I am coming to the spectrum allocation policy. What is the policy? Is there any scarcity? There are two opinions. There is no scarcity. A large quantity of spectrum

is monopolished in areas which are not required at all in the new technology? I am coming to the complaint being made that the corDECT technology which requires the bandwidth from 1880 to 1900 Mhz — that is, 20 Mhz — is not being allowed. It is being said that currently it will be allowed at 800 to 900 Mhz range, and only after this is fully utilised, 1880 to 1990 Mhz can be allowed. Why is it so? It should be delinked. If it is delinked, our indigenous technology, which is a cheaper technology, can be made available. It will be in the interest of the consumer. If you say you are to serve the interest of the consumer, why are you not delinking it? It is an indigenous technology. It has many advantages. It can be inducted in the network without incurring additional costs. It has got very low power consumption and no air-conditioning is required. These features are missing — this is very important — in the comparable WLL technology which is being provided by the multinational companies like Qualcom and others.

My specific question to the hon. Minister is that if everything is clean, why should he not encourage the 'deshi' technology? Why should he not delink the 1880-1900 Mhz spectrum allocation from allocation for 800-900 Mhz. Why should he make it like that? It is being said after 800-900 Mhz is fully utilised then only 1880-1900 Mhz Band will be allowed? Why so? He should delink it. If he is clean, if he has nothing else in mind and if the charges are not at all true, then he should prove it by delinking it and encouraging the 'deshi' technology.

As far as I know, the memorandum has been submitted to the hon. MOS by this time. If I am not mistaken, I could also gather that he has tried to do something for the use of this technology — CorDECT at Delhi through MTNL and others.

Sir, the whole story of privatisation of telecom in India is a sordid story. Corruption in this Government has become identified...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Is it less than Bengal or more?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't interrupt.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, we have noticed a sordid story of murky defence deals which has rocked the whole country. Everybody is agitated over it. But they are not ready to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee to go into all these murky deals.

About the irregularities in the financial institutions, only the other day in this House very many complaints had come as to how, at the instance of very high offices, important financial institutions like UTI had operated causing huge losses to our countrymen, to the small investors.

Now, the same thing is happening in the Telecom Department. The Sukh Ram syndrome is still persisting there. They have the glory and pride in having Sukh Ram himself on their side. We all know how on the MARR and other things, when Shri Sukh Ram was the Minister of Communications, for 13 days the Well of the House was occupied by important leaders of the BJP and others. The House could not function at all. But now, the same person, the same logic and the same sort of murky deals and operations are continuing till today in respect of optical fibres, allocation of spectrums and many other things.

After the privatisation, the Government was overjoyed that the amount of bidding was such that they would not require any money at all from any other sources. But ultimately came the reality. Even rich multinational telecom companies said that they had suddenly become very poor. The Government was very sympathetic. They have become to poor that they condoned due licence fees. My colleague was calculating the figures and he said that it is Rs. 50,000 crore. But I think; it is more than Rs. 50,000 crore that the Government had condoned. New names were given, viz., migration, revenue sharing, etc. But it was only to cover up the misdeeds and the corruption which they have indulged in.

Sir, now, I come to the cellular and limited Wireless in Local Loop controversy. This was examined by the Standing Committee on Information Technology in their 17th Report about the Ministry of Communications. It says that 'from the deposition of all, the Committee notes that Wireless in Local Loop technology which was allowed in the fixed service providers licences has been given a new thrust.' There are many people involved there.

But the two systems, GSM and CDMA, are not identical. What is the explanation for this? The Minister may say that in the convergence clause, there is a provision that the cellular service operators can go for the basic services but the basic operators cannot go for

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

other technology. If that be so, then that was a defect in the convergence clause. It should be rectified. An explanation should be given on this point.

In the name of privatisation, our companies which have been producing important telecom equipments, like the Indian telephone Industry and the Hindustan Cables, have been made sick by you. Now, you are proposing them for privatisation or disinvestment and all these things. But if you look at other countries, you may find that they have strengthened their base. In our country, the multinational companies are bringing all equipments even in respect of Wireless in Local Loop. As far as my report goes, you are placing orders for equipment with foreign multinational companies to their benefits, which we ourselves are in a position to make. Our own Indian telephone industry is becoming sic because there is no order. The Hindustan Cables, a deemed subsidiary of the DoT, is not getting orders they are becoming sick and you are serving the interest of the foreign companies.

I will ask three or four questions. Convergence has already come. I mean that the Internet telephony, by April, 2002, will be available freely to the people. What is the policy of this Government? Even currently, there are reports that important functionaries of the Government, the telecom officials and many more people are using it. We should do something in that regard. The Internet telephony is a loss but this Internet telephony, Wireless Loop, GSM technology and all these things should be taken in a holistic calculation and the Convergence Bill will ultimately be through optical fibre and cable. What is your thinking about the rights of ways of the Railways, Defence, State Electricity Boards, Power Grid Corporation, ONGC, GAIL and SAIL? How do you propose to settle matters with them so that optical fibre network will be there as quickly as possible? I am asking this because we are lacking bandwidth in the country.

As far as security is concerned, the spectrum allocation is done by the Wireless Wing of the Ministry. Now, in a changed atmosphere, in a convergent atmosphere, will this Government have a transparent spectrum policy, without which the investment in telecom and all these things may not develop in a manner that is called leapfrogging. Development in a country by leapfrogging means it cam jump and at stages, we can just cover up as quickly as possible and reach our goal in development. Nowadays, telecom and particularly information technology is a great input in our development. How does the Government propose to make transparent spectrum policy. I believe, the Government will institute an inquiry into the charges made by my esteemed colleague about the first-come-first-served, as regards optical fibre.

With these words, I hope the Government will have a relook at the New Telecom Policy. Privatisation is causing disasters to our economy. In such an economy, you should have a relook at the New Telecom Policy.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Madam, we are discussing one of the important inputs of the nation's development. This New Telecom Policy 1999 has its effect on the licence and revenue generation of Government of India in general and limited mobility issue in particular. If you take this limited mobility issue, the Minister of Communications has already committed that by March 2002, all the villages will be connected with telephones. If that is so, then we want an reaffirmation from him that he stands by his commitment. In this knowledge-based society, telecommunication plays a very important role. Keeping that in view, the NTP, 1999 was enunciated.

From then onwards, the Government is taking a series of steps for connecting villages and increasing the tele-density. In cities, telephone is available on demand. We used to do favouritism in those days to people belonging to our constituencies. Sometimes I feel that we have lost that opportunity to do favoritism to anybody for the good. In cities, telephones are being provided on demand. It is a welcome sign. It is a part of NTP 1999. But it has to spread to remote places also. That is very important. In many villages which are far flung, people are looking for communications so that they can come to know about the developmental activities taking place in other parts of the country and in their States also. It would help them to derive the fruits of advancement in the society. Keeping that in view, the expansion work has been taken up. New generation cables and optical fibre cables are being laid.

Whenever we take a step forward for creating certain facilities, immediately our tendency is to pull down by saying that so much of corruption is there, and that so much money is being spent. So many things are being said. I feel that we are over emphasising these factors at certain times. During the Tenth Lok Sabha, we have seen some very violent situations in this House when Shri Sukh Ram was sitting there. But today we are doing things with transparency as far as possible. We are also doing things with honesty, with sincerity and with dedication.

At the same time, we should also feel that others are also feeling the necessity of transparency. I think the hon. Minister will take some more time to put those things in order so that these controversies do not enter and do not tardy the progress of developmental work. He has to see that the work is taken up as speedily and as efficiently as possible so that his commitment of issuing telephones to all the villages is celebrated in this House. We want that to happen. We do not want these small and pretty problems to come in the way of developmental works. Let the developmental works be carried on. Otherwise, nothing will move in this country.

A minute earlier, my learned colleague Shri Rupchand Pal was telling that China is having so many mobile and cellular phones. Perhaps, the number may be more than that of the U.S. Perhaps, it may be more than that of the U.S. and India put together. The Chinese people are having more number of such phones. But what are the policies they are adopting? My dear friend, you are forgetting that for a moment. Their policy is a unified policy. They will always have a unified policy. Once they take a decision, it will go like a bullet train. In our case, everywhere there is a halt. Sometimes, it is being derailed. How can we achieve progress in this way? We can also achieve progress provided when once we take certain decisions, certain things have to happen procedurally. By allowing room for a marginal percentage of errors, we should allow things to be done. We should allow them to carry on things. We learn good things from our mistakes. Small mistakes do not matter. But we have to see the overall situation. We have to see whether we are doing the time-bound programmes or not. These are also very important things. There is a responsibility cast on the Treasury benches. They have made certain commitments to the people. They have committed certain policies. They have to remain alert as far as their policy is concerned. They have to remain on the ground. They have to translate them into acts. Otherwise, people are watching them. They will not believe them next time when they go them. Mr. Minister, you cannot go on telling that you assure certain things and you will do it next time. More so, you have to act. You have to show them that you are in action. This is important.

Two days back, there was a meeting in Bangalore in which about nine nations participated. They discussed about the band-width, spectrum etc. They requested that band-width should be expanded in our country. They said that unless band-widht is expanded, unless it is created wherever it is necessary, things will not move. In the knowledge-based society, people will not be able to keep quiet. The tax has to be reduced in respect of the Information, Communication and Technology sector. The Government's role is to be the role of a facilitator. In respect of so many things, we have amended the acts. Take the example of FEMA. From regulation, we have come to management. In the case of a management society, the Government should play the role of a managerial expert, providing the necessary skills and required facilities. It should play the role of a facilitator rather than that of a regulator in the field of Information, Communication and Technology sector as a whole.

17.30 hrs.

(SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD *in the Chair*)

We should also observe the positive political approach. Once we create a knowledge-based society, we would overcome the problems of population and poverty. Information has to reach everywhere. We are burdened with two major problems — population and poverty. We can face and tackle these two problems with our knowledge-based society alone. If you want to create a knowledge-based society, the bandwidth for community development is to be liberalised. Presently, bandwidth is used by Railways and Telecom and Defence and nobody else. Others also have to be given bandwidth. We have to create such a situation.

For example, Andhra Pradesh has been asking for bandwidth for the past two years. Shri Chandrababu Naidu has been asking the Government to please permit his Government to use some bandwidth so that knowledge could be carried to the villages throughout the State. He wants to create Internet telephony in every school. If we want to create Internet telephony, where from will it come? Two years are over. Materials are lying there, people who wanted to support Shri Naidu are there, but the Ministry is not responding. It is not living up to the expectations of the people of this country. It has to live up to the expectations to the people of this country. It has to look into the future. It should create a vision. With that vision, other States wanted to work with bandwidth and take knowledge to the people and share the expertise. It should take knowledge and education to the common man who is living in the corner of a village. How can you do that? The Government should allow the States to do this.

In this regard, the Government says that there are security problems. If it is so, we should sort it out. We

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

cannot simply give the reason forever. We cannot brush it aside saying that we face security problem. The Government should go in depth into the security problem? It should share with them, it should call them, and it should discuss with the concerned. Either the Government should convince them or get itself convinced. Either way we should do it. We are repeatedly hearing the bureaucratic voice here.

We have a champion of the people as the Minister for Telecommunications. He is an experienced man. Hon. Minister may say as to where is the money. Money is not required for clearing the bandwidth. If we have brains and knowledge, money would flow automatically. We should convert our knowledge into a resource. That is how we are working everywhere in the world. We have missed the Industrial Revolution in our country. In the era of Service Revolution, India is one of the foremost countries. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information Technology is here. Our country is not lagging behind in IT Sector. Knowledge is to be shared everywhere. India is second to none in creating information technology services. We are exporting to all the developing countries our knowledge but we are not able to utilise the same in our country. If India wants to become a superpower, it should create rural communication, effective and make it more affordable and mandatory for all fixed service providers. Basic telephone service Circles are not reaching up to the expectations. They are lagging behind. They work only where there is a cream.

Where there are cellular phones, they are interested only in them in marketing but not in creating the basic services in villages. You have also given them some targets that these are the villages and this year they have to bring the telephones to their places.

You should sit along with them and sort out the issues. Wherever there are any difficulties for them, those have also to be sorted out so that our new telecom policy, 1999 would be vital, vibrant and reaches the people as per the targets that have been fixed by the hon. Minister. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing here the merits and demerits of the New Telecom Policy. It would have been better if the valuable suggestion of the hon. Members had been sought before bringing this policy well formulated. Telephone is an inseparable part of our life today. Telecom service have a major role in the development process. The world has shrinked a lot owing to the telephone. From that point of view, we are discussing here a very important subject. I am of the opinion that our telecom policy had been formulated in pursuance of the objectives set by our country after the adoption of free market economy under the era of liberaliation starting in the decade of 1990's and it was on this basis that we permitted the private sector to enter in the arena of cellular or basic telephone services. However, the private sector did not fulfil the expectations from their side.

We made the telecom policy more liberal in 1999 and replaced and licence fee with the some share of revenue earning. However the dues worth Rs. 3700 crore involving the partial payment for the years 1997 and 1998 and the year 1998-99 are pending against the operators. I would like to know as to what the Government has been doing in this regard. The position of telephone services in our country is also not satisfactory. The number of total telephone consumers in our country is 2.6 per cent of the population while the world average in this regard is 15 percent. Only 0.427 persons per thousand have access to telephone facility in rural India. If the rural areas are neglected in a country like India, it is not good. 70 percent of our population resides in villages while our's is a village based economy. In such a scenario, if a policy ignores the villages and the poor villagers, then it does not make any sense and such a policy neither has any significance nor any relevance in our country. What did the Government do? It gave contracts to the private companies to install telephones in 30,000 villages, however, not a single villages has been provided with telephone connection so far. There was a target of providing telephone connection to 20,000 and 16,000 villages in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively. Out of it, only 305 villages in Madhya Pradesh and 51 villages in Rajasthan were connected with telephones. It is not my view but the one expressed by Kharabela Swain of BJP that the revenue realisation instead of licence fee has been done to benefit a certain class of people. I don't know as to how much true it is. The telephone service of Government sector i.e. Bhartiya Sanchar Nigam Ltd. is in a poor state. The waiting list is too long which includes the names of 36 lakh persons. Ram Vilasji has announced that telephone will reach village of the country by 2002. I don't know as to on what basis he has made the announcement. There are six lakh seven thousand villages in our country and as on December, 2000 three lakh 90 thousand villages have access to telephone facility. Here also, the telephone installation system is malfunctioning in two lakh villages. The hon. Minister has also assured to make the system flawless. The number of such villages is ten lakhs and eleven thousand, hence it is imperative to make meaningful efforts to provide telephone connection to all villages by the year 2002. Merely making announcement

is not going to help achieve the target. I would also like to know as to what is the criteria of the Government as regards the revenue sharing with the private companies given licence to operate. I feel that no criteria and foolproof mechanism has been evolved despite the passage of 18 months. It has been stated in the recently submitted report by the Comptroller and Auditor General that no authentic data as to how much the private companies have earned is available. When no data is available as regards to their revenue receipts, how the 1 to 17 percent share out of it which these companies have to give to the Government, will be calculated? How can you realise your share when no information about the profit they are earning is available. It is certainly a matter of great concern. I have said it earlier also that there is a need to improve the efficiency of the Public Sector.

At present, the number of cellular consumers is 9593 in the year 2000. The Government had announced for providing one lakh connections each in Mumbai and Delhi. However, there is no consonance with what the Government had announced and what had actually taken place. I would like to say that this argument of the Government that there is the paucity of funds, does not hold water. A foreign investment worth Rs. 4497 crore has been made in the telecom sector from 1990 to the end of 2000 out of which 2187 crores have been spent over the cellular system and this facility is conferred to only 40 lakh persons. I would like to say that if the new Telecom Policy is meant for few persons and industrialists in few metropolitans, then it does not have any relevance. I don't know the truth, but I have heard that during one of the functions of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the Minister of State for Telecommunications had stated that there is a lack of transparency during the process of inviting turders. It is indeed impractical and ridiculous to hear the divergent views of the Cabinet Minister and the Minister of State on the same issue. There is a difference between the style of their functioning. The Minister of State for communication has criticised the style of functioning of the Cabinet Minister. Certainly it is a very serious matter.

Lastly, I would like to submit that today the rural areas are in a dismal condition and I have said it earlier also that the law and order situation in many parts of our country is extremely bad. Telephone facilities are not available in far flung rural areas. The villagers can not inform the district headquarters even about a big incident on tragedy.

The question is related to the lives of the people. Nothing can happen until you try to rectify it. Hence, the target should be made more realistic. You have stated that all villages will be made available telephone connections by 2002. But how can it happen, until cable wire is not laid.

The issue of setting up telecom district should not be politicised. Firozabad is a revenue district and has more telephone consumers than Pilibheet. However, Pilibheet has been made the telecom district because one of the Ministers hails from here. I would like to say to Shri Tapan Sikdarji that Firozabad is my parliamentary constituency and Mulayam Singhji was also born in a village of Firozabad though he got elected as an MLA from Sikohabad. He has also served as the Chief Minister of the State. Hence, it is requested that you must try to make the telephone facilities better in rural areas because until it is made so, it will not be possible to meet the target if providing telephone connections to each village of the country. Therefore, you should make Firozabad the telecom district. The Government is converting only those areas as telecom districts from where the prominent BJP leaders hail. If you have formed the Government comprising 25 parties by hook or crook. It does not mean that 40 development work should take place in those areas which are represented by the MP's of opposition parties. Only those districts should be declared as telecom districts where the number of commission is high and which really deserves this status. The rural areas have the first claim in regard to the telephone facilities network to be prepared by the Government. Unless you make available telephone facilities in those areas your Telecom Policy can never prove to be significant.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Paswanji has arrived. I would like to convey him that I have served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh twice. Though I was elected as MLA from Sikohabad, I was born in a village of Firozabad. Hence, Firozabad should be made the telecom district.

DR. BALIRAM (Lalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, till 1994, Government had the monopoly in Telecom sector and it was a rapidly growing sector. However a National Policy was framed in 1994 with a view to improve the quality of services and technology in this sector. Besides, a National Telecom Policy was formulated in 1999 with a view to compete at international level. The main objective of this policy, as stated by the hon. Minister, was to make available the Telecom Services at cheaper rates in rural areas.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of regret that though the hon. Minister made announcement to the effect of making available telephone services at cheaper rates in

[Dr. Baliram]

rural areas, no progress has been made in this direction so far. Whenever I visit the area, the villagers complain that no cable line has been laid in their areas. Whenever officers are contacted in this regard, a pet reply comes that the cable is not available. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that the benefit is not reaching the rural areas.

On one hand, you claim to make available telephone facilities in rural areas at cheaper rates and also you made the announcement that those people who deposit 500 rupees, will be given telephone connection by 2002. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many among these lakhs of people who have deposited Rs. 500 have been provided telephone facility? As far the question of my parliamentary constituency is concerned I would like to say that so far as my parliamentary constituency is concerned, telephone connection has not been provided even to those persons who have deposited one thousand rupees. Therefore, my submission is that this matter should be taken seriously.

On the other hand, you have introduced a new facility 95' after every 2000 kilometers under the New Telecom Policy. You took a lot of credit for this scheme. But I would like to say that it has put a lot of burden on the poor people. I would also like to know as to when people have been taking advantage of this facility? You have further overburdenned the poor people who have been asking for telephone connection in rural areas. You have increased the pulse rate thereof. I would also like to say that the telephone even from MPs quota are not being provided. If you continue to act like it, I don't think that you will get your target fulfilled. One more thing is that a proposal to appoint TAC Members has been considered under the New Telecom Policy. In my view, this is being done to derive political mileage. I am talking about Ajamgarh district. There are two parliamentary constituency in this Janapada and is represented by two MPs'. However, 125 Members of TAC have been appointed and none of the recommendations of the MP's has been accepted. What is the intention behind appointing the TAC Members in so huge number. I think that it is being done to derive political mileage and for the sake of getting personal benefit and also to give undue advantage to a particular party instead of giving solid performance. This has caused a lot of discontent in the opposition parties as well as some factions of the ruling alliance. You must drop present format of TAC from the agenda of the New Telecom Policy. Members should be appointed on the recommendations of the MP. It is the cause of the discontent among the MP's and I am one among them. I had also recommended the names of the persons to be appointed as TAC Members but none of this was accepted.

Lastly, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister to evolve a criteria in this regard. The telephones are in a dismal condition in rural areas. The employees don't attend the complaint even for four days and there is none to take care of things. As is the intention of the hon. Minister and this Government that the true benefit of the new policy should reach the poor, nothing has been accomplished in this direction. Hence, I would submit to the hon. Minister to pay attention towards it.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I announce the name of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, it should be noted by him that the time allotted for his party was 49 minutes and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has consumed 43 minutes. The time now remaining is only six minutes but he can take four or five more minutes.

Shri Aiyar, you may now start speaking, taking note of the time allotted to your party.

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to seek some clarification from the hon. Minister. As it also involves some data. I would like to submit to certainly pay attention towards it.

Sir, first of all, I would like to know as to what is the achievement of the private sector in regard to providing telephone connection in the rural areas? As per my information, six private employees were entrusted with the responsibility of providing 11,14,668 i.e. approximately 12 lakh telephone lines in the rural areas. But as I have the information, instead of 12 lakhs only 12 lines have been provided so far. This figure belongs to last year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many lines have been provided out of the target of 11,14,668 lines as on date?

My second question also involves dates. As far my information as per date, there are 3.5 telephone lines per hundred persons in the country. Target of 15 crore lines has been fixed under the NTP for which on amount of approximately 2.5 lakh crore rupees is required to be mobilised. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to from where there funds will be mobilised. As for licence

fee, I would like to mention about mobile circular operators. The Government had to realise an amount of Rs. 1915 crore every year for the first Five year and Rs. 9,075 crore during next five year. A total of Rs. 19,939 crore was to be realised by the Government from these private operators.

18.00 hrs.

Approximately 20 thousand crore rupees were not realised by the Government. Rather you permitted the private operators to extend the duration of contract from 10 years to 20 years in lieu of accepting the revenue sharing mode instead of previous one of depositing licence fee. I would like to place the figure before the House that had the Government kept on realising licence fee for the next 20 years, then the sum to be realised comes to nearly 49 thousand and three crore rupees. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the figures I have presented before the House regarding the mobile operators for the circle, is right or not? If not, I would like to know the correct figure in this regard?

As the licence fee from basic telephone operators — the Government had to collect Rs. 4070 crore in the first five years or Rs. 814 crores per year, while in the next five years they had to collect Rs. 7135 crores at the rate of Rs. 1427 crores per year. It means that in the first ten years the Government had to collect Rs. 11205 crores which, after 20 years would have become Rs. 65734 crores. Third category is of mobile operators in Metro cities. As per the figures available with me, in it the Government had to earn Rs. 105 crores in the first three years. Rs. 5495 crores in first ten years and Rs. 42434 crores in first 20 years. Keeping in view, the aggregate figures, the day you decided to switch over to 'revenue-sharing' from 'licence fees' the Government stood to lose Rs. 158000 crores in 20 years. I would like to know about the total monetary exemptions given to them during first three, ten and then twenty years? But that would be a gross figure. Even when they switched over to 'revenue sharing' from 'licence fee', first they talked about 15 per cent, then 12 per cent and now I have heard that they are planning for only 2 per cent. Whatever be the case, in view of the figures of Rs. 198000 crores quoted by me, I want to know about our net loss? Under the 'revenue sharing scheme' what amount will be recovering during the next three, five, ten and twenty years. Deduct that from the gross figures and the outcome will be the net loss which they have caused to the nation. All this happened when the Kargil war was on and patriotic favour was so high that even children were donating their pocket money in the war fund. Shri Jagmohan, who was the Minister of Communications before you, refused to allow the migration to 'revenue sharing. So, he was removed and hon. Prime Minister himself assumed the charge of the Ministry and allowed it while our jawans were laying down their lives in Kargil. My figures may not be correct, but they should tell whether the country has suffered the loss or not? During the Kargil war, they had decided to switch over from 'licence fee' to revenue sharing formula.

As far as 'Sankhya Vahini' is concerned, I want to ask a few questions. Please answers them whether Pentagon's Defence Intelligence Agency has a computer data network in Carnegie Mellon University in the USA? Whether it is also not true that CNU, which owns I.U. have also brought GNU net but their share in GNU net is only 10 per cent while 90 per cent is owned by others? Nobody knows who is the owner of that 90 per cent. Probably Pentagon owns it. Keeping all this in view how did they allow the signing of M.O.U.? I am holding them responsible personally. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was the then Minister there and in her presence, an agreement was signed on 16th October on behalf of D.O.T. for setting up a joint venture. Whether there was any company of the name of I.U. Net on that date or not? If not, how could they say in the agreement that it is an important telecom services provider in the USA. How can a non-existent company be an important company? Whether it is also not true that the company was incorporated on January 6, 1999 when the agreement was signed on October, 16, 1998. Please reply to it also.

I would further like to know whether there is an NRI behind the deal of the name of Shri Raj Reddy, who was included by Mr. Bill Clinton in his advisory committee? Its function was to find out ways to gather sensitive intelligence data from other countries. One more question related to it is that whether it is also not true that this committee was formed only after CIA failed to have prior knowledge about our nuclear explosion at Pokhran? Professor Raj Reddy was included in that Committee. He is the same person who had provided a job to Professor Arunachalam in Carnegie Mellon University. These two persons colluded with Shri Chandra babu Naidu to set up this joint venture. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was present when this agreement was signed. Companies in the joint venture came into existence only after three months in January, 1999. My next point is that whether it is not true that during the Government of Shri Narsimha Rao ji, the rate of telephone rent was just Rs. 156 per month. But your Government permitted that Rs. 156 to increase to Rs. 600. After the intervention of the court and also TRAI, you reduced that to Rs. 422. What is the outcome? The outcome is, pay attention to it, that private sector is earning profit of Rs. 4 crores daily. They got full advantage of the rental Rs. 433 and now till date, they

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

have earned approximately Rs. 2000 crores from the poor people of India. NTP, 1999 has targeted to provide telephone connection to each villages, and also of providing 14-15 crore new connection which entails an expenditure of Rs. 2500 crores. I want to know how would you get this amount particularly when the rates of STD and ISD have been slashed and you have corporatised VSNL and they are now supposed to pay just taxes. The money coming from the public sector have been exhausted while the private sector is not extending anticipated assistance. I want to know how would you be able to meet the targets of new Telecom Policy. How would you fulfill the promise made to the 70-80 per cent poor people living in villages. Please answer that.

[English]

Sir, because my next point relates much less to the Minister of Communications than to the Minister of State for Communications, I feel that it would be appropriate for me to...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

My Government is no more. I am talking about you Government.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, my next and last point relates largely to the Minister of State for Communications. So, I would like to switch to English language. My reference is to the Managed Lease Line Data Network, MLDN for which the tenders closed on 31st of July, 2000. They were opened in August. They were evaluated in August. The CMD approved it in early September. The letter of intent was issued the same month and the bank guarantee was furnished by 13th of September, 2000. It is after that that the fun begins.

The Private Secretary to the Minister — not the Minister himself — who I assume is somebody who can take down some dictation or is at best some IAS *babu* — I do not know who he is; I shall not take his name — summons the MTNL and orders them to appoint the Technical Engineering Centre to re-investigate the whole matter. This happens on the 4th of October. The TEC submits its report on '27th of October, and it is clear from the TEC report that all is well. The Legal Advisors to his Ministry, the New Delhi Legal Office, NDLO, submit a legal view on the 14th of November, which is Panditji's birthday, telling, therefore, the truth that it is in order to give the contract L-I, that is, the lowest bidder, Alcatel, and therefore, the matter should go forth immediately. But the MOS intervenes and insists that the Additional Solicitor-General's advice should be obtained. How? It is to be obtained through the same NDLO. The opinion of the ASGI is transmitted through the same NDLO and there is an apparent contradiction between what the NDLO on their own have advised on the 14th of November and what the AGSI has stated on the 18th of December, a month later. What does ASGI say? The ASGI says that provided the L-I confirms their lowest bid and provided L-II comes down to the L-I level and provided you conduct these discussions separately one from the other, then if it turns out that L-I and L-II are absolutely on the same footing, you cannot give it to L-I, give it instead to L-II'.

And, although the Chief Vigilance Commissioner, Shri N. Vittal, in a directive dated 18th of November 1998 has categorically stated — I have that with me — that no negotiations should be held with anyone except the lowest bidder, the Minister orders that the second highest bidder, that is, the L-II, should also be consulted. These instructions are carried out and on the 29th of December, 2000....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, it is important. Please do not get worried. Let us finish the story.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please understand.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I understand that legally speaking, I should have stopped, but we are talking about illegalities. I am doing it as fast as I can.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, if you do not interrupt me, I will finish it very quickly.

On the 29th of December, 2000, L-I and L-II are called in total contravention of the CVC's orders and despite being called and negotiated with, the Ministry is informed that L-II-while it has come down somewhat from about Rs. 139 crore to, I think, Rs. 106 crore - is still close to Rs. 40 crore higher than the L-I.

L-I is about Rs. 63 crore; L-2, after an illegitimate negotiation with them, brings it down only Rs. 106 crore. Therefore, the MTNL goes ahead with what needs to be done. On the 6th of January, 2001 the CMD clears the purchase order. This makes it two CMDs who cleared

it—the one who had cleared it is on the 7th of September, who was then treated miserably by his Minister because he had not fulfilled his desires, and then the second CMD clears exactly the same order not he 6th of January. It is followed on the 9th of January by the submission of a detailed bill of materials and everything is going forward magnificently. What is needed very urgently has been acted upon urgently by the MTNL. Then, Shri P.K. Aggarwal, General Manager (Information Technology), in the Corporate Office of MTNL was summoned to the Ministry of Communications. Do you know by whom-not by the Private Secretary, but by the Additional Private Secretary to the Minister of State? It is really shocking that he was summoned and made to speak to him twice on that day, on the 30th of January, 2001. Do not forget, it is on Mahatma Gandhi's Martyrdom Day that this *harkat* takes place inside the Ministry of Communications.

Two meetings are held in the first meeting, I would not give the name because I am not allowed to, the Additional Private Secretary has a one-on-one with this General Manager, whose name is Shri P.K. Aggarwal. Later, in the evening, two other people were called. There were three people altogether. Two of them are from TEL Labs who are associated with the Government company, that is, L-2, but the third person is someone called Samved Dasgupta. He is the MD of Indian Laminating and Packaging Limited with a Corporate Office in New Delhi, but with a Registered Office in Kolkata. Why he is allowed to sit in on this official discussion is for the Minister to answer. I cannot help but draw the attention of the House to the fact that on the 30th of January, 2001 we were just months away from a crucial State Assembly election in West Bengal, which is the home State of the Minister of Sate for Telecommunications. At this meeting, it was explained at very great length to Shri Roy and I have here the note...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: I am sorry to say that this is total character assassination. He is presenting all distorted facts. Please allow me separately to speak. He did not serve a notice to you and, without serving any notice, he is referring to so many distorted things, when the facts are otherwise. I think, in this discussion, this should not be done.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I will be very happy to hear him.

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: I am ready to explain. This is not the way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have an opportunity to reply.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I will be very happy to wait here until Shri Tapan Sikdar speaks and to give us the clarifications. I would be delighted to be informed that I am completely wrong, but I have with me the record made by Shri P.K. Aggarwal on the 31st of January, 2001 of his conversation with the Minister's APS.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Let me finish. It is a very important matter. I am just trying to finish, but please give me time to do it. It is really very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 25 minutes.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I plead with you. The issue is very important. What can I do?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your earlier speaker should not have taken so much time. He has taken 45 minutes, and you have already taken 25 minutes, which is more than the permitted time limit.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: We are talking about lakhs of crores of rupees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is quite clear from the note that I have with me, recorded on the 31st of January, which I will be very happy to convey to the Speaker or to the Minister or to put on the Table of the House for such action as the House may wish to take upon it, that the report of the Telecom Engineering Centre specifically stated that both Alcatel and ITI have compiled with all the clauses without specifying any deviation in technical compliance.

It went on to say, 'both the bidders have complied with all the special conditions of the tender and the schedule of requirements as given in the tender and subsequent clarifications given by MTNL unconditionally'. Then with regard to the Committee of the MTNL it said', 'MTNL stands to benefit if M/s Alcatel supplies model 3465'. M/s Alcatel agreed to supply model 3465 and therefore, the Committee held that the committee's requirements are fully met with in this case.

Sir, I have all these details with me. But you are not giving me time to read it out. But what I wish to state

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

is that after Shri P.K. Agarwal had explained the full facts of the matter as to why this contract should be awarded to L1, the lowest bidder, the Minister intervened on the 9th of February and he had put down a note in which he said that it should be looked at otherwise. There was a Board Meeting called, of the MTNL, on the 19th of March, 2001. There was a detailed note prepared by the Company Secretary for that meeting and there were three options that were placed before the Board. The Board, in its emergency meeting, the 147th meeting, held on the 19th of March, 2001, I quote directly from here, 'the Board in its emergency meeting number 147 held yesterday, the 19th of March, 2001, after detailed discussion decided to convert the LOI placed on L1 bidder, M/s Alcatel into a purchase order'. After this decision was taken with full consideration of all the facts, the Minister of Communications recorded an extraordinary noting. He said — this is Shri Ram Vilas Paswan — that since MOS (C), who is hardly a technical person, has raised certain doubts on the technical compliance of L1 — I am delighted to find that he is a telecom engineer — MTNL Board may be directed to take an appropriate decision in this matter at the earliest. They had already taken the technical accounts; they had already taken the financial considerations and they had already taken a decision. But the Minister, as I must say, covered himself magnificently. He did not direct them to do anything in particular, he said, 'meet again — after they had already met and given a unanimous opinion — to give an appropriate decision' — what is meant by appropriate? Yes, a meeting was held on the 20th. At that meeting six of the members, a majority, said, let us now refer the matter to the Attorney General. Whereas four honest Directors, namely, Shri G.D. Gaiha, Shri R.B. Gupta, Shri S.N. Malik and Shri N.P. Khosla recorded in writing that the undersigned Directors were of the considered view that nothing has been brought to the notice of the Board that would justify the change to convert the LOI placed on L1 bidder, M/s Alcatel into a purchase order...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, it seems as if a court of trial is going on here for the last 15 minutes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, you allow a separate discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am not yielding and so the hon. Minister must sit down...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, we are discussing policy matters here...*(Interruptions)* He is cross-examining the hon. Minister here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, the facts are otherwise...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Since I have not concluded, the hon. Minister cannot intervene now...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, my last point is that with full responsibility at my command I charge the Minister of State for Communication with impropriety leading perhaps to corruption in the case that I have just referred to. I request that this matter be investigated by a Joint Parliamentary Committee...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I demand...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, he is putting corruption charges without giving notice...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Please sit down. You can speak later. First let me conclude.

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, he cannot do like this without giving a notice...*(Interruptions)* He is telling specifically...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is concluding.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Shri Kirit Somaiya, please listen to me carefully. I have been very careful to say 'impropriety amounting perhaps to corruption'.

Sir, I want to remind the hon. Minister of Communications, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan of what he stated in this House on the 19th of December, 1995.

It is recorded in English at Column 210 of the record of the proceedings in the debate on the award of licences to private companies regarding telecom services. I have this before me. It says that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan (Rosera) got up to say, "You constitute the Joint Parliamentary Committee".

[Translation]

I am repeating your own demand because the Minister of State considers himself innocent but let it be

proved by a Joint Parliamentary Committee that he is really innocent. Therefore, I demand that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be set up for a thorough inquiry in it. Only after that, people of the country could be assured that it is an honest Government otherwise the apprehensions in our mind, the mind of the country would remain forever.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to place a few suggestions of mine on the new Telecom Policy 1999 and its effects on licences and revenue generation of the Government of India in general and limited mobility issue in particular.

The Department of Telecom Operations and the Department of Telecom Services have been corporatised in the name of BSNL with effect from 1st October, 2000 to provide a level-playing field to all operators. Though the Department of Telecommunications has introduced many novel schemes, there are many lacunae. There are many areas that we have to give a second thought to. Due to the time constraint, I will confine myself to only a few topics. In the Annual Report of Department of Telecommunications for the year 2000-2001, it has been stated,

> "The fixed service providers have been permitted to provide limited mobility in the form of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)."

It is further stated:

> "Two categories of infrastructure providers, namely, infrastructure providers-II to provide end-to-end bandwidth, and infrastructure providers category-I to provide dark fibre, right of way, towers, duct, space, etc., have been allowed."

The hon. Minister for Telecommunications in reply to Starred Question No. 211 in March, 2001, stated.

> "Six lakh lines of WLL equipment are being procured to provide VPTs and telephones in the rural areas. This equipment was likely to be available from March, 2001 onwards. VPTs on MARR system are planned to be replaced..."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like the House to take note of this line.

> "VPTs on MARR system are planned to be replaced by WLL technology and underground cable in a phased manner by the year 2002."

In this connection I would bring to the attention of the hon. Minister the problems being faced in my constituency.

In my constituency, there are about 8,000 names in the waiting list for telephones. At present, the cellular cable connection equipment supplied for Salem District is only for 12,500 lines which has not been able to cover even the major Taluks like Athur, Gangavalli and Rasipuram which are all industrial areas. I would request the hon. Minister to extend this WLL system in these areas.

Sir, about the new telephone connections, the hon. Minister of Communications has said that the infrastructural facilities are being provided for early implementation of telecommunication facilities in the selected areas especially under the Sub-Component Plan's rural areas as well as under the Tribal Sub-Plan and the National Capital Region Plan.

I would bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that in the tribal area in Kolli hills at Semmedu, we have a new telephone exchange which was constructed at the cost of Rs. 20 lakh. Though the building was completed six months back, no service is being rendered so far. Similarly at Karumandurai in Kalvarayan hills of my constituency, though the telephone exchange is constructed, no service has started yet. So, I request the hon. Minister to initiate steps so that works are started there as early as possible.

Sir, the Wireless in Local Loop is a very important and noble scheme which the hon Minister has introduced. May I request the hon. Minister to extend this facility to the rural areas and especially the hilly areas of my constituency? We are facing a lot of problems there in regard to laying of cables. The Forest Department is not giving the 'No Objection Certificates'. The people there are short of even the basic amenities like the ordinary telephones.

Sir, our leader, Dr. Purachi Thalavi has already written to the hon. Prime Minister requesting to include Chennai Telecom Circle in the MTNL so that the people of Tamil Nadu, especially Chennai where many electronic and Information Technology systems are there. In this regard our parliamentary delegation had already met the hon. Prime Minister as well as the hon. Minister of Communications.

Sir, I hope that the hon. Minister will fulfil our demand and announce something during his reply on the debate today.

[Dr. V. Saroja]

There is another point of lack of coordination. There is no coordination between the various departments. It is a practical problem. Hon. Minister should definitely look into the aspect of coordination between various departments. A few days back, when I visited some areas of my constituency, I found that the Telephone Department was not taking care of anything. They are even not consulting the people from the Ministry of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj institutions and others. Even within their own departments there is proper coordination which is causing a lot of problems to the common people there.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly come forward to restructure all the telecom districts on par with the revenue districts so that the administrative problems and the monitory system can be better attended to.

In this connection, may I inform this August House that even the concerned Members of Parliament are not being informed about the problems relating to telecommunication. We are not being given any feedback by the GM, Telephones. With very great difficulties we are able to get information and various other details.

So, my request is that like the hon. Minister of Rural Development has passed orders that without the consent of the concerned MP, no schemes will be implemented, the hon. Minister of Communications should instruct the GM, Telephones to take the concerned MP into confidence which will help having a better monitoring system.

Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that the sensing network is not working properly? The consumers are at the mercy of the private operators. So, I request him to improve the internet equipment at Delhi which will act as a better solution for this problem. The area of operation of BSNL for mobile operations should be for the whole State and not for the local area.

Sir, I may be allowed to place before this House a few more important and sensitive issues. Now, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a news-item which appeared on *The Hindustan Times* of 16th August, 2001. The heading of this news-item is: 'MHA for strict enforcement of telecom FDI'. Sir, I may be permitted to quote a few sentences from it.

It says and I quote:

> "In a significant move, the Ministry of Home Affairs has directed the Department of Telecom to restrict effective foreign equity shareholding within stipulated limits in telecom services like cellular and basic telephony.
>
> Interestingly, the note also points out that China has completely prohibited FDI in telecom, while Canada restricts foreign ownership to 46.7 per cent."

It was informed that the Ministry of Home Affairs also directed that they should restrict Foreign Direct Investment on par with Insurance Regulatory Authority, that is 26 per cent.

In reply to a Starred Question on 11th December 2000, the hon. Minister specifically mentioned one thing and I quote:

> "As per the guidelines of the Government, 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment is permitted in the telecom manufacturing sector and 49 per cent FDI is permitted in the telecom services, excepting a few services listed below where 100 per cent FDI is permitted."

I would like to say that in the same news item, it is stated that:

> "It also raises the spectre of national security and says that foreign owned companies could sabotage networks, monitor sensitive calls and have access to sensitive installations and high security zones."

I would request the hon. Minister to have an all-party meeting before he could finalise things about FDI.

Before I conclude, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to news items appeared in *The Hindustan Times* on 17.8.2001. I quote:

> "The Government has written off Rs. 40,000 crore in telecom fees and more in non-performing assets."

Is it true? We are concerned with the total outstanding debt of the Central Government that stands at Rs. 11,48,667 crore. In this connection, I would like the hon. Minister to use his good offices, his experience and expertise to recover the dues. Would he come forward to recover Rs. 40,000 crore that is the dues over the last three years? Would he retrieve the dues depending on the merits of the case, legal remedies like Lok Adalats, reference to Arbitrators under section 7(B) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the courts of law?

With these words I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi has started a discussion on issue of mobility under Rule 193. This issue is being constantly discussed upon in the House. Hon. Minister and this department should be congratulated for their work.

I want to put some questions to hon. Minister. Our country is a country of villages. 70-80 per cent population lives in rural areas. Still, all panchayats have not been connected to telephone.

I want to give the example of my area. There are about 1500 villages in my area and out of those, about 1200 villages panchayat have no telephones. I want to ask the hon. Minister how long the said panchayats would be provided telephone facility?

My second submission relates to malfunctioning of telephones. 35 per cent of the telephones face problems on this account. It is more so in rural areas than in urban areas. This aspect should also be taken care of. Mobile phone services have been launched. But this service is limited to the district level. Private companies such as BPL and others have not launched this service at taluka, block or circle level. I request the hon. Minister to ask these companies to start mobile service at these levels also. Mobile phone service has not been made available at the district level in Parbhani of Maharashtra. I would also like to quote the example of Beed, Hingoli, Marathwada region whose mobile service is not available at district level.

Functioning of DoT and tenders of optical fibre have also been discussed. We have now switched over to 'Revenue Sharing' from 'Licence Fee'. We have incurred a loss of Rs. 158000 crores. Our Corporation is under suspicion and so is the hon. Minister. I trust that Shri Paswanji would emerge out of it since he is a Janshakti leader. Allegations made by the opposition members have caused confusion among the people throughout the country. Confusion has gone to Janshakti also. Therefore, I trust that he would remove the doubt.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, our senior and wise Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has started a discussion on New Telecom Policy. The debate has taken a serious turn. Earlier the change of this Department used to be with Shri Sukhramji, now it is under Paswanji. He has claimed that by the year 2002 all villages would be provided telephone facility. However, on 23.4.2001, hon. Minister in his reply to a question No. 517 said that national average of telephone density per 100 persons is 3.56. This average is lowest in Bihar at 0.93%. It is means that per 100 persons not even one has a telephone connection. The percentage in other States varies between 5 and 7. The true picture of Bihar is clear from the figures. He has claimed that out of 6,60,000 villages in the country, 3,97,000 villages have been provided telephones and 1,00,000 would be added to that in the current financial year. 77,000 telephone connections would be provided in the next financial year and the remaining 55,000 would be taken care of somehow or other. This is the target. But we also have to consider waiting lists which are very long. The quality of the service is also poor. People have to wait for hours and they are not able to talk. Condition is same – whether of Bihar or of country. I come from Vaishali district. Hon. Minister have 6 constituencies segments while I have two. I begin with Muzaffarpur constituency, which he represents. According to reply of a question received on 26.2.2001, 5417 persons were on waiting list as on 31.1.2001 in Vaishali district. It means that 5417 persons are on waiting list even after making due payment. He says that he is in position to provide phone on demand. 937 connections were provided in 1997-98, 1098 in 1998-99, 2050 in 1999-2000. Even if 2000 more connections are provided in 1999-2001 and this rate is maintained it will take not less than 2 years to clear the waiting list. Telephones are becoming popular in villages. Villagers want early telephone connections. Even you would be receiving 20-30 persons daily with the request for a connection under M.P. quota. You would also be receiving complaints from hon. M.Ps. that connection have not been given even after years. And long waiting lists are already there. As on 31.1.2001, 7896 persons were in waiting list in Muzaffarpur. This information has been furnished by the Department. 3273 connections were provided in 1997-98, 2346 in 1998-99 and 3811 have been provided in 1999-2000. It will also take not less than two years. How will he provide connections on demand? Similar situation exists in Sitamarhi also. The figures for Bihar show that as on 31.1.2001. One lakh persons were on waiting list. Now it is August and that number would have increased to 1.5 lakh. People are facing difficulties and are knocking every door in the hope of getting telephone connection. This is the situation of his district in Bihar. In my State people observe 'Dasai' in the tenth month. The poor of the village pray supernatural bodies and witch doctors assist them. So, once people were congregated in a village and witch doctors were conducting the function of 'Dasai'. Witch doctors were chanting:

"Assam an Banoh, Patal Bano, Uttar Banoh, Dakshin Banoh,

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Poorab Banoh, Paschim Banoh, Ganga Bano, Jamuna Banoh"

I bind the sky the inner East, North, South, East West Ganga Yamuna. Coincidentally the wife of witch doctor was also there in the congregation. In villages getting beaten with a clay black 'Handi' in which food is cooked, is matter of shame. She hit her husband witch doctor twice who was chanting 'mantra gleefully with the earthen 'Handi'. People tell bad on a wife insulting her husband in public. Panchayat was summoned and the wife was asked to give an explanation. She said, "our house is hatched and leaks during rain. My husband cannot even mend that tiny leakage and here he is chanting to bind East, West, orth, South, Ganga and Yamuna. He said that telephones would be available to all by 2002 and thus poverty would be alleviated. I have just pointed out the situation in his own constituency in Bihar. Like the witch doctor, he is not being able mend the roof of his own house and he is talking about providing telephone connection to the while country. It just shows that hon. Minister is indulging in rhetoric and Bihar is the lowest rung.

Sir, in our region there is a Technical Advisory Committee. We all are elected representatives. This committee has 150 Members from Bihar and it seeks to provide telephones. The administration there is facing problems on this count. At some remote places, telephones have been installed and there are frequent cases of fighting. None of us is a Member of TAC. Keeping these things in view, we should indulge less in rhetoric and take more care of work. This principle should be followed, otherwise villagers would say that we do not write even following the promises of hon. Minister. I had been to Assam, and people of Bidupur and Mahnar want telephone facility. Towers etc. were set up for that purpose but they are now useless. Everything is in mess. Just now Dasmunsiji and Aiyar ji told about a scam in optical fibre. My submission is that hon'ble Minister should make it clear and get it inquired. Bihar's condition is just horrible. Just now I read out datas made available by the department. Since there is time constraint, other points I will take up later on. I wrote a letter to him supported by figures and asked him as to how the Government will provide 'on demand' telephone within two years. The said letter has not been replied to so far. Everything is in dark. I get dismayed over the way hon'ble Minister replies questions. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister to tone up his department. Take part in active politics, but take care of your Ministry also.

I conclude with these words.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): At the outset, I would say that as we are discussing under Rule 193 the Telecom Policy and its effect upon the finances of the Telecom Department, it will not be proper if I do not mention the telephone scam that took place during the period 1991 and 1995 where the whole Telecom Department's finances, prestige were thrown to the streets. It became one of the issues which got the opposition to the seat of power at the Centre. The Congress party was unseated.

As you see it, within this decade, we have two telecom policies, one that of 1994 and another that of 1999, which envisage a better service to the masses. They aim at improving the internet access to the masses. This policy envisages that the tele-density also will be increased to 7 by 2005 and to 15 by 2010. So, this telecom policy which is in practice now has got a very broad vision which will give us the lead in the 21st century in the telecom sector. From this, you can come to know that 1,106 proposals for domestic private investment of Rs. 27,339 crore were approved by the Telecom Department; 561 foreign direct investment proposals involving a sum of Rs. 36,108 crore have been approved by the Government. Today, the Telecom Department is the second biggest sector after the energy sector. So, it plays a very important role in a developing country like ours. I am sure, this policy will make us stronger and India will become technologically more sound. Facilities in respect of the Information Highway can reach the villages because of this policy. The Government has also committed itself that by 2002, most of the villages in India would have a telephone connection. So, all the facilities and benefits being derived out of telecommunication can be assessed by us.

I would like to point out one thing. There are some grey areas still remaining which have to be covered by the Telecom Department. For example, exchanges have been declared open but due to lack of optical fibres and other accessories, these exchanges are not able to function. I would like to give one example. I have written to the hon. Minister also regarding a telephone exchange in a tribal area in Langigarh. The exchange has already been opened there. Further, the consumers have also deposited their money for getting the connection. But seven months have lapsed. No even a single connection has been given. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to kindly hurry up this process and start work.

18.59 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

Today, in the morning, during the Zero Hour, you must have noticed that Members raised the issue of starvation deaths. People are dying of malnutrition. People are unable to communicate with the headquarters because of lack of communication facilities. Various PDS items and other items of development are unable to reach them. When it comes to the question of communication, telecommunication definitely plays a very vital role. So, the grey areas where telecommunication has not reached should be given special attention. Such tribal blocks are there throughout the country. I would like to lay emphasis on the tribal blocks of Orissa where telecommunication facility or telephone facility is still a dream.

19.00 hrs.

The Opposition has raised a point that the private operators were venturing into the game and that they have not been able to pay their dues and their licence fees. But after the migration took place from licence fee to the other process of payment, it took some time to pay their dues. I was going through the reports of the various Committees. Most of the private operators have paid their dues, except the Modis. They had not paid Rs. 257 and odd crore. I hope that by now they might have paid. If not, the Government should take steps to realise the dues from them.

I would like to conclude by saying that the telecom services in the tribal areas should be provided immediately.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, before going to the main points, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister, through you that a few days back, in July, 2001, the hon. Minister of State for Communications, Shri Tapan Sikdar, called a meeting in Kolkata. He invited all the MPs of West Bengal. In that meeting, he explained the new Telecom Policy. He affirmed that all the villages would get telephone facilities by 2002.

We are living in a country where about 40 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. Most of them are not getting adequate food, adequate medicine and adequate drinking water. But our Minister affirmed that all the villagers would get telephone facility. This is a farce. I would like to know as to how the Government would introduce telephone facilities.

I would like to refer that in Midnapore district, a few days back, a meeting of Telecom Advisory Committee (TAC) was convened. I attended the same. I found that no MLA of the district, no *Panchayati* member and no *Sabhadhipatis* were there. They are not in the TAC It is amazing to note that most of the Members of the TAC, who attended that meeting, were more interested to get WLL. They are very much interested to get more amenities for themselves. My point is as to what is the mechanism. As far as Midnapore district is concerned, it comprises of about 11,000 villages. By 2002, you are supposed to have telephone facilities in all the villages.

It is not possible. But it is all right that you have expressed your pious wish.

Now, I come to the main points. The National Telecom Policy, 1994 allowed duopoly among the cellular phone operators in various non-metro circles. Accordingly, the bids were called and licences were issued for various areas. The new regime initiated the new Telecom Policy in 1999, and the payment of licence fees was based on the revenues of the cellular operators rather than the fixed licence fees. I am of the opinion that this is the breeding ground for raising the question of transparency. My esteemed friend, Shri Dasmunsi, raised the relevant points. But this is the most important point. I think, that should be investigated.

Many things have been said earlier about the telecom scam. Yes, there was a telecom scam earlier. It is very much in the minds of the public. So, I appeal to the Government that a proper investigation should be made.

So far as the telecom policy is concerned, please introduce the 'calling party payment policy' so that the persons who have the cellular phones do not pay for it. This should be considered. The telephones should be more sophisticated from the technological point of view. As they have declared the telecom facilities should be extended to each village by 2002.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I congratulate Shri Dasmunsiji who have raised very important suggestions. Also I congratulate the hon. Members who associated with him. I am thankful

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

to the Minister since he acceded to my request. He held a meeting with all the MPs and senior officers and paid special attention towards Nasik district. He spread communication network throughout the district and it is because of this that Nasik became famous throughout India. For this, I am grateful to the hon'ble Minister, officers of the Department of Telecommunications and subscribers of Nasik. But hon'ble Minister could not digest it for long and he transferred Shri Bhagirath Prasad to Bihar and Shri Dattar to Kolkata, since they performed better.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Those who perform well, I will take them in my Ministry.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: America is a super power and they privatised telecommunication. It did not work well in rural areas of the country. The Government have privatised 30 per cent of telecom but it is only in urban areas and no initiative has been made in rural areas in this regard, which is not good. Yet large quantity of optical fibre cables was purchased which has not reached the department. The work has been stopped because of this. I think privatisation is a good step. Nasik district twice stood first in Department of Rural areas but none of these facilities have been made available in Nasik. 6 tehsils in Nasik are totally hilly and I have forwarded a list of members of my district to be included in Telecommunication Advisory Committee. I request hon'ble Minister to include them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if water mixed milk is served to swan, it drinks milk and leaves the water behind. My submission is that he too should act with the same spirit. Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Dasmunsi ji, deserves congratulations since as usual, he has always raised very important issues.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Department of Telecommunication is the most important department linked with India's population of 100 crore. The Government, through its new telecom policy, want to bring a communication revolution in India. But here, despite abundant stock of foodgrains, people are dying of starvation and whose populace is deprived of clear drinking water, even after 54 years of country's independence, where the public is denied five fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. I do not know what sort of communication revolution this country is going to see!

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what will be the purpose of this new communication policy when the Government could not make arrangement for nutrition food, potable water despite the fact that we have sufficient water and could not provide shelter to the common man. We discuss all new policies in the House. The matter ends with the discussion and hon'ble Minister stays safe in this Chair irrespective of what is going to happen and what is not going to happen.

We have been discussing privatisation in the House very often. A stage will come when even left over manpower will be privatised. I think, when the situation goes beyond control and no option is left, privatisation is resorted to. Despite all these things, when we find it difficult to manage properly, we resort to privatisation to evade our responsibility, though it fails to stand test of time. Resultantly, our government institutions are getting weaker. By privatising our institutions, it is my view that we are strengthening the capitalists. Only a handful of people in our country and the world over have become bone of contention and it is because of them that lots of questions are raised in and outside the House. These 10-20 numbered people have crippled our democratic set up. I do not want to go into the controversy that what sort of discussion we want to have by handing over the power of privatisation to these people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since all the speakers have expressed their views, I do not want to say more on privatisation. I would like to raise three four important points before the hon'ble Minister in the form of suggestions. The hon'ble Minister hails from a poor family and he not only wants to bring a revolution but he has already brought it earlier, further I do not know what sort of revolution he will bring. My submission is that while going for privatisation, we should not disinvest beyond the majority stake at least upto 51-52 per cent. If we disinvest even beyond this limit and if our share holding goes below 50 per cent our country can never prosper economically. India will become resourceless and we will not be able to provide facilities to those rural people to whom we want to provide, rather they will be deprived of those facilities Hon'ble Paswan ji has been taking time and again about rural people and tells that we would reach the villages through WLL. I would like to ask him one thing. Are our exchanges well equipped to fulfil it. One of my friends was telling that none lifts the telephone

in urban exchanges. So far as the condition in remote villages is concerned, I would like to tell you that our rural population has increased by 16 times. I would like to ask you whether our efficiency has improved 16 times? In fact, our staff remains the same. A large number of posts of Junior Engineers are lying vacant in Bihar. I would like to know his comments in this regard. Technologically, we are marching ahead but.

19.18 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

As far as strength of employees is concerned, we are getting weak. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should make efforts to fill up these vacant posts. Though our rural population has increased 16 fold, yet we are unable to recruit employees further. The Government should increase the staff and then proceed further. The Government want to extend WLL to the villages. No doubt, WLL can facilitate contractors with regard to privatisation. But, the Government will provide WLL in the villages to the people like Pappu Yadav, the capitalists, business men and the land lords only and how it would help the poor. To what extent the poor people in the villages will be able to adopt it.

MR. SPEAKER: Pappu Yadav ji, please conclude now.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since you are in the Chair now, I will have to conclude. But I would like to say something more. Today there is a question of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar before us, I think that the desired level of expansion of telecom facility is not taking place in these states. I would like to tell him that in case of Bihar, in-coming call is charged more than outgoing call. I do not know whether the hon'ble Minister knows it or not. Bihar is the only state in the country where incoming call rates are higher than outgoing ones. More than one and a half years have passed since Shri Ram Vilas Paswan became a Minister.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell one more thing that everyone knows that the Government are providing mobile at cheaper rates. But the question is whether MTM and mobile are functioning properly, maintained properly and whether they will benefit the public.

As far as installation of WLL in rural areas is concerned, a provision of battery will be made in case there is no power supply. Battery will be discharged often and contractor will keep on harvesting benefit. Substandard machinery is being supplied in rural areas and it will have to be replaced very often by inviting tenders. I do not think privatisation of WLL is a right step. Will the Government be able to provide cable based telephones to the villages by year 2002? One of our colleague hails from such an area where there is a telephone exchange at a distance of $1^1/_2$ kms. The exchange was submerged in water but a new telephone exchange was set up immediately. The reason; he is hon'ble Minister's brother. It is not a big thing. But I would like to say that Bihar's condition is so pitiable that I do not want to discuss it. My submission is that the Government should pay special attention towards the most backward states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Just now, Shri Raghuvansh ji was telling that the percentage of telephones in Bihar is so negligible that it is just above zero per cent. First of all, the Government should bring telecom revolution in Bihar, then only telecom revolution in the country can take place.

If it is the order of the hon'ble Speaker, then I would resume my seat, but my submission is that there should definitely be transparency in case of privatisation. The poor people living in the villages should not be made to suffer by introducing WLL in villages. Therefore, my submission is that maximum number of exchanges should be set up and more employees should be recruited so that people get an opportunity to work over there. There should be discussion with regard to any matter related to the poor. To bring a telecom revolution, the Government will have to initiate from the lowest level. There is no need to bring a telecom revolution for capitalists. Do not take up a project whereby only a handful of people are benefited.

With these words, I would again urge you to pay special attention towards Bihar.

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL (Karad): I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. In my area, the speed of laying the cable of OFC has been slowed down. In fact, this work was expected to complete by 2002. But I am afraid that due to this slowing down of the process, it may not be completed within the due date.

[Shri Shriniwas Patil]

Some unmanned telephone exchanges are there. when working is not proper, even if the complaints are made, there is nobody to take cognisance of the complaints and repair the things that have gone out of order.

Many people from my area are working in Mumbai. They are the labourers and they are working in so many fields. They want to have contact with their villages but due to non-working of some of the telephone exchanges, they are not in a position to contact their families, especially, in the evening times when they are off from their duties.

In the, Koyana Lake is a water reservoir of 100 TMC. There are about 68 villages on the banks of this lake. The hilly areas of Patan, Jawali and Shirala are earthquake-hit areas. There is generally danger to the life and property of the people. Unless the effective system of communication is made there, it is not possible to establish communication and contact. The tower telephone system, which is an outdated technology, is there. Therefore, there is no contact with the people. One man is on this side of the lake and the other man is on that side of the lake. There is no communication. As such, this outdated technology should be scrapped and a newer thing as WLL which is assured, should be established in those remote and hilly areas of my constituency.

Karad is the main town. There are about seven sugar factories in the co-operative sector, which have gone into production. Two are likely to go into production.

Unless and until there is a speedy communication, it is not possible to have the trading of sugar. The town has got medical college, engineering colleges and a student population of about 10,000 from all over India. It is not possible for them to contact their families spread all over India. The Internet facility at Karad is also very much slow, with the connectivity being very low. I would request the hon. Minister to take one more look at the facility and increase the connectivity. I hope, the hon. Minister will pay attention and accept all the demands that are placed before the hon. House.

I sincerely thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Good.

19.26 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that as per the decision taken in the meeting of Leaders of Parties held with me today, that is, on 29.8.2001 the discussion under rule 193 regarding acute problems being faced by poor in rural and urban areas in various parts of the country due to non-availability of foodgrains may be taken up on Thursday, that is, the 30th August, 2001 and the discussion regarding National Security and matters related thereto fixed for the 30th August, 2001 may now be taken up during the next Session.

The House may adjourn at 1 p.m. on Friday, the 31st August, 2001. The consequent loss of Private Member's Business on that day may be compensated during the next Session.

I hope, the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

[English]

19.27 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

New Telecom Policy, 1999—contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir thank you very much for giving this chance.

Of course, my senior colleague will reply to this discussion under rule 193 but during the discussion hon. Member Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar levelled some *malafide* and concocted charges against me. I am interested in replying only to those aspects.

He told the House that in the case of MLDN tenders I had favoured some of the companies but it is incorrect. Alcatel was at L1 and ITI was at L2 but because of some complaint lodged by a Member of Parliament and also objection raised by ITI, we suggested to look into

the matter very seriously and practically. The letter of intent to L1 was issued to Alcatel on the 8th September, 2000 and they submitted their acceptance to supply the equipment along with bank guarantee on the 30th September, 2000. It is correct but because of this complaint it was practically investigated by a high-powered committee and also the Telecom Engineering Centre.

The hon. Member said that the TEC practically opined in favour of Alcatel, that is L1. It is totally baseless, false and malafide. The TEC actually opined against L1 because Alcatel did not meet the specifications of the tender conditions and also the bill of materials. Secondly, the Additional Solicitor-General also opined similarly. Then, the matter was referred to the AG. The AG was also of the same view. The matter was then taken to the High Court. The High Court also passed a verdict against L1. Then, it was taken to the Division Bench of the High Court. The Division Bench also expressed the same opinion. I think the hon. Member has been either misled or he has taken up the brief for some interested quarters.

19.30 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

He has raised this type of things here. The matter is totally otherwise. Sir, today is not possible; but if you permit me, tomorrow I will submit the entire report given by each and every Committee — whether it is TEC, whether it is the Special Board, whether it is A.G. or whether it is by both the Benches of the High Court. I do not know why the hon. Member Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, all of a sudden, levelled this type of allegation against me. Sir, I think you should take the matter very seriously. You should take a stern action against the person, whoever maybe the guilty between Mani Shankar Aiyar and Tapan Sikdar...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am one of those Ministers who think for the country, the country's people and also the Department of Telecommunications...*(Interruptions)*

I challenge you. If you can prove that what you have told now and what you have explained now is right, I will resign from the Ministry...*(Interruptions)* I am telling you...*(Interruptions)* Otherwise, Sir, my humble submissions here is that from this august House some stern action should be taken against such Member who generally levies this type of false, *mala fide*, concocted, fabricated and motivated allegations and all these charges. I think some stern action should be taken against them. This is my only submission...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, I welcome the offer of the hon. Minister to place all the documents on the Table of the House. I greatly welcome that. I accept his offer that we should investigate this matter together and if the charges that I have made against him — which I maintain — are proved as a result of an investigation which can only take place in either a JPC or the Committee of Privileges...*(Interruptions)* I hold it. My charges remain on record. I stand by them and I demand that we continue this debate inside the House. Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): He cannot prevent anyone from speaking...*(Interruptions)* Let those be an investigation everything will come to light after investigation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, I know that this is the regular practice of hon. Member Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar...*(Interruptions)*

19.33 hrs.

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA — LAID

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th August, 2001, agreed without any amendment to the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th August, 2001."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of

[Secretary General]

Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th August, 2001."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th August, 2001, agreed without any amendment to the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2001, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th August, 2001."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Indian Waterways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2001, as passed by Rajya Sabha on 29th August, 2001.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am demanding for a JPC probe...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Why are you getting agitated...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, if necessary, I am ready for a CBI inquiry...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: It is a serious matter. Order a JPC inquiry in it. Let it be investigated...*(Interruptions)* You are a Minister in the Government of India, you should select the words properly while speaking...*(Interruptions)* should we not support our colleague?

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: You are talking in a wrong way.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Hon'ble Minister, please do not use such unparliamentary language...*(Interruptions)* Why are you so excited? Please keep you cool...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, he has quoted from a distorted document...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Why is he getting afraid of inquiry. Let it be investigated. Constitute a JPC for this purpose...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon'ble Minister will give reply. Please resume your seat. His reply will contain answer for everybody's questions. It is not proper to speak while sitting.

...(Interruptions)

19.36 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

New Telecom Policy, 1999—*contd.*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and other hon. Members for raising this issue. I believe that criticism is like rain water. If the vase is of earthen type, it will be spoilt in the rain, but a metal vase would shine even more. Such an example was observed right now. My collegue Shri Tapan Sikdar replied to the points raised by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. I want to thank him. I wanted to do so, when I was replying to the question. It is true, that we are in Government, but we will not be always in the Government. It is a system and it goes on and on. If there is any fault in the system, that should be removed and taken care of and the guilty, howsoever high he may be, should be punished if any corruption charge is proved against that person. I am one of those who believe in it. That is why, I want to thank him, since I wanted this discussion in one form or the other. Governments have to follow moral principles. Minister is a part of the Government. I am head of the department and I am not one who shifts the responsibility of wrong doing on the department and takes the credit for all the achievements. I cannot control the department if I have no morals.

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* Not recorded.

I often say that this country lacks not in leaders or policies but our intentions are not good. We are part of the system which has been bequeathed to us. We were not in favour of privatisation or liberalisation. We had opposed the liberalisation move of the then Government but once the floodgates were opened, how can we do away with it. Government's work is based on continuity. Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee cannot be radically different from that of Narsimha Rao The policies once formulated cannot be discontinued. We cannot go back in time. The consequences of a policy once formulated will have to be borne by everybody. You may point it out to us if there is any discrepancy. We want transparency in all spheres. We also believe that secrecy breeds corruption while transparency removes it.

The time allowed under rule 193 is too little to address all issues regarding Telecom Reforms. My desire was that Member should get maximum possible time to speak on it. The subject is so vast that I will not be able to answer all the question even if I go on speaking for three hours. Each and every issue can be discussed in detail. Manishankar Aiyar ji has raised so many questions and each question can take an hour. We are discussing telecom reforms.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): If you are not able to answer all my questions, you can give that later in writing.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If the Chair allows. I can answer all your questions even until midnight. I am ready for that.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You are right that it will take time. It is also true that we have limited time. Therefore, my request is that you answer maximum possible questions and supply Written Answers to the remaining Questions.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We have to run the departments whether it is Railway, Welfare or Labour. We have to function as players and right now I am in the Communications Ministry. We can't run the department just by being spectators. We have to work like labourers and have to monitor all the activities.

Telecom reforms can be divided into three categories. First is 1980-90, second is between 1990-1999, and the third phase is post 1999 era. The process of opening telecom sector began in 1980. First category to open up was equipment for consumers. Thereafter P.C.O., S.T.D. and I.S.D. services were opened. C-DOT was established in 1984. MTNL and VSNL were set up in 1986. Telecom Commission was formed in 1989.

Second phase was between 1990-1999. In the beginning manufacturing of equipments was opened up for privatisation. Cellular phone services were started in four metro cities and private paging service was allowed in 27 cities. Value added services were opened up in 1992. Value added services include e-mail, voice mail, data services, video text services, audio and video conferencing and radio paging. First National Telecom policy was formulated in 1994, which is also called NTP, 1994. Now we have a New Telecom Policy. In 1994, basic telephone services were opened up for private sector. One operator was allowed in each circle. But in all the circles we could get only 6 operators. In 1994 for cellular phone services decision was taken to allow two operators in each circle. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was set up in 1997. Internet was opened up for private sector in 1998.

Third phase started in 1999. A new Telecom Policy was formulated at that time. First to be formulated was migration policy. It changed the practice of fixed license fee on the basis of bid to revenue sharing principle for new operators in 1999. It was called Migration Policy because it also addressed the issue of bringing the old operators under new policy. In the cellular services, the principle of duopoly was changed to multipoly. National long distance telephony was opened for private sector. Two private operators were in cellular service field. In the earlier system, there were two operators for each circle in addition to VSNL. Therefore, 17 circules and 17 more operators. Each has been issued a letter of intent. But no operator came forward in Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Andaman-Nicobar islands circles. Same was the case in Jammu-Kashmir, North east and Assam circles. The system of unlimited operators in basic services was launched. 147 operators came forward. 76 of these have been issued LOI. 16 operators have already been issued licenses. Licences were issued only after they complied with all the conditions laid down.

The conditions laid down included, entry fee, performance guarantee, bank guarantee, No-dues certificate and additional bank guarantee for completing roll-out. When all these conditions are met, the monopoly in international long distance telephony will end in April, 2002.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

DTS will be corporatised on 1 October, 2000. In case of TRAI, it has not been decided yet. TRAI is accused of adopting monopolistic attitude, but I do not think it is so. Hon'ble President of India while addressing joint session of Parliament has repeatedly suggested for strengthening of old TRAI. The Government have reconstituted it in a new way and strengthened it. Previous TRAI was of different nature, it used to act both as an advocate and a judge. But private operators were suspicious about it because they prefer to invest in a company where they feel that the regulators is impartial. Keeping the fact in view that regulator should not act as 'yes man' of the Government the Government constituted one regulator for two entities. The Government constituted TRAI and simultaneously an appellate tribunal. It was provided that the Chairman of such tribunal shall be appointed in consultation with the Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India. I want to make it clear not only on my behalf but on the behalf of hon'ble Prime Minister, on behalf of the entire Government, that we not only consulted Chief Justice of the Supreme Court but we contacted him so as to sound a signal throughout the world that we want to constitute such an impartial tribunal. It is in the final stage. It's jurisdiction will be similar to that of High Court and in case of any dispute one can appeal in the Supreme Court. Therefore, the Government appointed a capable person, retired judge of Supreme Court as its Chairman.

Subsequently, the tribunal was constituted. He made a mention of NTP-1999, which involves several points. But mainly the Government would stress upon one target to provide telephone on demand during 2002. Just now one of our collegues was apprehensive about it and Shri Pal Sahib gave an example of China. I would like to tell Shri Pal that in China one third amount of their total plan outlay is spent on telecom. Whereas in India, the department does not get a single penny as budgetory support. Not only this, even the amount received as licence fee has to be deposited in consolidated Fund. We know that telephone is not the only priority with the Government, it has many other priorities. We can just fight and demand but it is true, as our colleague Shri Murthy has said that decision making process in China is quick. Their decisions are like bullet. But our case is different, we hardly bother for time. Our sanctioning process is tardy and it takes very longer time to arrive at a decision. Ours is a democratic set up and democracy has its pros and cons, but we have to bear with it. We discussed Sankhyavahini at length and then put it in cold storage whereas China adopted it. We just keep quarreling. Our technocrat Raj Reddy is working overseas. Not only he there are many trained personnel who are working abroad. Till recently, India was considered a nation devoid of talent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: A Committee should be constituted to investigate this matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I would reiterate that it is very easy to level charges against anyone that so and so in an agent but if one is asked to produce evidence in support of one's charges then one would find it very difficult...*(Interruptions)* Does anyone has proof to say that Raj Reddy is a spy.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I had specifically said that Prof. Raj Reddy is a Member of the Committee established by President Bill Clinton to rectify defects in the intelligence network of the United States. I repeat that he is so involved. I made no speech. I have asked a number of questions and I await answers to those questions. If the Minister does not give answers here, I expect him to send them to me in writing.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I will go point by point. Please have patience.

[Translation]

I would say only this much that we the Members of Parliament claim to be patriots, there are lakhs of Indians working abroad but they are loyal to India. Several people go abroad in search of job who strive hard to develop new technology. It does not mean we dismiss them in one line, nor we can say that they are working for America or china, so they are agents. I think, this sort of tendency is neither in our interest ncr in national interest. I do not mean only Raj Reddy, it is applicable to all those who are working abroad. There may be several people with foreign connections. He visits foreign countries a number of times and they may be advising him for taking some projects with their partnerships. If any country wishes to cooperate for making a joint venture, we cannot say that so and so is a spy. I think it is not alright.

In connection with telephone on demand, just now Shri Mahale made a mention of rural telephones in Nasik. I can say that the Government and the opposition Members should come to a consensus and make a decision. Opposition Members have a right to criticise but at least the Members should cooperate for a right

cause. Though, this target is difficult but not impossible. The Government are working according to the target. We have fixed the target for the year 2002 and we have VPT telephones in 4 lakh 11 thousand villages out of a total of 6 lakh 7 thousand villages. Our colleague was telling that MARR technology, introduced during Indira's regime, has been adopted for 2 lakh 11 thousand villages. I do not say it was not a right technology, may be it was one of the best technology available at that time. But maintenance part of it was not taken care of properly and that is why, as one officer say as on today, 20-25 per cent phones are out of order. But, I, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan in the capacity of a Communications Minister say that 80-90 telephones are out of order. I have told them the Government would replace all of them. Hence we made an arrangement of 6 lakh WLL phones. As all of us are aware, our geographical condition is entirely different. One hon'ble member was telling that even through quota, we do not get a telephone in two years. Members are representing the entire nation. I would like to ask him that if anyone from Rajasthan, whose residence is 40 kms away from mainline comes to him and says that he has deposited fee for taking telephone connection. Though everyone has a right to deposit such amount but how much time and money would be required for laying cables in such areas. He just recommends that so and so may be granted telephone connection out of M.P. quota. It is very easy to recommend but I know how difficult it is to lay cables for the sake of one or two persons in a length of 40 kms in such areas in the desert of Rajasthan. It costs crores of rupees and we are starved of funds. For this purpose only we resorted to introduce new technology. Therefore, we brought in the best technology—WLL. There was hue and cry for some days saying that CDMA and GSM has been introduced. People wrote to the Government asking why only 2 lakh sets have been ordered against earlier demand of 6 lakh.

Because we fear. We know that it is not an easy task to run the Ministry. It is a big thing if a person living in a house of blackness comes out of it clean. G.S.M. is a cheap technology, but W.L.L. technology was taken. What were the reasons for it?

We first got it examined and found that there was a narrow difference and G.S.M. technology was better for the areas where telephone density is more and WLL technology was good for the farflung and rural areas. Then I asked for two lac tenders. After that when the case came before me, I found that there was not much difference in the prices. I asked to use both the technologies, G.S.S. technology in the areas of density and W.L.L. technology in other areas. Six lac were taken up in W.L.L. technology and out of them about two lac and twenty five thousand villages are yet to be covered and two lac eleven thousand villages are to be converted. In that regard also I have said that 'Mar' technology would also be converted. Now we have to change about four and a half lac villages and we have six lac W.L.L. technology. Now the problem before us is that one base station is set up in W.L.L. and one base station Tower is set up. You would not requires wire in the area of 25 kilometers from there. No one can cut the wire and we can provide telephone connections in the villages in that area. There are 500 lines and 500 connections. But there would not be 500 connections, the villages would be in less number. But we are using that technology there. In regard to the issue being raised by Shri Munshiji, I want to tell that there came a case that there is handset in W.L.L. It means SDCA (short distance charging area). Suppose the length and breadth of that SDCA area is 25 kilometers. Now we kept that in fixed. It is true that private operators have not gone in the number of villages for which we had set target. They have not gone even in 500 villages...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: They had to go in 11 lac villages.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: They have gone in three lac villages...*(Interruptions)* I am talking generally. If you go in figures, I have figures but if I will give figures, it may not be correct and for that I would have to give clarifications. I am talking of policy. I have full information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You may send those figures to me later on...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I will send the figures to you. I was telling that limited Mobility means that you may go in the area of 25 Km., the hand set would be with you. The local call has been extended upto 200 Km. Earlier when I went to Meerut, the people asked me to make local. I made local. Then the department also opposed it. When I went to Hapur, the same demand was made. Then I decided to make local upto 200 Km. It is right that the poor would talk only for 2 minutes upto 100 Km and for half a minute upto 200 Km. No one Member of parliament raised this issue but I realise it that there is difference in the charge during day and

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

night. I am considering over providing more facilities during night. Earlier the form cost 10 rupees. Now I have made it free of cost. Earlier the form was of 8 pages. I got it reduced to one page. We made the rule. Now Raghuvansh ji is in the Chair. I would have to respect him. You were talking of Bihar. What is going on in Bihar — Khata na Bahi, Jo Laloo ji Kahen Wahi Sahi — What can we do in that.

20.00 hrs.

There is no law and order there. If any one goes and sleeps in the exchange, it is difficult to say whether he would be alive or not. There is no power at every place and Exchanges operate by power. We have laid 2 lac 40 thousand kilometers optical Fibre so far and will laid 1 lac 26 thousand kilometres this year. Thereby the whole of backlog would come to an end. Last year the Manufacturers requested for increasing the rates of optical fibres after giving the rates. On it the department said that they have already given high rates. The manufacturers did not agree to it. But this year the rates have decreased to 50 per cent. Then I said that W.L.L is the limited Mobility and if you go in the S.D.C.A area upto 25 kilometers and make telephone call upto 200 kilometer, the charge would be one rupee and twenty paisa. The air charge in Mobile is not less than rupees 3 except in Delhi and the incoming charge is also there. I have asked T.R.I to make the incoming calls free. T.R.I. decides many things. T.R.I. has mandatory power in case of tariff. But you have total that it is four hundred or six hundred rupees. If I would do on my own, it would be said that discrimination is being made. Therefore, T.R.I. decides all these things. Suppose any one makes telephone call and the aircharge is three rupees. The total charge on it would be 6 rupees including the charge of S.T.D. call and the charge of incoming call. If he talks for 3 minutes, the charge would be 18 rupees. But we are charging one rupee twenty paise for 3 minutes. Inspite of it hon'ble Priya Ranjan Dasji is not happy. 40 MPs have supported it. 18 MPs have opposed it. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan belongs to congress party. He has made demand for W.L.L. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has also demanded for it. Similarly the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have also demanded for it. The Chief Minister of Tamilnadu does not belong to congress, but he has also demanded for it. I am not talking of the present Chief Minister, I am talking of hon'ble Karunanidhiji. The new Chief Minister would also demand for it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: That is why Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshiji had said that he is against W.L.L. but we are against the way you are distributing. Your distribution lacks transparency. You please don't reply to what he said, but reply to what you had said.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: First I would tell generally. We talked of the tele-density. Tele-density has developed during the Last two years. We have three crore thirty lac basic Telephones.

Its number was two crores when I became the Minister and it has gone upto 3 crores and 30 lakhs. The number of mobile phones has gone upto 45 lakhs. It is true that tele density is less. Keeping in view our population. We have set an ambitious target. Our target is to provide seven and a half crores lines upto the year 2005. After that the tele density will be 15 per hundred. Which will be equal to world's present tele density. In some countries the tele density is upto 80 per cent or 90 per cent and in some families there are two telephones in addition to mobile phone. I have already said that we cannot make comparison with those countries. We can not compare ourselves even with china. Which has a target of providing 50 crore lines upto the year 2010. We shall have to provide our entire budgetary allocation to achieve that target set by China. We need 37 billion US dollars to achieve our target by the year 2005.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: How shall we manage that money?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We gave evolved the scheme of revenue sharing for fulfilling the goal. The Government needs 87 billion U.S. dollars by the year 2010 which cannot be managed by the Government of India by its own resources.

Dasmunsiji has levelled some charges against TRAI which are not true. I am glad that the hon'ble member has read out the verbatim record of the proceedings of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has appreciated the working of WLL. About limited mobility they have just said that level playing fields should be provided. We have fixed equal licence fee for basic and cellular services and there is equal spectrum fee. Limited mobility revenue sharing is in the proportion of 5:95 and it has not been fixed in the proportion of 60:40. The cellular operators have been permitted to install PCO's. Cellular operators may provide fixed services. I am very

much concerned with the fact that there are contradictions in your congress benches. I can understand what you say but when I try to understand your point of view, I get confused by the statements of Dasmunsiji about this issue. One the one hand, you are levelling a charge that we have given a profit of fifty thousand crores to the cellular operators by involving them in revenue sharing, on the other hand he is levelling the charge that we have forced the cellular operators to lose money by bringing WLL.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What can I do if the hon'be Minister is unable to understand my point of view. Why cannot the Minister understand the WLL and migration? We have to face difficulties.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: He has said—'first come, first serve.' It implies as if some free gift is being distributed. 'First come first serve' means first perform and then get. But we have framed the rule that POP will be installed after fulfilling all the formalities. They will go there and install it. We have framed SDCA. We have instructed that while installing WLL technology, one has to divide SDCA area into three parts-rural semi urban and urban areas and equal installation is to be done in all the three above mentioned areas. Spectrum will be allocated to them after installing POP. Previously 4.4 Mhz spectrum used to be allocated but we have stopped that practice. First, we shall allocate 2.5 Mhz. We shall provide further 1.25 Mhz after installation. At last, when the work progresses 1.25 Mhz will be provided. In this way 5 Mhz+5 Mhz will be provided. Separate fee will be charged for it. But, regarding first come first seve, we have said that one will have to deposit previous dues. The phrase, 'first come first serve' is an international terminology. Previously, the charges for spectrum was charged in the beginning. Now, it is charged separately. Basically charges for frequency spectrum will be same for cellular operators and it is not related to licence fee. It is also wrong to say that spectrum was allotted free of cost and there was no bid for spectrum. There is also a mention of 13 thousand crore rupees. The hon'ble Member is not present here otherwise I would have asked him about the origin of the idea of 13 thousand crore rupees. The whole industry was in slump. The bidding offered was very high. I belong to a poor family. But you people have full knowledge of the Industry as the congressmen are more close to them. They know that the entire industry was in a slump and the telecom industry was on the brink of closure. It is because of this that they were provided 'revenue sharing'. But it is being alleged that scam to the tune of thousand crores was done. As per your statement, that policy led to a loss but I have the data regarding that policy. I have made an assessment of the revenue earned before and after the policy was implemented. This package was brought only because the telecom industry was on the brink of closure. The cellular operators made very high bids. Because of it, every cellular operator was provided 4 mega hertz and later on additional 1.8 mega hertz was provided.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of transparency was raised. I would like to say as to what would be more transparency when I have date-wise details. The department asked for recommendations of TRAI on 13.4.99 regarding the terms and conditions for providing licences to the operators. The TRAI issued constitution papers on 16.6.2000. Thereafter, open house discussion was held at Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi on 30th June, 4th 6th and 30th of July. Thereafter, DOT received the recommendations of TRAI on 31.8.2000. The telecom commission hold a full meeting on this issue on the 21st September and discussed the guidelines mentioned. TRAI asked for opinions regarding some issues again on 9th October. After that there was not only an issue of hand set in WLL, it has the recommendation of 3 federations. The private operators had given their suggestions regarding it. We asked for their views when WLL was provided after considering these things but you are saying whether hand set of WLL is included or not in it? Recommendations were given to TRAI. On all the issues except WLL on 31.10.2000. Consultation paper was issued by TRAI on 3.11.2000 in which it asked for opinions about providing hand set to WLL, the amount of entry fee, the spectrum charges and areas. After that an open house was conducted by TRAI again. It was conducted in Mumbai Chennai, Calcutta and Delhi on 13th, 14th, 15th and 24th November 2000 respectively. TRAI held a meeting with experts regarding limited mobility on the 25th TRAI gave its recommendation on 8th January, 2001 in which it was said that WLL hand set is a part of basic services. It will help in faster roll out and it is cost effective also. When cellular operators knew that the Department was going to take decision, they took this matter to court and in appellate tribunal. The appellate tribunal did not entertain their plea that the Government could not take decisions regarding it and it observed on the 29th that the decision of appellate tribunal would be binding on them.

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

But now we cannot stop the work. Based on the work we have decided to issue guidelines. I do not want to go in details on the points mentioned by him. We have issued spectrum allocation procedure on 23rd of March. We have issued guidelines on 25.1.2001. As per these guidelines, the handsets have been given in SDCA area. Those spectrum allocation meant for cellular will not be given to W.L.L. Spectrum charges for revenue sharing will be 2%. This will be for both cellular and Basic. Is there no transparency in the optical fibre? Shri Maheshwar Singh ji has suggested to have only one agency for optical fibre and we will certainly consider about it. You have referred MAAR for prices...*(Interruptions)* Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ji has asked for details and I will tell him for his satisfaction. The number of committed DEL in first three years for private operators was 20 lakhs. It is a fact that previously it was 20,17,809 but the DL provided by him is 3,13,346...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It has come down from 20 lakhs to 3 lakhs.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I accept it. They were to install 97806 VPT but 562 were installed.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Shamel. They are not providing facility to the villages...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: To whom you are saying shame. Under the rule if they do not install VPT they will have to pay penalty.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: How much penalty they have to pay.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: They have said rupees 53 crores as penalty.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: They are getting thousand crores of rupees.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: How are they getting when they have not been installed in the villages, then how will they get it. That is why I am considering on the point. There is still sufficient scope. Optel company is there.which is a Government company. ITI is also there. We have to see for transparency also for which. We keep one third. For our ITI and other undertakings. We keep one third reserve. But whenever we say, to give it to L-I, we give them in general. But when no one completes then sometimes we face difficulty and I can understand that difficulty.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Optel is a public undertaking company but we are talking of private companies...*(Interruptions)* Optel is at the verge of closure...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

This is different issue. He is mixing up everything.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am giving you an example when company has been formed, then this not the issue of the department...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The private company has asked to provide 12 lakhs lines and they have provided only 12 lines and you are giving an example for which we do not agree.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We were silent when they were speaking. Bharat Sanchar Nigam is a company and it will work from where it gets money. We have mentioned three points. First to encourage rural telephones. Second to bring world class technology and third to take at the lowest price. Public Sector Undertakings will have to provide goods in time. I have said that one third has been kept reserved for the public Sector Undertakings. In the same way many hon'ble Members like Shri Ramji Lal Suman. K. Bali Ram and Manishankar Aiyar have raised a number of issues. They have mentioned number of points for the recovery of 49000 crores of rupees etc. from licence fee and Basic operators. I will reply them in writing. Saroja Deviji has suggested an MTNL for Chennai also. Now all have become corporation then what will be its need in Chennai. Shri Suresh Ramarao Jadhavjee have also asked the same thing. Shri Raghuvansh ji has asked for Bihar. There is uproar in entire Bihar that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan in digging all the fields and animals are dieting in it. A party leader is propagating that the number of criminals are increasing in villages due to introduction of mobile phones. If this is the thinking of the Chief Ministers of a state then how can we think of installing more then 1% of the targets. We work with cooperation of the state Government but if the Government oppose the development ten what more we can do. That is why, we have asked them to improve the law and order situation. Shri B.K. Dev has asked for rural Exchanges. Shri Pandayji has asked about calling party pay. Mahalejee enquired about Nasik district. Shri Pappu Yadav ji has asked about the shortage of the staff and also about not reinstating them for six years. Now we are reinstating JTO and DTO. Shri Shriniwas Patil told about the shortage of OFC.

At last, I once again thank the Hon'ble Member and we will always welcome such discussions. A member has said that India is left behind in industrialisation. I would like to clear that NDA Government has made a commitment not to keep India lagging behind in the field of communication revolution. In this aspect we would like to have the cooperation of both the sides.

I once again thank all the members who have participated in this discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11.00 a.m. on August 30, 2001.

20.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then Adjourned till Eleven to the Clock on Thursday, August 30, 2001/8 Bhadra, 1923 (Saka).

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