

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 8, 2001/
Shravana 17, 1923 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Meerut Parliamentary Constituency
of Uttar Pradesh, the leader of Samajwadi Party Surendra
Dauralia and his wife were murdered by terrorists...
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir,
the Prime Minister is here...*(Interruptions)* For the last three
days, situation in Jammu and Kashmir is very serious.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Law and order situation
in UP has broken down...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[English]

I am on my legs...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker,
Sir, it is a very serious issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

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

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, you can also
raise the matter during 'Zero Hour'. You have given a notice
for suspension of Question Hour.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : Sir, let me
mention it.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you can raise it during 'Zero
Hour'. The entire House would also join you because of the
seriousness of the issue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Doing such a way
daily is not good.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question No. 241. Shri C. N. Singh.

(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Medical Equipments in AIIMS

[Translation]

*241. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that many
essential Medical equipments in AIIMS are lying out of
order for the last so many months as reported in
'Hindustan' dated July 16, 2001;

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the persons responsible for this;

(d) the arrangements made by the Government for the installation and maintenance of these equipments; and

(e) the measures being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the problems faced by the patients and to provide them more facilities?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) to (e) Only a few medical equipment have remained out of order in AIIMS for more than a few months. However, the use of some equipment in the Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH) has been suspended due to ongoing building expansion.

In AIIMS, all medical equipments are procured on the basis of specific requisition from the individual department and are screened by the Purchase Committee and Surgical Selection Commission (Hosp). Appropriate clauses are always incorporated in the supply order for timely installation and maintenance of equipment.

The Institute is in the process of setting up several new facilities—National Trauma Centre, a Dental College, New Screening OPD, an Emergency Block and new Dharmshalas. These facilities will substantially increase the range of services available.

A major programme for revamping for all the ICUs, OTs and the casualty area, has been launched. Old dysfunctional trolleys, beds, OT tables, Monitors, intensive care ventilators, haemodialysis machines have been replaced by new ones. Utmost care is taken to ensure that no patient suffers for want of essential equipments.

[Translation]

SHRI C. N. SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply received from the Minister is not clear and complete...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They are disturbing the House and also want to ask supplementary questions. How is this possible?

SHRI C. N. SINGH : In 1996 Trauma Centre of AIIMS was established as the best hospital of the country laced with all facilities. It would be such a hospital in which people from all over the country would come here. But in the present situation, its condition has deteriorated too much. The Minister might have visited there as a Minister. If he goes there as a common man, he would come to know how much lack of sanitation is there. Cobwebs can be seen everywhere, wards are dirty. Apart from this, what new facilities would be given, the Minister has not said anything on it. I would like to know from the Minister whether he has read the 'Hindustan' of 16th July, the 'Rashtriya Sahara' of 17th May, 'Dainik Jagaran' of 14th June, 'Jansatta' of 24th July and 'Hindustan Times' of 7th May, 'Pioneer' of 18th April. If the Minister had studied the above newspapers he would have known fully about the things. The report given to him by his officers is completely wrong. The situation there is such that person like Uddayan Sharma who is a senior journalist, and had brain tumour could not get a bed. One can imagine the plight of common man who stands there in the queue throughout the day. Equipments are lying defective there but their number is not given. My question was how many equipments are defective there? I would like to know from the Minister about those equipments which were purchased there and in which scam has been reported in these newspapers, he should conduct an enquiry into this and if inquiry has been conducted their report be made public.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is any investigation being carried out to look into irregularities?

[Translation]

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Hon. Member has raised a question about AIIMS. AIIMS is a prestigious institution of India and drawbacks are there in every institution. But by and large the purpose for which AIIMS was established, it continued to fulfil those aims. AIIMS treats 18 lakh patients in a year that is nearly one and a half lakh patients per month and five thousand patients per day visits AIIMS. It has its effects on doctors and instruments these. These instruments which are used too much may also get defective. I have enquired that not many instruments are

defective there. As the Hon. Member has said that some instruments have become defective and other instruments are working there so that patients do not suffer because of it. Some costly instruments have been kept aside because of the dust particles that used to come because of the construction of the cancer-ward. Patients who visit there are unable to get proper care, this part will be answered in supplementary.

SHRI C. N. SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I asked that to ward off the problems of patients and to make them available more facilities what measures have been taken by the Government? Because of so much of pressure of patients on instruments, the latter become defective. What is the number of new instruments being set up there, what is the nature of their expansion and by what time the expansion will be made so that patients may get more facilities.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : How the crowd can be minimised, patients get proper facilities and care and waiting list be removed, we are concentrating on these things. We are going to set up a Trauma Centre there. It was pending for the last twenty years, now everything has been cleared. It will be a 'State of the art' trauma centre. This trauma centre will be linked for Delhi and other places. In case of serious condition, the patient will be brought to AIIMS. About 1435 acres of land have been acquired for the purpose and we are going to start this centre with Rs. 54.14 crores.

Secondly, we are going to start PET facilities in AIIMS. It will be the first of its kind in India. The brain tumour which could not be detected by CAT-Scan, will be detected from it. After treatment what is left out will also be detected from it. It costs Rs. 18 crores. So far as centre for dental education research is concerned, when AIIMS was constructed, it was thought that Dental College would also be part of it. We are going to start that we are going to start a good dental centre. For organs such as liver, heart and kidney, we are going to start Organ Retrieval Banking Facility. For the transplant of kidney, heart and liver, we are going to set up Organ Bank.

SHRI C. N. SINGH : When it will be completed?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : It has started....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First you listen to the solutions of your problems.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : National Apex Centre for De-addiction Programme has started. It has been setup at the cost of Rs. 11 crores. We are also going to start an inn which would cost Rs. 268 crores. We are going to start screening of patients where crowds will be screened there itself, and very few people would go into the main hospital. All the facilities will be there. It will be a huge setup. We are going to provide 100 additional beds in main hospital. There is too much pressure in cardio-therausic, neuro sciences and in ICMR. We are also planning to provide more beds there. We are going to start all these works in emergency block, where we have spent Rs. 18 crores. Because of the pressure, there will be new blocks of cardio-therausic and neuro sciences in AIIMS. In this way, we are going to start huge set up. Some drawbacks are everywhere but we shall try to remove them.

[English]

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, through you, I would like to ask a question to the hon. Minister. I believe that all medical institutions and colleges should have all diagnostic facilities for treatment of not only patients but also for teaching students. But in many of the institutions the diagnostic equipment as well as research facilities are not adequate...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This question relates to the AIIMS.

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, I am asking the question.

MR. SPEAKER : You have to ask the question relating to AIIMS.

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, the state of equipment that are working only are usually reported. But most often the equipment that are out of order are not reported. I have seen this happening in the Calcutta hospital.

MR. SPEAKER : No. This is a different question.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Department is planning to strengthen the administrative set up or not.

[Translation]

Whether to make the administrative set-up strong, the head of hospital would be from Medical Profession or an outsider?

[English]

I am given to understand that there is some difference of opinion in this regard. What is the view of the Government? Will the head of the Institution be from the medical profession?

[Translation]

DR. C. P. THAKUR : At present the head of institute is from medical profession who is very renowned person and an orthopedic surgeon. Thus at present he is from medical profession.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, AIIMS is the best and an important institute of the country. When the Prime Minister of our nation needed treatment he had to go to Mumbai. The Prime Minister is a senior leader, can't we arrange his treatment at AIIMS? keeping in view the rush at AIIMS, whether AIIMS can become a referral hospital? Various hospitals suggest patients to go there. Whether arrangements for treatment of such patients can not be made available there? In my opinion AIIMS should be changed into referral hospital so that people may get facilities.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, AIIMS is a good hospital. I have spent my much time in AIIMS. When I was kept in detention I was admitted at AIIMS but when the question of operation arose, it was to be decided who would be the doctor to operate me.

That doctor had facilities in Mumbai and he had been performing operations there. Therefore, I had my operation there. It is a good hospital, if you are in need you can avail the facility.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister himself is a famous doctor. He has accepted in his reply that 18 lakhs patients get treatment in AIIMS every year. Out of them more than half come from Bihar. Three to four types of patients of Kidney, Cancer, Heart and Tumour use to come in our M.Ps. residents... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, three-fourth patients come from Bihar. These patients are still in hospital and they use to runaway from hospital.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not the matter of Bihar, but related to AIIMS.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he should be sent to Bihar Assembly instead of Parliament.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to know from the Government the number of machines which have been lying idle for more than last six months, at the time of establishment what were the norms fixed for the machine? Now, I would like to know the number of patients that have increased? Does the Minister feel how many hospitals like AIIMS are required so that the number of patients can be decreased by half and whether Government propose to open a hospital like AIIMS in Bihar, if so whether, it would be inquired in to.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the package which was given at the time of division of Bihar, a demand for hospital made at that time. We propose to open a hospital under ICMR. We had asked the Government of Bihar to give land for it. The hospital will be opened where facilities will be available but the Government of Bihar have not replied so far.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, AIIMS is doing its best for the country and Government and the House should thank it for this service. There is pressure on them from the entire country. Especially from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh where the conditions are very bad, the patients of those areas come here for treatment. I think every year crores of rupees are being spent upon the patients of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh from Prime Minister Relief Fund. The doctors and staff of this hospital work with a mission and treat about 18 lakh patients every year. It is an appreciable work in itself.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has spoken the truth in this House for the first time that a large number of patients come from Bihar. It shows the clear picture of poor condition of medical facilities in Bihar. In the emergency wing of Patna ventilators and oxygen cylinders are not available...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should ask about AIIMS not about Bihar.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I wish to ask the hon. Minister whether he would like to see the report as to how to improve the facilities in referral hospital in the country and particularly how the state governments should improve their facilities?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This question relates only to AIIMS and not to setting up of hospitals at other places.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I am talking about reducing the pressure on AIIMS as AIIMS is the premier medical institution in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no supplementary. Shri Rudy, please sit down. Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, as per the recent Census, India's population is more than one billion now. About the health complaint, on an average, every alternate member of the Indian population is suffering from different kind of an ailment. Till the second Census, the critical ailment was one in ten. Now, the critical ailment is one in five.

Will the Government consider giving topmost priority to 'treatment for all' and 'health of all' programmes in the Tenth Plan? Also, to reduce the load of the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences for specialised treatment, will the hon. Minister consider in the Plan Document opening up of specialised centres in the respective State Capitals? If it is done, it will ensure facilities to the patients in their respective States itself without coming to Delhi.

So, will the hon. Minister consider this aspect involving the concerned Ministers of all the States because it is a State subject?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Sir, this is under the consideration of the Government of India. It is true that the standards in most of the reputed institutions of different States have gone down because of lack of resources. So, the Government of India is considering about the standards of those institutions to be raised. If their standards are raised, they will cater to the needs of that particular State, and the load on the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences will also come down.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members have already expressed their concern over AIIMS. The patients from all over the country use to come to AIIMS and when the patients are sent to AIIMS they think that they are in safe hands. Patients have great faith in this hospital. I want to know from the hon. Minister that as

Noida and Gurgaon are situated near Delhi and they are known as modern cities all over the world. As it has been said that various patients from Uttar Pradesh come there. I think if the branches of AIIMS are opened in Noida and Gurgaon then the pressure of AIIMS will decrease to a great extent. The patients of Uttar Pradesh will go to Noida.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ashok Pradhan, You need not elaborate. Please ask you supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : I wish to know from the hon. Minister that whether Govt. propose to open any branch of AIIMS. As the reference of Shri Uddayan Sharma, Journalist came that he did not get bed in AIIMS. Whether the Govt. intend to open any branch of AIIMS.

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Its centres have been opened in some places. We have opened small centres of AIIMS. We will talk to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard.

[English]

Encouragement to Homoeopathy

+

*242. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

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

(a) whether India has the largest number of Homeopathic practitioners and also the largest turnover of Homeopathic medicines;

(b) whether Homoeopathy has gained immense popularity because it is relatively inexpensive and has no side-effects;

(c) whether the Union Government are taking some special steps to popularise Homoeopathy in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help to set up Homeopathic Centres throughout the country?

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) to (d) There are 1,94,147 Registered practitioners of Homeopathy in the country as on 1st January, 2000. Although no firm estimates of international turnover of homeopathic medicines is available, India appears to have the largest market for homeopathic medicines.

Homeopathy has become popular because it is relatively inexpensive and has no adverse side effects.

A number of schemes are already under implementation to help develop and popularize the Indian Systems of Medicine including Homeopathy. These include :

- Grant-in-aid Scheme for strengthening the existing Under Graduate colleges of ISM & Homeopathy
- Grant-in-aid Central Scheme for Re-orientation of ISM & H personnel.
- Scheme for Upgradation of Departments of Homeopathy Colleges for imparting Post Graduate Training and Research.
- Central Scheme for Development and Cultivation of medicinal plants.
- Central scheme for development of Agro-techniques of Medicinal Plants used in ISM & H.
- Extra-mural research scheme.
- Scheme of IEC (Information, Education and Communication.)

Health being a State subject, the state governments establish hospitals and dispensaries depending upon their priorities and availability of financial resources. The Central Government has established several units which are conducting research under the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, an autonomous body under the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy, so as to identify improved treatments for a variety of diseases. In particular, the use of Homeopathy in the treatment of behavioural disorders, respiratory allergies, skin ailments and children's problems have been found to be significant. A National Institute for Homeopathy has also been established at Kolkata.

The use of Homeopathy is being popularized through increasing the availability of medicines through licensed

pharmacies throughout the country and by informing the public about how common health problems can be attended to through the use of simple homeopathic remedies.

SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is not satisfactory. It is totally a vague answer.

I want to know from the hon. Minister about the schemes of the Central Government for cultivation of medicinal plants. They are the natural medicines. By way of exporting homeopathic medicines, we are earning a lot of foreign exchange also.

Sir, these medicinal plants are predominantly available in Madhya Pradesh, Karala and Karnataka's western ghats. Is the Government having any Central schemes for the development and cultivation of such medicinal plants? What are the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri K. H. Muniyappa, the question relates to Homeopathy.

SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : Yes, Sir. I am asking about the medicinal plants used in homeopathy. That is why I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps he is taking in these areas of Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka for the development of these medicinal plants.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Sir, actually there is a scheme for this. The Government is financing for development of medicinal plants in Homeopathy. There is another scheme for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani also. We are financing those schemes so that medicines are developed from plant-sources or other sources. There are different sources of homeopathic medicines. There is support from the Government of India for development of those medicines. Medicines are being manufactured in quite large quantities in India.

SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : I am putting the second supplementary. He was saying something about upgradation of homeopathic hospitals. Which are the areas where he is upgrading them? It is a very important one and so, I am requesting that Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Hospitals should be established in each district. Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medicines are not harmful, as they have no side effects. Nowadays, the allopathic medicines are totally damaging the health of the patients because side effects

are more. So, the Government has to come forward to develop Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Hospitals in each district. What steps the Government has taken to develop this?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : The hon. Member is right that India has got the largest number of homeopathic practitioners. These medicines have certainly got low side effects and therefore, we are encouraging people to open medical colleges imparting post-graduate education in Homeopathy. We are also opening up different dispensaries under CGHS scheme; we have opened up different research units in Homeopathy. So, this is under the scheme of the Government.

SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : Is there any scheme to develop it district-wise?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : We are doing that district-wise also.

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Sir, I would like to put the question in Kannada...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, for that, you have to give a prior notice to the Interpretation Branch. Otherwise, it is not possible to have the interpretation. You have to take prior permission. But you can ask your supplementary in English. How will the Minister Understand Kannada?

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Sir, more and more people are using Allopathic medicines with the result there is a shortage of medicines and doctors in the country. Allopathic medicines have got side effects also in their use. Homeopathic medicines have got no side effects and they were very popular during the earlier days, but the people have lost faith in it now. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in view of this position whether the Government is considering to call a meeting of the Health Ministers of the States to discuss how Homeopathic medicines could be popularised in all parts of the country. May I know whether more and more official machinery would be put in to make Homeopathy more popular? May I also know whether the Government would appoint Homeopathic Practitioners in Government dispensaries in large numbers and whether the Government will set up homeopathic dispensaries in every village?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Actually, Sir, the Ministry of Health has got three wings. One wing is the Department of Health, dealing with Allopathic medicines. The second

wing is the Department of Family Welfare. The third wing is dealing with the Indian System of Medicines, which has got six components. They are : Homeopathy, Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Naturopathy and Yoga. Homeopathy is getting a very pointed attention of the Government.

It is not possible to open a dispensary in every village. We are giving all support to popularise Homeopathy. We would like to enrich the standards of Homeopathy.

SHRI A. P. ABDULLAKUTTY : In our country, for the first time Homeopathy was accepted as a system of medicine in Kerala during the time of Shri E. M. Shankara Nambooripad Ministry. Since then, the system of Homeopathy has been developed in a big way in the State of Kerala. Now, the State is planning to establish a Homeopathic dispensary in every panchayat but is faced with financial difficulty in achieving this target. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider giving special financial assistance to the State in this regard.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : If the State comes up with some proposal, we will definitely consider it for financing.

DR. V. SAROJA : Sir, it is given in the Statement that as on 1st January, 2000, there were about 1,94,147 registered practitioners in Homeopathy throughout the country. The Government of India, with the objective of promoting and developing the Indian system of medicines, namely Ayurveda, Sidha, Yunani, Yoga and Naturopathy, has already set up National Institute of Excellence for Homeopathy at Calcutta. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, though health is a State subject, whether the Government will come forward to recruit doctors in the primary health centres in order to tackle the problem of non-availability of doctors in rural areas.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Recruitment will be done by the State Government. We are thinking as to how the Allopathic or Homeopathic doctors can be trained so that they can take up work under many of our programmes. This is under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the reply of the honourable Minister I wish to ask as to how many schemes have been started during the last five years to improve the facilities in

homeopathy and for the assistance of fund and how much fund has been allotted under which scheme every year and my second question is whether any scheme was started in 1998. Has any applicant applied for the same. Whether any new scheme was started in 1999 whether the applicant who had applied under 1998 scheme would be given assistance or not and my third question is what had happened to the announcement which was made by hon. Minister that in every district hospital an independent department of homeopathy will be opened because it is only being said, practically no such department has been opened in any district hospital?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Gandhi, ask the question.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Sir, my question is regarding the announcement made by hon. Minister to open an independent department of homeopathy in district headquarter, whether such department has opened or not?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of opening an independent department in district hospitals is concerned, Central Government does not open it, it is the affair of State Government. The work of Central Government is to strengthen and energise the hospitals opened by State Government. As far as the question of undergoing scheme is concerned how long it will run I request when a project is prepared it is mentioned how far it will run and when a project completes the scheme also ends with project.

Medical Grant Commission

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*243. SHRI A. NARENDRA :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

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

(a) whether the Central Government had a proposal for setting up a Medical Grant Commission on the lines of University Grant Commission (UGC);

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a legislation in this regard is likely to be brought before the Parliament; and

(d) If not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (d) There was a proposal for establishment of Medical Grants Commission of the lines of University Grants Commission but in view of scarce resources, the proposal had been kept in abeyance. The possibility of reviving the proposal in the current circumstances is being examined by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI A. NARENDRA : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that when the government received the proposal for establishment of a Medical Grants Commission on the lines of University Grants Commission? What are those specific resources for which this proposal is pending for so long?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : It is a fact that setting up of Medical Grants Commission and Medical Education Commission is under consideration for a long period. First, Srivastava Committee presented a report and then, Bajaj Committee presented a report in this regard. But due to financial constraints, the proposal of grants could not gain momentum. A short while ago, Shri Panja and other Hon'able members had raised a question. I talked to the Hon. Prime Minister that the standard of the Medical Colleges in the States has abruptly come down for want of adequate resources. General Colleges in the States get aid from the University Grants Commission. The Engineering Institutions in the States get aid from the Technical Education Institution. But the Medical Education remained deprived of such grants and a result, the earlier very good colleges could not maintain their standards. The Government are considering to strengthen the institutions so as to maintain proper health arrangements throughout the country and a proposal would be prepared during tenth plan in this regard?

SHRI A. NARENDRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir the Hon. Minister has said in reply to my question that the proposal will be examined in the present circumstances. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that when the proposal will be examined and the time by which the examination work will be completed? Whether there is such a possibility? If so, whether there will be autonomous bodies like Medical Grants Commission and University Grants Commission? And if so, what will be their status? Whether Indian Medical

Council will continue to work and if so, what will be the status and the functions of the Council after the examination of the proposal of the Indian Medical Council and Grants Commission?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : The Indian Medical Council, Dental Council and other such Councils are statutory bodies and are formed under the Act of Parliament. The question of the constitution of both of these commissions is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that Medical Grants Commission could not be set up due to paucity of funds. I do not want to say anything about it but the condition of Medical Colleges all over the country which are deemed as Nucleus of Research and Treatment is worsening. I would like to suggest that they should be treated as private Medical Nursing Homes. I would like to know that would the Hon. Minister go on strengthening the Medical Council till the Medical Grants Commission comes into existence? Does he first plan to strengthen the Medical Council and then take action to cancel or suspend the registration of those recognised medical Colleges which are not functioning properly and causing trouble to the people.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : It is the duty of the Medical Council to inspect the Medical Colleges. If the functioning of the college is found O.K., it goes on functioning and if it is found faulty, it stops the grant for sometime. Further it is suggested to the college to fulfil some requirements if the grant is required.

This is the complete process.

SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Whether the existing Medical Colleges are being inspected properly?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Inspection is done from time to time.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, there are so many corporate sector hospitals in the country which are considered as the deemed universities.

The hon. Minister was telling that the Medical Council is taking care of the standards to be maintained in the universities. The corporate hospitals have been permitted to import costly equipment in the beginning on

the condition that they are going to serve the poor also at a cheaper rate. But the Medical Council is not taking care to see whether these hospitals are implementing it or not. The words may be 'Grants Commission'. Even the University Grants Commission (UGC) is not giving grants alone. In view of this, there must be a body in the country to look into whether the corporate hospitals, which are coming up in a big way, are doing good work or not. You are looking into medical colleges only. These are deemed universities. What is the thinking of the hon. Minister on my suggestion?

MR. SPEAKER : This is only a suggestion.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : This suggestion is also under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Sir, at the present moment, expansion of medical education is felt highly necessary and that is why, the hon. Minister is considering the establishment of Medical Grants Commission. It is a welcome proposal but it is also necessary to expedite the matter because, presently, there is a huge shortage of doctors in our country. Doctors are not going to serve in the rural areas. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to when the Government is considering to set up the Medical Grants Commission and whether there will be a modification of the stringent guidelines of the MCI to set up medical colleges.

MR. SPEAKER : It is already answered. It is under consideration.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : The guidelines for setting up medical colleges cannot be diluted. Actually, medical doctors are dealing with the lives of people. So, the guidelines are very good. They are not very stringent. We will reconsider the aspect regarding acreage of land and things like that.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly the Medical Colleges are Government owned and there is financial mismanagement in them. Secondly, the private hospitals are recognised as Research Centres. Thirdly, the Medical Council grants permission to private institutions for Medical Colleges. There are the three separate issues. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about my letter in regard to the Bilaspur Medical College where State Governments themselves furnish fake

information, the decision in this regard will be taken by Medical Council. But the Government proposal involves financial mismanagement and whether the Medical Council has the right regarding the Research Centres in Private Hospitals or whether the Government would make better arrangements in regard thereto?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Medical Council has a right to inspect when the State Government inform in writing. Medical Council examines whether there is mismanagement or not. Not only representatives of State Government but the inspectors also examine the situations.

Infant Mortality

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*244. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :

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

(a) Whether "Ten Million kids die every year in India from diseases" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated June 11, 2001;

(b) If so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring down the infant mortality rate?

[English]

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

Statement

UNICEF, United Nations Population Division and United Nations Statistics Division estimate that 10.63 million children under the age of 5 years died all over the world during 1999.

As per the Sample Registration System, the Infant Mortality Rate for India in 1999 was estimated to be 70 per 1000 live births and Child Mortality Rate in the age group 0-4 years was estimated to be 22.5 per 1000 children during 1998. At these rates, it is estimated that about 2.4 million children under the age of 5 Years, including 1.5 million infants die annually in India. Major causes of child mortality include premature birth, acute respiratory infections,

diarrhoeal diseases, malaria and other and other communicable diseases and vaccine preventable diseases. Contributory factors, inter-alia, include high prevalence of low birth weight babies and high malnutrition rates in children.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, facilities for appropriate management of acute respiratory infections, Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) for management of diarrhoeal diseases; and essential newborn care services are provided. Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices, and prophylaxis against Vitamin-A and Iron deficiencies are also being provided to improve the nutritional status of children.

Schemes have been launched in weaker districts to improve the access of the people to Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) services. These include RCH Outreach Scheme; RCH Camps; Dai Training Programme and Border District Cluster Strategy Project.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Hon. Speaker, Sir, Government are introducing Reproductive and Child Health Programmes and thus making efforts to check various infant diseases and minimise infant mortality rate. However, infant mortality rate in India is much higher as compared to the other countries in the world. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that what is our place in the world in respect of infant mortality rate and which State in the country has the highest infant mortality rate and what special package Government propose to give to that State?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member has rightly said that Orissa has the highest infant mortality rate, in 97. Then Madhya Pradesh comes second with 91, Uttar Pradesh with 84, Rajasthan with 81, Assam with nearly 70 and Bihar with 66. This is only thing which is lowest in Bihar. Earlier, infant mortality rate in Bihar was 140 and now it is nearly 70. We are contemplating to bring it even lower. The efforts we made during the last ten years have failed to bring it down to 70. It is static. We have made a lot of efforts to minimize it. By improving the health of the mother and the child, it can be lowered. There are some social factors responsible for it, like early marriages, malnutrition, anaemic mother, anaemic child etc. There are no proper delivery arrangements. Trained midwives are

being arranged. Transport system and referral system for complicated cases of delivery are being made. Some people of the Government under New-natal forum have observed that doctors and other medical staff are unaware of the use of the instruments and other systems provided for the delivery in the medical centres. When they were made aware of the same, many little lives were saved. We, therefore, are fully aware now and are trying to cut 70% to half. We know it is possible.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : My question has not been replied. I had asked about India's place in the world in respect of infant mortality rate and the State in India having the highest infant mortality rate and special package proposed to be provided to that State?

MR. SPEAKER : He has replied your question. It is in Orissa.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : You have not told about Orissa. What is the position of India among the nations of the world and what special package has been finalised for Orissa?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : I have told about all the eight states where infant mortality rate is higher and Orissa is one of them. We have formulated a task group and a power group for it and meetings were also convened. Officers and Ministers of Orissa also attended the meeting in which the issue of reducing infant mortality rate was taken up. We are trying to also reduce it in other states.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : While asking the second supplementary I would like to submit that Government hospitals and nursing homes are there in urban areas providing medical facilities, but in rural areas medical facilities are not adequate. Children do not get proper medical facilities in rural areas thus a number of children die. I would like to know the infant mortality rates in urban and rural areas and how these can be reduced and whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for providing some special package for this purpose?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : For the rural area of Uttar Pradesh, from where the hon'ble Member hails, a target group has been constituted of which he is also a Member. Infant mortality rate is also higher among poor people in urban areas. A scheme has been formulated for reducing infant mortality rate in rural and urban areas and this scheme is being implemented.

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pre-natal detection of sex of the baby leads to female foeticide and that, in turn, leads to reduction in female sex ratio. This takes place because of the advanced technology used for detecting the sex of the baby. In future, there is a chance of female ratio getting reduced in the population. Already, it is below 1,000 when compared to male ratio. What steps have been taken by the Government to stop this menace?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : The Government is active on this problem of female foeticide. In this regard, the Supreme Court has given some directions. It has also said that Central Government and State Governments should follow those directions. We are working on that. A meeting of all the States was called and they were advised that they should work on the problem of female foeticide. We also called a meeting of the religious leaders. *Akal Takht* took the lead in Punjab and they said that they would help the State Government and the Central Government to minimise this problem of female foeticide.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, Kerala is a State which has achieved considerable success in the field of general health care. There the infant mortality rate is the lowest in the country. It has achieved this in spite of having low per capita income. This only shows that it can be achieved throughout the country. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government of India would study the achievements of Kerala and replicate it in other States.

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very good question.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : Sir, the question that the hon. Member has asked is very important. The infant mortality rate is only 14 in Kerala, whereas it is 97 in Orissa which is six times more. When I was in Kerala, I asked the Minister concerned as to how the health care system is so good in Kerala. The Minister told me that if a doctor does not reach the primary health centre, immediately a call will come to the Minister himself and he has to rush to that particular area from Trivandrum. If the State Governments take interest like this and if the hon. Members are also given some role in the management of health care, I think, this can be achieved. The other reason why Kerala could achieve this is that it has high literacy rate. I agree with the hon. Member that this can be achieved all over the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier in our

country infants were given mothers' feed which used to strengthen their immunity system whereas now-a-days infants are not given mother's feed which has increased problems and diseases among children. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether this is correct? Bihar has not adopted this practice and thus infant mortality rate is low there.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : It may be correct in the context of Bihar. A conference was held recently in Geneva on breast-feeding and people of developed countries also participated in this conference. In this conference, India presented its views that upto the age of six month infants should be given the mother's feed whereas the multinational companies which try to promote their products advised to continue mother's feed upto the age of 4 to 6 months. But for two all the experts of the western countries agreed to it. Later on all the countries agreed with this view point that for six months mother's feed is essential.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, the infant mortality rate has come down in comparison to what it was three or four decades ago. The total fertility rate has also come down. Will the Government consider any programme which may be called 'less birth more incentive' so that we can, on the one hand, control the population and on the other hand reduce the infant mortality rate?

DR. C. P. THAKUR : This question was very extensively debated and discussed when the Population Commission was formed. In 1994 a meeting was held in Cairo. Just now, our hon. friend from Kerala described how good the health care system is in Kerala. There were two models before them. One was Kerala model and the other was China model.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : There is a syndrome called Parsi Syndrome.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : The Parsi syndrome is different. But the Kerala model has been highlighted by the Nobel Laureate Prof. Amartya Sen. If that model is accepted, I think, both will improve-check on infant mortality as well as the population growth.

Dereservation in the Small Scale Sector

*245. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently dereserved some of the items from the small scale industrial sector;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the dereservation of small scale item is affecting adversely the growth of small scale sector;

(d) If so, whether any scheme has been worked out to protect the SSI units; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Readymade garments were dereserved on 1.1.2001 as per the decision announced in the National Textile Policy 2000. As announced in the Union budget 2001-2002, Government have issued a Notification S.O. 603 (E) dated 29th June, 2001 dereserving 14 items from the list of items reserved for exclusive manufacture in the small scale sector, the details of which are given in the Annexure.

(c) to (e) The issue of reservation/de-reservation of items for exclusive manufacture in the small scale industrial sector is examined on continual basis by the Government and decisions in this respect are taken after considering all relevant aspects. Over the last three years, the estimated growth rate of the Small Scale Sector has gone up from 7.7% in 1998-99 to 8.16% in 1999-2000 and 8.09% in 2000-2001. To enhance the competitiveness in SSIs both domestically and globally and to strengthen the small-scale sector, Government have announced a comprehensive policy package on 30.8.2000. The policy package provides for easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Annexure*De-reservation in the small scale sector*

Sl.No. (As per Gazette Notification)	Product Code	Name of the product
85	290303	Leather pickers and other leather accessories for textile industry
86	290401	Vegetable tanned hides and skins-semi finished
87	290501	Chrome tanned hides and skins-semi finished
90	290905	Harness leather
91	291101	Leather shoes
101	299005	Leather washers and laces
107A	301102009	Moulded rubber soles and heels for footwear (except for captive consumption)
140T	303842009	Toys excluding electronic toys
141	30390101	Flexible Polyurethane foam
142	30390201	Polyurethane shoe soles
145(4)	303904047	Plastic toys excluding electronic toys
384	340902	Shoe tacks
385	340903	Shoe eyelets
802	389301	Mechanical toys

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, fourteen items meant for small scale industries have been de-reserved. The hon'ble Minister and the whole House is aware of the fact that foreign goods specially made in China, Taiwan and Philippines are being imported in the country. Thus thousands of small-scale units are on the verge of closure in our country and millions of labourers are being rendered jobless. I thank the hon'ble Minister for opposing the issue of dereserving the 14 items meant for small-scale units in the sub committee of the Group of Ministers. The hon'ble Minister of Finance, Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Minister of Industry forcefully raised the issue of de-reserving the 14 items meant for small scale industry in the committee headed by Shri Advaniji. The hon'ble Minister is Marathi speaking and she explained the position. From economic point of view and plight of small-scale units, I would like to know from the

hon'ble Minister as to whether she proposes to take up the issue with the hon'ble Prime Minister to get this decision reversed?

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, this is a complete myth that the small scale industry is dying. I would like to point out here that it is a very dynamic sector. It has its own inherent strength and it is a very resilient sector. This is borne out by the fact that today the sector is growing despite the fact that there has been an industrial slow down. In 1998, it was growing at the rate of 7 per cent. In 2000-2001, it has gone over 8 per cent. From time to time, de-reservations have been made. De-reservation was made in 1997 in respect of 15 items.

I have to point out to you here that we did an impact assessment study, the report of which has just only come. They commissioned the study in December 2000. The

result has just come in. On a cursory glance, we find that there is by and large a positive impact of de-reservation in respect of those 15 items. In any case, we are very careful. Since the time this Ministry has been born, since the inception of this Ministry, we are making it a point to have detailed discussions and consultations with the sector concerned. So, whether it was the garment sector with which we had discussions in August or September 2000, or whether it was the toy sector with whom we had a discussion, or whether it was the leather sector with which we had a discussion in February, 2001, we did not do anything without consultation or discussion with the particular sector. We also have an Advisory Committee that looks deeply into these aspects and makes recommendations on behalf of the issues relating to the small-scale sector. All of these put together are then taken note of before we go in for any kind of further reservation. We are very careful.

The hon. Member has rightly raised this concern. In this new dispensation of liberalisation and globalisation, we are concerned to see that we are giving supportive measures. We give every bit of support that we can to the small-scale industries because certainly in this age of competition, they have to improve themselves, they have to maintain the quality. Unless these things happen, they will not become competitive; they will not be able to handle the niche market which at the moment they are doing.

I would like to say that even here they are very resilient. They have managed very well. I am sure that they will continue to do so.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put a very pointed second supplementary because there is no time.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : I have not received the reply. My first question was about the difference of opinion between the hon. Minister and the other three Ministers. So, what is the fact? I would like to know the reply from the hon. Minister. This is the first part of my question.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time. Please seek the clarification quickly.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : The hon. Minister has announced a Rs. 12 lakh package in respect of subsidy for the development of technology and other infrastructure. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether she is going to give any other facility in this matter.

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Please give a pointed reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : The small scale industry encompasses various departments including textiles. Therefore, a Half-an-Hour discussion is necessary to address this issue....*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : As far as the question of the hon. Member is concerned, there is no difference of opinion in the Group of Ministers....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : They are asking for a Half-an-Hour discussion.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : In the interest of the country, SSI units and labour, please agree to a Half-an-Hour discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : They are asking for a Half-an-Hour discussion. Have you got any objection.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : I have no objection. How can I object to it?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : How can a Minister object to the Speaker?

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

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Closure of SSI due to WTO Treaty

*246. SHRI J. S. BRAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many Small Scale Industries have closed down during the last one year due to liberal imports from China as a result of WTO treaty;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the impact of this treaty on Indian SSI sector; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken by the Government to revive the closed small scale industrial units?

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) Though China is still not a member of the WTO, it enjoys the Most Favoured nation (MFN) status given to it, on the basis of a reciprocal arrangement. Trade data reveal that while imports from China during the last three years have grown at an average rate of around 20%, exports from India to China during the same period have witnessed an average growth rate of 46%. The Government is fully aware of the WTO environment and is taking appropriate measures for preparing the SSI Sector to meet the challenges of liberalisation and globalisation. Data regarding closed units is not maintained centrally.

Diabetes

*247. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the number of patients suffering from diabetes;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for such an increase;

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to create awareness among the general public to guard against spread of this disease;

(d) whether some research has been conducted on how to control the complications arising from diabetes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (e) According to Indian Council

of Medical Research, there is epidemiological evidence showing increase in prevalence of diabetes, particularly in urban areas of the country. Various combined factors like population ageing, unhealthy diets, and obesity and sedentary life style are mainly reported to be responsible for increase in diabetes mellitus.

Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB) has strategies/programmes including use of powerful electronic media to spread Health messages to increase Public Health awareness about diabetes. 'Health Melas' also contribute to Public Awareness in this regard. CHEB is also holding Orientation Training courses to provide diabetes education to health care professionals.

It has been reported that the research conducted in this regard indicates that there is strong evidence that diabetic complications can be prevented by meticulous control of diabetes. It has also been demonstrated conclusively that the efficacy of life style modification facilitates in reducing the incidence of clinically overt diabetes.

[Translation]

Doctors in Rural Areas

*248. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to make it mandatory for fresh MBBS doctors to work in rural areas for atleast three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, the Central Government have no proposal to make it mandatory for fresh MBBS doctors to work in rural areas. However, some of the State Governments have made it obligatory for doctors to work in rural areas.

(c) Since the appointment and postings of doctors is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to take appropriate steps to fill up the vacancies of doctors in rural areas. In pursuance of the

Resolution of the 6th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, held in 1999, the states have been advised to take the following steps to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas :

- * To resort to decentralized recruitment of doctors.*
- * To appoint doctors on contract basis, wherever feasible.*
- * To improve infrastructural facilities for doctors and remove their hardships.*
- * To take steps to fill up vacancies of Specialists in CHCs and Medical Officers in PHCs by making rural service obligatory for 3 years.*
- * To consider reserving 25% of post graduate seats in Medical Colleges, for in-service candidates who have worked in rural areas for atleast three years with a bond that they will serve the Government for at least five years.*

[English]

India's Candidature for Security Council

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

- (a) the parameters adopted by the UN for the Membership of Security Council;
- (b) whether India fulfils these parameters;
- (c) if so, the results of the efforts made by the Government of India to secure membership of the security Council; and
- (d) the latest assessment made by the Government about the possibility in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) An Open Ended Working Group (OEWG), set up in 1993, in the UN General Assembly (UNGA) has been considering all aspects of the question of an increase in the membership of the UN Security Council since January 1994. So far, discussions in the OEWG and the annual debate in the UNGA have not led to any agreement on the

parameters for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.

India declared its candidature for permanent membership of the UNSC in 1994 in the UNGA. We believe that India is qualified by any objective criteria to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

The question of support for India's candidature for permanent membership to the UN Security Council has been taken up at various levels. There is growing momentum in support of Indian candidature. Of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, Russia and France have consistently supported India's candidature. France has stated that India is naturally destined to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and that France supports and will support Indian candidature. Russia has stated that the Russian Federation considers India a strong and worthy candidate for a permanent membership seat in the Security Council should it be decided to enlarge the Council in both categories. A US official has stated that "there is no question that India is a very strong contender for permanent membership of the Security Council. Its size, role in the world, its economy, its contribution to UN peace keeping, all these make it a very serious and strong contender". The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary of the UK, during a visit to India, said that he sees "India as a natural contender for permanent membership of the UN Security Council". Ten countries have publicly expressed support for our candidature at the UN. Many others have indicated support bilaterally.

UN Programme on AIDS

*250. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

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

- (a) whether the recent Conference at UN on AIDS has adopted a blueprint to fight AIDS in the world;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposed resolution passed by the UN;
- (c) whether India has agreed to implement the recommendations made in the aforesaid resolution; and

(d) whether UN has agreed to provide financial help and assistance to India in meeting the AIDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) to (d) The UN General Assembly's Special Session on HIV and AIDS was held on 25-27th June, 2001 to review and address problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects as well as to secure a global commitment to Enhancing coordination and intensification of National, Regional and International efforts to combat spread of HIV/AIDS in a comprehensive manner. The main components of the declaration of commitment are : (i) Strong leadership at all level of society for effective response to the epidemic; (ii) Prevention must be the main stay of response; (iii) Care, support and treatment of People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA); (iv) Respect for the rights of People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA); (v) Reducing vulnerability; (vi) Special assistance to children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS; (vii) Alleviating social and economic impact; (viii) Promotion of research and development; (ix) Special attention to conflict and disaster affected regions; (x) Additional and sustained resources and maintaining momentum and monitoring progress.

India is signatory of UN Declaration of Commitment of HIV/AIDS and agrees to implement the recommendations made in the aforesaid Declaration of Commitment.

United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS has decided to set up a global AIDS and Health fund to provide financial assistance to the developing countries affected by HIV/AIDS epidemic, including India.

Margin Money Scheme

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

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) had launched the 'Margin Money Scheme' for setting up agro based and other rural industries;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Scheme;

(c) the number of units set up under the Scheme so far, State-wise; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the Scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) With effect from the financial year 1995-96, the KVIC introduced a Margin Money Scheme for financing viable Village Industries projects. The Scheme 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. The State-wise projects sanctioned under Margin Money Scheme as on 31.3.2000 is given in the enclosed Statement. The details of Margin Money advances placed with Nationalised Banks and State KVIBs as on May, 2001 are as under :

Heads	Margin Money Advance Placed*	Margin Money Utilised*
1. Nationalised Banks	Rs. 213.07 Crores	Rs. 189.90 Crores
2. State KVIBs	Rs. 116.00 Crores	Rs. 79.00 Crores

*It does not include funds spent from V. I. grant.

Statement

Project sanctioned under Margin Money Scheme as on 31.3.2000

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	3552
2	Arunachal Pradesh	96
3	Assam	81

1	2	3
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
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	Tamil Nadu	1298
23	Tripura	1
24	Uttar Pradesh	2221
25	West Bengal	8090
26	Andaman & Nicobar	87
27	Delhi	134
28	Chandigarh	20
29	Dadra Nagar Haveli	1
30	Pondicherry	827

1	2	3
31	Lakshadweep	0
32	Daman & Diu	0
Total		65762

**Use of Information Technology in
Rural Areas**

*252. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Schemes/Programmes initiated by the Union Government for enhancement and improvement of the use of information technology particularly in rural areas;

(b) the funds allocated for the above purpose during the current year i.e. 2001-2002;

(c) the achievement made in this regard so far;

(d) whether any monitoring has been done by the Union Government in respect of these Schemes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The details of Schemes/Programmes are given in the enclosed Statement. An amount of Rs. 6917.905 lakhs has been allocated for this purpose during the year 2001-2002.

(d) and (e) Each project has a Project Review and Steering Group (PGSG). Members of the PGSG are selected from relevant disciplines including implementation and user side, for monitoring of projects by 3 monthly on-site meeting with the Chief Investigator and project staff. Status reports are discussed and demonstrations of current achievements are given. The comments/suggested actions of the members are recorded for further processing.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project	Location	Status	Total Outlay (Rs. in Lakhs)	Fund allocation for 2001-02 (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Information System for Irrigation and Command Area Development 4 (3)/2000-MAEP	Implemented by CMC Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh Irrigation	Ongoing	832.17	45.00
2.	An Integrated Information System using Text, Graphics and Audio through Samadhan Kendras for the Development of Rural Community in West Godavari Distt. of Andhra Pradesh 1 (6)/99	Implemented at Indian Institute of Chemical Technology Hyderabad (IICT), Andhra Pradesh	Preliminary Study conducted and report received	22.34	8.08
3.	Establishment of Village Information-Cum-Counselling centres at Lugyakhedi Pachayat of Tarana Block of Ujjain Distt. (MP) 1 (16)/98	Implemented at National Centre for Human Settlements and Environment Bhopal (NCHSE), Madhya Pradesh	Preliminary Study conducted and report received	15.47	6.10
4.	IT for Integrated Rural Development (Samadhan Centers) 1 (4)/99	implemented at Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwa Vidyalaya Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh	Preliminary Study conducted and report received	17.64	3.90
5.	Multimedia Software for Implementation of available Agricultural Technologies for various crops (1)/99	Implemented at Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya (JNKVV) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	Ongoing	29.66	7.00
6.	Canal Control and Communication in Irrigation Phase-II 1(9) (12)/98-MAEP	Implemented by CMC Ltd. at Khadakwasala Irrigation Canal Pune, Maharashtra	Ongoing	301.75	26.00
7.	Design for Solar cum Electrical Dryer 1 (15)/98	Central Plantation Crop Research Institute Kerala	Ongoing	4.20	NIL
8.	Automation of Okhla Waste (Sewerage) Water Treatment Plant Project 1 (11)/98-MAEP/SAO	Implemented by ECIL Hyderabad at Okhla Sewerage Treatment Plant, Delhi	Ongoing	853.65	121.825
9.	Solar Powered Grain Moisture measurement system	ER&DC Noida	Completed	15	NIL
10.	Electronic Monitoring and control system for mushroom cultivation process	CEERI Pillani	Completed	44.30	NIL
11.	Community Information Centres	NICSI	Ongoing	22000 (estimated cost)	6700

Action Plan to Stabilise Population

*253. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have urged the States to submit their action plane to stabilize population growth;

(b) if so, the number of States who have already submitted their action plans;

(c) whether these action plans have been examined by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to monitor the population control action plan by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) After the adoption of the National Population Policy, 2000, the States were requested to set up State Population Commissions/Councils and to formulate State Population Policies to effectively deal with various issues relating to population stabilization in each State. Whereas 13 States have set up their Population Commissions/Councils, others are in the process of doing so. To help operationalise the on-going policies/programmes and recognizing the wide inter State and intra State differences, they have been advised to prepare District Action Plans for the identified high fertility areas for improving the socio-economic and demographic indicators affecting population growth. In addition, the reproductive and child health programmes of the Department of Family Welfare and Externally Aided projects in some States are based on the Annual Action Plans prepared at the district and State level. Though the implementation/monitoring of the State Population Policies is mainly the responsibility of the respective State Governments, the issues relating to National Socio-Demographic goals as indicated in the National Population Policy, 2000 remain the concern of the Union Government and the national Commission on

Population of which all the Chief Ministers are also Members.

NBCFDC

*254. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether out of Rs. 400 crores allocated during the 9th Plan for National Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation (NBCFDC) only 191.50 crores have been utilised till February 2001;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that State Governments are not making available their matching share for implementing the Scheme; and

(d) if so, steps taken/being taken by Union Government to utilize the amount in full and ask the State Governments to give their due share in time for effective implementation of the Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Out of Rs. 400.00 crores allocated during the Ninth Plan for National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC), Rs. 191.50 crores have been sanctioned and released towards Share Capital upto February, 2001 during the Ninth Plan Period. With Rs. 198.90 crores released earlier towards Share Capital of NBCFDC, the total Paid-up Capital of the Corporation is Rs. 390.40 crores. As NBCFDC has over Rs. 100.00 crores as unutilized funds available with it, release of further amount to NBCFDC would depend upon the utilization of funds available with the Corporation. Non-release of further funds has, however, not in any way adversely affected the activities of the NBCFDC as it has sufficient funds at its disposal.

(c) and (d) There is no provision for matching share from the State Governments/UT Administrations towards the Share Capital of the Corporation.

[Translation]

**Efficiency and Accountability of
Bureaucracy**

*255. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister emphasized the need to make changes in the working of the bureaucracy during the meeting with Administrative Officers and Secretaries; and

(b) if so, the efforts made by the Government to make the bureaucracy more responsible and public oriented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Prime Minister did not address any such meeting of Administrative Officers and Secretaries. However, the Government have taken several steps in the recent past to improve the accountability and efficiency of the bureaucracy as also the quality of the public service delivery. Some of these steps are listed as follows :

(i) The Government have taken up simplification of laws, rules and procedures to improve efficiency. The Government had set up a Commission on Review of Administrative Laws in May, 1998 to make recommendations for repeal/amendment of laws to improve service delivery and transparency in the functioning of the Government. The Commission submitted its report in September, 1998. Important recommendations of the Commission include repeal of almost 50% of Central Laws (1382 out of 2500), documentation of Administrative Laws by all Ministries/Departments etc. Most of the Ministries have initiated action to bring about suitable amendments/modifications in or repeal of Administrative Acts and Laws being administered by them. 33 Acts, including three Ordinances, have been repealed so far.

(ii) A large number of Ministries/Departments/Organisations with considerable public interface have introduced Citizen's Charters indicating broadly the quality of service the people would be entitled to within a specified time-frame. So far, 68 Citizen's Charters have been formulated by various Ministries/Departments etc. Informa-

tion & Facilitation or Help Counters have been set up by 71 Ministries/Departments/Central Government organisations to provide information on procedures, programmes and schemes of the concerned organisations as well as to access information pertaining to the status of individual cases.

(iii) A High Powered Committee has been set up with the specific objective of improving administrative efficiency by using Information Technology in Government. Action has been taken, inter alia, to designate a Joint Secretary level officer as IT Manager in every Ministry/Department. 72 IT Managers have so far been appointed/nominated in various Ministries/Departments. The Ministries/Departments have been asked to implement a Minimum Agenda for e-Governance which includes setting up of LAN, 100% training to all staff who have access to computers, setting up of Learning centers for decentralised training in computers, institution of websites etc.

(iv) The Freedom of Information Bill, 2000 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on July 25, 2000.

(v) Steps have also been taken in the recent past to make the vigilance machinery more effective. These include strengthening the institution of Central Vigilance Commission.

2. The Department of Personnel & Training organizes regular programmes for training of the officers of the Government of India and State Governments as also the Public Sector Undertakings with a view to upgrade their knowledge and skills.

[English]

Scheme for Rural Information Technology

*256. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the present status of the plan to build a rural information technology net-work;

(b) whether it is a fact that the first phase of new project has run into trouble; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) There is no plan to build up a rural information technology network. However, the Ministry of Information Technology has undertaken a project for setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) for socio-economic development of the community in the North Eastern Region. 30 CICs have been set up under this pilot project at sites selected by the State Governments which are located mostly in urban and semi-urban areas of seven North East States and Sikkim.

(b) and (c) After completion of the pilot project, the next phase of the project has been undertaken for which requisite procedural, financial and administrative approval, including approval of expenditure finance committee are being obtained. There is no trouble/problem in obtaining the aforesaid approval.

Social Awareness

*257. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA :

SHRI G. GANGA RADDY :

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

(a) the details of films funded by the Ministry during the last two years to create social awareness amongst the people in the country;

(b) whether the desired objectives were achieved; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) With a view to creating social awareness on health, family welfare and related issues, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has produced six long duration films viz., Hari Bhari, Kairee, Kal Ka Aadmi, Daman, Bitiya in Hindi and Iniya Udhayam in Tamil through National Films Development Corporation (NFDC) during the last two years.

Apart from this, short films have been produced as under :

(i) Ahsaas (Hindi)

(ii) Dolma (Hindi)

(iii) Kargil Swasthya Mela (Hindi)

(iv) Katghar (Hindi)

(v) Mahananda (Bengali)

(vi) Two films for promoting iodised salt consumption.

(vii) Film on the Family Health Awareness Campaign (Hindi and English)

(viii) Dharohar (Film on Home Remedies in Ayurveda).

(ix) Shuchita (Film on Yoga and Naturopathy) Shatkarma

(x) Prakriti Ke Saath (Film on Yoga and Naturopathy) Swasth Rehne ke Nesargic Upaya.

(xi) Asha ki Ek Kiran (Film on Homoeopathy) Cataract.

(xii) Phool Jab Kumhlane Lage (Film on Homoeopathy) for treatment of allergy.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Eight films have been released in States as under :

(i) Kairee – Maharashtra.

(ii) Hari Bhari – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh

(iii) Daman – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Orissa, Assam and Andhra Pradesh and Satellite channel (ZeeTV)

(iv) Ahsaas – Doordarshan Channel.

(v) Kargil Swasthya Mela – Theatrical release all over the country.

(vi) Two films on Iodised Salt – Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Nagaland, Manipur, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Chhattis-

garh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir.

(vii) Film on Family – Shown to States AIDS Control Health Awareness Societies Campaign

Apart from exhibition through theatres in major towns, most of the films including the short ones, reach remote/rural areas through the Units of Directorate of Field Publicity, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and T.V. channels.

Integrated Programme for Street Children

*258. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have introduced an Integrated Programme for Street Children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated for the above programme during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02, State-wise;
- (d) whether some State Governments have not fully utilised the funds allocated for the purpose;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to implement the integrated programme for street children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The objective of this programme is to prevent destitution of children and facilitate their withdrawal from life on the streets. The programme provides for shelter, nutrition, health care,

education, recreation facilities to street children and seeks to protect them against abuse and exploitation. The target group of this programme is children without homes and family ties. In addition to voluntary organizations, State Governments, UT Administration, local bodies and educational institutions are also eligible for the financial assistance from the Government under this programme which is upto 90% of the cost of the project.

(c) No State-wise allocation is made. However, the total Budget allocation for the programme during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 was Rs. 9.00 crores, Rs. 9.50 crores and Rs. 10.80 crores, respectively.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds for Development of Health

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

- (a) the amount provided to each State particularly Chattisgarh during the current year for the improvement of health of its people;
- (b) whether the work done by the State Governments is reviewed by the Centre;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the per capita amount spent on health in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) A statement showing funds allocated/released to States/UTs including Chattisgarh during the current year is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The disease control programmes implemented by States are regularly reviewed through periodic reports, meetings and field visits.

(d) Per Capita Expenditure on Health (both Government and Private) at current market prices during 1998-99 was Rs. 808 out of which Rs. 138 pertains to Government. Figures for later years are not available.

Statement*Funds Allocated/Released to States/UTs during 2001-2002*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No. (1)	States/UTs (2)	NAMP (3)	NPCB (4)		NACP (5)	RNTCP (6)	NLEP (7)		Total (8)
			(a)	(b)			(a)	(b)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	244.78	345.00	190.00	400.00	714.95	139.99	40.00	2074.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	473.28	23.15	—	100.00	24.14	14.00	25.00	659.57
3.	Assam	2994.28	31.50	9.00	200.65	314.19	23.00	25.00	3597.62
4.	Bihar	62.43	20.00	5.00	300.00	524.77	226.69	90.00	1228.89
5.	Jharkhand	592.23	15.30	—	—	40.71	100.00	50.00	798.24
6.	Goa	5.43	10.70	—	70.00	1.34	1.50	5.00	93.97
7.	Gujarat	185.42	30.00	2.00	300.00	1403.19	113.20	25.00	2058.81
8.	Haryana	38.56	25.00	12.00	100.00	202.70	6.20	20.00	404.46
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10.60	24.00	5.00	100.00	176.56	10.00	20.00	346.16
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	16.37	62.70	—	50.00	14.65	12.80	30.00	186.52
11.	Karnataka	282.01	80.20	75.00	450.65	667.75	88.00	—	1643.61
12.	Kerala	20.80	55.50	25.00	268.00	968.93	124.00	40.00	1502.23
13.	Madhya Pradesh	381.04	274.00	123.00	200.00	244.42	90.50	70.00	1382.96
14.	Chhattisgarh	648.70	127.00	35.00	—	45.92	99.30	50.00	1005.92
15.	Maharashtra	500.18	685.00	108.00	300.00	1433.45	190.03	25.00	3241.66
16.	Manipur	364.61	31.15	—	240.00	242.49	5.00	25.00	908.25
17.	Meghalaya	397.91	12.50	1.50	50.00	4.99	5.00	20.00	491.90
18.	Mizoram	520.67	23.80	1.50	100.00	1.91	16.00	15.00	678.88
19.	Nagaland	351.74	30.65	16.50	300.00	3.50	7.00	25.00	734.39
20.	Orissa	304.49	200.00	100.00	200.00	358.13	233.22	70.00	1465.84
21.	Punjab	27.15	37.20	8.00	100.00	88.42	10.00	10.00	280.77
22.	Rajasthan	231.44	815.00	55.00	150.00	1574.78	42.00	10.00	2878.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Sikkim	0.11	5.60	—	75.00	1.12	10.00	10.00	101.83
24.	Tamil Nadu	57.50	774.00	—	650.00	1888.73	88.60	30.00	3488.83
25.	Tripura	567.06	41.65	6.00	75.00	7.65	11.00	—	708.36
26.	Uttaranchal	44.75	100.00	40.00	—	24.67	55.50	50.00	314.92
27.	Uttar Pradesh	511.68	580.00	155.00	500.65	836.10	233.97	90.00	2907.40
28.	West Bengal	299.78	39.40	40.00	419.00	1449.12	219.50	50.00	2516.80
29.	Pondicherry	17.86	—	1.50	50.00	26.46	2.00	10.00	107.82
30.	Delhi	94.14	—	3.00	230.00	310.85	2.00	18.00	657.99
31.	A & N Islands	225.01	—	—	50.00	0.47	2.00	10.00	287.48
32.	Chandigarh	38.70	—	—	100.65	1.34	1.50	5.00	147.19
33.	D & N Havelli	40.67	—	—	25.00	0.33	3.00	5.00	74.00
34.	Lakshadweep	9.93	—	—	25.00	1.00	2.00	5.00	42.93
35.	Daman & Diu	15.69	—	—	25.00	0.27	10.50	5.00	56.46
Total		10577.00	4500.00	1017.00	6204.60	13600.00	2199.00	978.00	39075.60

NAMP — National Anti-Malaria Programme (Allocation) excluding EAC component of Rs. 100 crore.

NPCB — National Programme for Control of Blindness [4(a) Allocation; 4(b) Amount released to States/District Control Societies so far].

NACP — National AIDS Control Programme (Funds released so far)

RNTCP — Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (Allocation)

NLEP — National Leprosy Eradication Programme [7(a) Allocation; 7(b) Amount released to State/District Leprosy Societies so far]
Additional amounts will be released during the course of the year on requirement basis and are largely earmarked for endemic States—Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Jharkhand.

[English]

Committee on Ex-servicemen

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems of Ex-servicemen as has been brought out in the Dainik Tribune of April 17, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering appointing a high level Committee to look into the problems being faced by them;

(c) if so, when would such a Committee be constituted; and

(d) the other measures being taken to resolve the problems of Ex-servicemen?

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

(b) to (d) In the wake of Kargil operation, a Committee was constituted in August 1999 under the Chairmanship of Raksha Mantri to evolve a National Policy for the Welfare of Jawans and Ex-Servicemen. The Union Finance Minister and Chief Ministers of six States are the members of the Committee.

Besides this, the Kendriya Sainik Board, the Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards have been set up to

resolve the problems of ex-servicemen and their dependents.

[Translation]

Court Martial of Naval Officers

2519. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of officers were court martialed but not punished as reported in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 19.5.2001;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check corruption prevailing in the Navy; and

(c) the number of the naval officers court martialed during the last five years and the reasons therefor and the number of the naval officers penalized out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (c) The personnel whose names have been mentioned in the news report in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 19.5.2001 had been tried by due process of law and, therefore, there was no scope for any further action. Individual cases of corruption which come to the notice of the authorities are dealt with according to law. During the last five years, a total of 54 officers were court martialed. Of these, 45 officers were found guilty and punished and the remaining 9 officers were acquitted. The reasons for trial by Court Martial of these officers are as under :

Navy Act, 1957

Section 41 for negligent performance of duties

Section 48 for striking a junior

Section 49 for desertion

Section 51 for absence without leave

Section 54 for fraudulent conduct

Section 55 for hazarding ship

Section 57 for taking unauthorized goods on board ships

Section 60 for falsification of official documents

Section 68 for contravention of order

Section 70 for fraudulent entry in the Navy

Section 71 for escaping from lawful custody

Section 74 for act against good order and naval discipline

Indian Penal Code

Section 177 for furnishing false information to Investigating Officer

Section 193 for furnishing false information to Court Martial

Section 204 for destruction of evidence

Section 304-A for causing death by rash and negligent driving

Section 325 for causing grievous hurt

Section 354 for using criminal force with intent to outrage modesty

Section 379 for theft

Section 403 for dishonest misappropriation

Section 409 for criminal breach of trust

Section 420 for cheating

Section 452 for house trespass

Section 497 for adultery

Section 498/304-B for causing dowry death

Section 506 for threatening with grievous hurt

Foreign Exchange Regulation Act

Section 8 and 56 for receiving US Dollars towards sale proceeds at foreign ports

Section 13(2) and 67 for carrying personal cash to foreign ports more than authorized sum

Section 13(1) and 67 for bringing US Dollars to India

Prevention of Corruption Act

Section 7 for accepting illegal gratification.

[English]

CBI Raids against Government Officials

2520. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of raids conducted by the CBI against Government officials to unearth the illegal money gathered by them through corruption/corrupt means during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the action taken thereon;

(c) whether cases have also come to light that some senior authorities have misused their position to financially benefit some persons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), it has carried out 855 raids at the residential/office premises of public servants in 408 cases during the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and Upto 30.06.2001. The details of the raids are as under :

	1998	1999	2000	Upto 30.6.2001
No. of cases	120	88	129	71
No. of searches conducted	200	205	300	150

Out of the 408 cases in which searches were carried out, charge-sheets have been filed in the courts in 169 cases, 41 cases have been recommended for Regular Departmental Action, 7 cases have been closed and 3 cases have been referred to the Departments concerned

for such action as deemed fit. Remaining 188 cases are under investigation.

(c) to (e) During the year 1998, 1999, 2000 and upto 30.6.2001, the CBI has registered 239 cases against senior authorities, i.e., officers of the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India and above and comparable ranks in PSUs and other Government Organisations. Out of the 239 cases, charge sheets have been filed in 48 cases, 35 cases have been recommended for Regular Departmental Action, 2 cases have been referred to the Departments concerned for such action as deemed fit and 10 cases have been closed. 144 cases are under investigation.

Health Schemes

2521. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a widespread demand for the extension/development of Central Government Health Scheme facilities in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand;

(b) whether any representations have been received from these States by the Union Government in this regard;

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

(d) whether there are any laboratories under the Central Government Health Scheme in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) if so, the locations thereof;

(f) if not, whether the Government propose to set up such laboratories there;

(g) if so, by when; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Government Departments, various Central Government Employees Associations and Pensioners Associations have approached the Ministry of Health for extension of CGH Scheme in the following cities of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand :

(i) Vadodara (Gujarat) for extension of CGHS facilities.

(ii) Varanasi (U.P.) for extension of CGHS facilities.

(iii) Kanpur (U.P.) for opening of an additional CGHS dispensary.

(vi) Ranchi (Jharkhand) for extension of CGHS facilities to all Central Govt. employees as the facilities presently available are only to the employees of AG's office, Ranchi, who are meeting all the expenses for the said dispensary.

(c) Opening of new dispensaries under CGHS require 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 Govt. to open new dispensaries under the CGHS at present.

(d) and (e) The CGHS has Pathological Laboratories in the following cities of Uttar Pradesh :

(i) Allahabad—in one Polyclinic.

(ii) Lucknow—2 (one in Polyclinic and one in dispensary)

(iii) Kanpur—3 (one in Polyclinic and two in dispensaries)

(iv) Meerut—in one dispensary

(f) to (h) In view of (d) and (e) above, the questions do not arise.

Speed Post Passport Service

2522. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maharashtra has introduced Speed Post Passport Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the main features thereof; and

(c) the time by which this service is likely to be extended to other parts of the country?

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

(b) The facility to accept completed passport applications at speed post centres was launched from 5 March 2001 *inter alia* in the jurisdiction of RPO Mumbai. Applicants can submit their forms at designated speed post centres on payment of a service charge of Rs. 100.

(c) It has been decided to extend these services to all speed post centres in the country this year.

Special Panel for CBI Cases

2523. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a special panel to monitor cases pending with CBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the terms and reference of the panel;

(c) the number of cases pending with CBI as on date; and

(d) the extent to which the panel is likely to help CBI in disposing of pending cases?

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) The number of cases with CBI under investigation and pending trial as on 30.6.2001 were 1781 and 6167 respectively.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Medicine Methods

2524. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to revamp medical curriculum in the country by introducing modern medicine with alternative healing methods;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Medical Council of India (MCI) would introduce the new disciplines in the integrated M.B.B.S. courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The Government of India have requested the Medical Council of India to consider including the basic principles and concepts of Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani in the curriculum of MBBS students. The Council has constituted a Sub-committee to consider the matter, the report of which is awaited.

[English]

Protest by Central Government Employees

2525. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the confederation of the Central Government Employees and Workers had observed July 18, 2001 as a protest day;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith their demands;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to redress their girevances?

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) It has come to the notice that some sections of the Central Government employees, affiliated to the Confederation of the Central Government Employees and Workers, had observed July 18, 2001 as anti-privatisation day to protest against the

economic and labour policies of the Central Government, including privatization, downsizing in Government departments, curtailment of fiscal benefits. As part of the protest, the employees organized demonstrations, dharmas, rallies, processions and meetings at various places.

(c) and (d) With the object of promoting harmonious relations and of securing the greatest measures of cooperation between the Government, in its capacity as employer, and the general body of its employees, Government had, in consultation with the Staff Side, established in 1966 the scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for Central Government employees. Under this Scheme, a well-defined machinery already exists to settle matters of common concern, including service conditions of employees and other related issues, through the process of negotiation and arbitration. The issues raised in the Charter of Demands can be considered through this mechanism and the Staff Side have already given an agenda item thereon for the next meeting.

Social Security for Senior Citizens

2526. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

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

(a) whether there has been increase in number of Senior Citizens in the country;

(b) whether there is any social security programme for Senior Citizens;

(c) If so, the details of such programmes;

(d) whether there is any proposal to bring forward a suitable legislation to protect them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Under the Ministry's scheme "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons" financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishment and maintenance of the following :

- Old Age Homes
- Day Care Centres
- Mobile Medicare Units, and also
- To provide Non-institutional services to the older persons.

Under the other "Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons" grant up to Rs. 30 Lakhs is provided to eligible organizations for construction of old age homes and multi service centres for older persons.

Under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), a national Old Age Pension Scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development since 15th August, 1995. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which 100% financial assistance is provided to State Governments for social security in case of old age. According to the revised guidelines, destitute older persons of 65 years or above are eligible for an old age pension of Rs. 75/- per month. The Central Government allocates funds to State Governments for disbursement of the pension.

- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

Consumer Protection Act

2527. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are considering to bring the Government Doctors under the scope of Consumer Protection Act (CPA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which a legislation is likely to be brought before Parliament; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The Government doctors are being kept outside the purview of the Consumer Protection Act 1986 keeping in

view the judgement of the Supreme Court of India dated 13th November, 1995 whereby the Court has held that the Government doctors rendering free services would not fall within the ambit of services under Section 2(1) (O) of the Consumer Protection Act.

[Translation]

Employment through KVIC in Bihar

2528. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide employment to the people in rural areas especially in Bihar through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of the persons given employment during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the people are being given less salary in proportion to the work rendered by them; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the percolation of proper benefits to the rural folks?

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 is promoting various programmes for the development of Khadi and Village Industries through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to create employment opportunities in rural areas. It provides financial assistance to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) which in turn provides financial assistance to the Khadi and Village Industries in the form of Rebate, Interest subsidy and Margin Money. Under the Margin Money Scheme 25% of project cost is provided as margin money. For project cost above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakh plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For the weaker sections, margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakh and for the balance amount it is 10%. Khadi and Village

Industries programmes are being implemented in all the States of the country including the State of Bihar.

(b) A Statement showing the State-wise cumulative employment generated under KVI programme is attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The State-wise Cumulative Employment generated under KVI Programme

(Employment in lakh persons)

S. No.	States/Union Territories	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.59	3.60	3.59	3.47
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	0.01	*	*
3.	Assam	1.13	1.11	1.25	1.21
4.	Bihar	3.50	3.75	3.80	3.26
5.	Goa	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.07
6.	Gujarat	1.07	1.07	1.01	0.96
7.	Haryana	0.95	0.92	0.91	0.90
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.93	0.79	0.83	0.82
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.85	0.96	1.23	1.08
10.	Karnataka	1.98	2.33	2.42	2.12
11.	Kerala	2.12	2.32	2.08	2.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.25	1.16	1.29	1.45
13.	Maharashtra	4.76	4.00	4.65	5.04
14.	Manipur	0.43	0.42	0.42	0.54
15.	Meghalaya	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.18
16.	Mizoram	0.11	0.12	0.15	0.13
17.	Nagaland	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.20
18.	Orissa	2.05	2.10	1.98	1.71

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Punjab	1.85	1.84	1.73	1.75
20.	Rajasthan	4.06	4.41	4.33	4.38
21.	Sikkim	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.04
22.	Tamil Nadu	11.38	10.91	11.16	11.04
23.	Tripura	0.26	0.27	0.23	0.24
24.	Uttar Pradesh	11.61	10.21	10.51	12.00
25.	West Bengal	3.61	3.51	4.05	4.26
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	*	*	*	*
27.	Chandigarh	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.11
28.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	*	*	*	-
29.	Daman & Diu	*	*	*	*
30.	Delhi	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.18
31.	Lakshadweep	*	*	*	*
32.	Pondicherry	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05
Total		58.17	56.50	58.29	59.23

*Less than 500

[English]

Category-wise Representation in Service

2529. COL (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Government employees working in Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, category-wise;

(b) the number of employees belonging to Sca/ STs/OBCs working in the Ministry, category-wise;

(c) the number of vacant posts for SCs/STs/OBCs in the Ministry category-wise and dates from which these are vacant as on 31 March, 2001;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action to implement the O.M. of Ministry of Personnel,

Public Grievances and Pensions dated 29 August, 1997 to clear the backlog and fill up the vacant reserved posts of SCs/STs/OBCs;

(e) If so, details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken so far in this regard by the Government?

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

Category	Total No. of Employees
A	40
B	126
C	118
D	73

(b)

Category	SC	ST	OBC
A	04	02	Nil
B	23	04	4
C	25	05	10
D	23	01	02

(c)

Category	SC	ST	OBC
A	Nil	Nil	Nil
B	1 (May, 2000)	1 (Dec, 2000)	2 (May, 2000)
C	3 (May, 2000)	3 (June, 2000)	7 (May, 2000)
D	Nil	Nil	Nil

(d) to (f) The Ministry intimated vacancies to DOPT from time to time to fill up the backlog and current vacancies keeping in view the 50% limit on reservation as per the provisions contained in Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions O.M., dated 29th August, 1997. Persons were/are being nominated by DOPT on the basis of examination conducted by SSC to fill up the vacancies including reserved categories in DR Quota.

They have been/are being appointed as and when their pre-appointment formalities are completed. The DOPT also nominates candidates in Departmental Exam Quota in various groups on the basis of Examination conducted by UPSC and SSC and thereafter they are appointed by the Ministry. So far as the vacancies in Seniority Quota is concerned, they are filled up on the basis of zone prescribed by DOPT. However as on date, the aforesaid O.M. stands modified.

[Translation]

Below Poverty Line

2530. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the presentage of backward population living below the poverty line in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;

(b) the standard of living in comparison to rest of the population of these States;

(c) the poverty alleviation Schemes being implemented for the backward population of these States; and

(d) the achievements made in this regard so far?

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 Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is available with the Government.

(c) and (d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

The Government of India has set up the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) in January, 1992 with an authorized share capital of Rs. 700.00 crores. The main objective of the Corporation is to promote economic and developmental activities for OBCs and assist them in setting up of viable self-employment ventures and development of entrepreneurial skills. The Corporation provides loans at concessional rate of interest to the poorer sections of OBCs living below double the poverty line (i.e. Rs. 31,952/- per annum in rural areas and Rs. 42,412/- per annum in urban

areas) through State Finance Development Corporations/ State Channelising Agencies nominated by the State Governments.

The amount released to the SCAs of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and number of persons benefitted during last three years is given as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Amount	Beneficiary	Amount	Beneficiary	Amount	Beneficiary
Bihar	990.16	1635	210.74	515	700.00	1145
Uttar Pradesh	1360.38	4123	230.00	460	664.99	1388

In addition, the Government of India is implementing 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) Pre-examination Coaching for OBC students; and

(v) Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for OBCs.

The amount released to the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and number of persons benefitted under the above Centrally Sponsored Schemes during last three years is given as under :

1. Bihar

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Scheme	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Amount	Beneficiary	Amount	Beneficiary	Amount	Beneficiary
1.	Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC students	84.60	10566	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Post-matric Scholarships for OBC Students	196.50	14410	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls	120.53	3(300)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Pre-examination Coaching for OBC Students	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for OBCs	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

2. Uttar Pradesh

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Scheme	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Amount	Beneficiary	Amount	Beneficiary	Amount	Beneficiary
1.	Pre-matric Scholarships for OBC students	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.	Post-matric Scholarships for OBC Students	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	10.20	1
3.	Hostels for OBC Boys & Girls	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Pre-examination Coaching for OBC Students	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for OBCs	5.59	180	25.11	1195	12.10	410

*[English]***Missing Fishermen**

2531. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the plight of the families of 4 fishermen missing since February 8, 2001 while fishing at A1-Khor Coast of Qatar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the diplomatic initiatives made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government's attention has been drawn to the plight of the families of four fishermen hailing from Kanyakumari District in Tamilnadu, who have been missing since 8th February, 2001, while fishing at A1-Khor Coast of Qatar.

(c) After they were reported missing, the Indian Embassy in Doha (Qatar) had taken up the matter with the Qatari authorities requesting them to conduct immediate search operations to trace the whereabouts of these fishermen. The Qatar Coast Guard authorities had undertaken extensive search operations for several days to locate these fishermen, but without any success. Our Embassy has been in constant touch with the authorities in Qatar and are following it up regularly seeking information on their whereabouts.

Apart from the Government of Qatar the matter had also been taken up with the Governments of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Dubai and Abu Dhabi through our Missions.

Russian Assistance in Nuclear Field

2532. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of Russian experts had been in India recently with regard to the establishment of proposed nuclear power plants of 2000 MW capacity in South India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Russian experts have visited India in connection with the finalisation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR)/Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) and negotiation of Techno Commercial Offer received from them, in the context of setting up of 2x1000 MWe VVER type Nuclear Power Plants at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu. The deliberations on Detailed Project Report (DPR)/Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) and Negotiations for Techno Commercial Offer are still in progress.

I. T. Professionals

2533. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Information Technology Professionals are migrating to first world countries every year;

(b) if so, the number of such professionals that have gone abroad during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Trans National demand for I.T. experts is on the increase during the year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No data is available regarding the number of such professionals who have gone abroad.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Confidence Building Measures

2534. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) The confidence building measures taken by the Government during the last three months preceding Indo-Pak Summit at Agra;

(b) whether Pakistan Government has reciprocated in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) On 23rd May 2001, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced that in pursuance of the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration he would invite General Pervez Musharraf, Chief Executive (and currently President) of Pakistan to visit India. To create a conducive environment prior to this visit Government announced several significant initiatives pertaining to peace & security including nuclear and non-nuclear CBMs, people-to-people contact, humanitarian issues, education youth exchanges and trade.

On 4th July, 2001, as steps to further promote people-to-people contacts, Government announced that 20 scholarship will be offered to students from Pakistan in Indian technical institutes; Pakistani poets, academics, writers and artistes would be invited individually and in groups for a month long visit to India as guests of Government; and, groups of Pakistani students (from school and university, boys and girls) will be invited by Government to visit and tour Indian academic establishments. To reduce the hardships faced by poor fishermen, Government instructed the Coast Guard not to take into custody Pakistani fishermen who inadvertently stray into Indian territorial waters. Henceforth, they will be turned back after due warning. The Ministry of Home Affairs was instructed to take expeditious action for the release of Pakistani 'civilian' prisoners after due processes of law. To promote imports from Pakistan, the Ministry of Commerce was instructed to reduce/eliminate tariff on 50 tariff lines.

On 6th July, 2001, Government announced that the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) was being instructed to visit Pakistan to meet his counterpart so that the processes of peace along the LoC and AGPL can be further strengthened and stabilized. Government also proposed that an official level expert dialogue be held for bilateral consultations on security concepts and Nuclear Confidence Building Measures. In addition non-official exchanges on these issues would be encouraged.

On 9th July, 2001, to make travel between India and Pakistan as simple and easy as possible, Government

announced that henceforth Pakistani passport holders will be allowed to come by the road route and obtain visas at the check post at Attari. An additional check post will be opened at Munabao in Rajasthan. Similar check posts will also be opened at designated points along the IB and the LoC in Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Pakistan continues to adhere to its traditionally narrow and unifocal approach to bilateral relations which is fixated on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir. Government are, however, committed to implementing the confidence building measures announced, which when implemented will contribute to the establishment of peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan.

Select List of Selection Grade

2535. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the select list of Selection Grade of the Central Secretariat Service for the year 1993 onwards are due to be issued;

(b) if so, the reasons for inordinate delay; and

(c) the time by which all the pending select list from 1993 onwards are likely to be issued?

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 Select List of Selection Grade of Central Secretariat Service for the year 1993 has been issued on 01.06.2001. The process for preparation of Select List for the year 1994 has been initiated.

(b) and (c) Due to prolonged litigation of Direct Recruit Section Officers and Promotee Section Officers, the preparation of Grade-I Select List got unduly delayed. As the Grade-I of the CSS is the feeder Grade for the Selection Grade of the Service, the Selection Grade Select List also got delayed. No time frame for issuance of pending Select Lists from 1994 onwards can be laid down.

Grade-I Panel of CSS

2536. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the select list of Grade-I Officers of the Central Secretariat Service Officers for the year 1989 and 1990 have been forwarded to the Government for promotion to Grade-I Under Secretaries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have not issued the promotion orders so far;

(c) whether the pay of Central Secretariat Service Officers is proposed to be fixed from the 1st July this year; 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) and (b) The select lists for 1989 and 1990 in respect of Grade-I (Under Secretaries) of Central Secretariat Service (CSS), as finalised in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), have been notified.

(c) and (d) Instructions have been issued to respective cadres for allowing the benefit of fixation of pay to the officers included in the select lists for the years 1989 and 1990 of Under Secretaries, notionally with effect from 1.7.89 and 1.7.90 respectively. The actual benefit of higher pay would, however, accrue to the officers from the dates of their initial appointment as Under Secretary.

[Translation]

Reserved Posts for SC/ST

2537. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the status of 9 and 6 posts reserved for SC and ST respectively lying vacant in Institute of Applied Manpower Research (Planning Commission), I. P. Estate, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Delhi;

(b) the number of posts filled up in the Institute since 1997 and the number of persons belonging to SCs and STs who have been appointed out of them;

(c) whether any post reserved for SCs and STs is lying vacant in the Institute; and

(d) if so, the time by which and the manner in which the vacant posts are proposed to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The number of vacancies in IAMR, reserved for SC and ST, 9 and 6 respectively, was indicated in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1261 answered on 30th July, 1997. These vacancies were based upon "vacancy-based roster system". The Government of India has now introduced post-based roster system in place of vacancy-based system in 1997.

(b) Against the vacancies existing or arising since 1997, 102 appointments including promotions were made and having regard to the instructions of the Government of India on reservation, 8 SC and 2 ST persons were appointed.

(c) In the post of Chief, there are four vacancies to be filled by replacement out of which the fourth replacement has to be made by SC. One vacant post of Operator-III is to be filled up by SC.

(d) The vacancies will be filled up, as early as possible, by following the mode of recruitment viz., (i) by promotion; or (ii) by direct recruitment or (iii) by transfer or deputation, which, as per bye laws of IAMR will be determined, at the time of filling up of the post, by the sanctioning authority for the post.

Hindi in CAT

2538. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the persons who file cases under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 can file their original petitions in Hindi and can also argue their case in Hindi;

(b) if so, the petitions filed originally in Hindi during the last five years, tribunal-wise;

(c) whether the Registration Office of the Central Administrative Tribunal does not accept petitions in Hindi;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the interim orders/final decisions were pronounced by the Tribunal in Hindi during the last five 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) Rule 3(1) of the Central Administrative Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1987 provides that the Language of the Tribunal shall be English provided that the parties to a proceedings before the Tribunal may file documents drawn up in Hindi, if they so desire. A Bench may, in its discretion, can also permit the use of Hindi in the proceedings and a Bench, hearing the matter, may in its discretion direct English translation of pleadings and documents to be filed.

(b) to (d) A statement showing bench-wise petitions filed originally in Hindi during last five years is enclosed.

(e) Rule 3(1) (c) of the Central Administrative Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1987 provides that the Benches may, in their discretion, make final orders either in Hindi or in English. However, no interim orders/final decisions were pronounced by the Tribunal in Hindi during the last five years.

Statement

Bench-wise petitions filed originally in Hindi during last five years in the Central Administrative Tribunal

S.No.	Name of the Bench	Petitions filed in Hindi
1	2	3
1.	Principal Bench	Nil
2.	Ahmedabad Bench	Nil

1	2	3
3.	Allahabad Bench	3
4.	Bangalore Bench	Nil
5.	Calcutta Bench	Nil
6.	Chandigarh Bench	Nil
7.	Chennai Bench	Nil
8.	Cuttack Bench	Nil
9.	Ernakulam Bench	Nil
10.	Guwahati Bench	Nil
11.	Hyderabad Bench	Nil
12.	Jabalpur Bench	3
13.	Jaipur Bench	Nil
14.	Jodhpur Bench	Nil
15.	Lucknow Bench	1
16.	Mumbai Bench	Nil
17.	Patna Bench	Nil

[English]

Quota for Tribals in Government Jobs

2539. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the quota for tribals in the Government job as well as in the public Sector Undertakings in the Scheduled districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

(c) In terms of the Supreme Court Judgement in the Indra Sawhney case, total reservation cannot exceed 50% of the total strength of a cadre.

[Translation]

Patel Commission

2540. SHRI MANOJ SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to implement the recommendations of the Patel Commission for the development of different parts of the country particularly Eastern Uttar Pradesh keeping in view the regional imbalance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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 (c) A joint study team known as Patel Commission was set up in December, 1962, for the development of the four eastern districts of U.P. viz. Ghazipur, Azamgarh, Deoria and Jaunpur. The Patel Commission's recommendations basically related to the Agriculture, Cooperation, Horticulture, Irrigation and Flood control, Minor Irrigation, Industries, and P.W.D. (Roads and Bridges) departments. The State Government has reported that most of the recommendations have been implemented by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Planning and Development of an area and allocation of fund for this purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government.

The State Government have since set up Purvanchal Vikas Nidhi, in 1991, for the development of Eastern region which interalia includes reduction of regional disparities.

Online Vulgarly

2541. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that obscenities and vulgarities are beng openly displayed through certain websites in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any steps to check pornsite and ban such websites;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Sub-Group of Committee of Secretaries (COS) on Security has been constituted to take a comprehensive view on this subject. A public Appeal was Issued in leading newspapers requesting suggestions on this matter. It is though technically not possible to ban all such websites as most of them are hosted outside India.

Employment to Indian I. T.

Professionals to U. K.

2542. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.K.'s Computer Software and Service Association has invited Indian Software Industry for entering into partnership in E-Commerce, Banking, Pharmaceuticals and Telecom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian I. T. professionals are likely to be offered employment in U.K.; and

(d) if so, the number of such professionals likely to be appointed in U.K.?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) National Association of

Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) of India has recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Computer Software and Service Associations (CSSA) of UK, to increase cooperation between the two countries in IT software and services sector. This is likely to increase business to business interactions between two countries, and also off-shore and on-site assignments for IT professionals.

OASIS Committee

2543. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the OASIS Committee dealing with old age security of investments and savings recommended that pension funds should be handed over to private fund managers to make them less of a burden on the Government;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering the feasibility of investing a part of the corpus in the share market to bring in higher returns;

(d) If so, whether the Government recently reduced interest returns to make more capital available to the market; and

(e) If so, the reasons therefore?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The OASIS Committee recommendations are being examined by a Group of Ministers headed by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The Group of Ministers is being serviced by Insurance Division of Department of Economic Affairs.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected.

M.P. Development Proposals

2544. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to

give priority to Lok Sabha M.P.s to submit their development proposals in the border areas constituencies for Border Areas Development Programme or where the Committee to approve such projects shall include border area M.P.s;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Special Central Assistance is allocated under the Border Area Development Programmes to States which have an international land borders. As per the guidelines for the programme, the State Level Screening Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, decides the schemes to be taken up under the programme. Schemes designed to take care of the special problems faced by the people living in the border blocks are taken up for execution. The guidelines stress the need to involve grassroot level institutions such as Panchayati Raj bodies particularly Gram Sabhas in the identification of schemes. The State Governments are required to work out appropriate modalities to ensure greater participation of the people of the border areas in the selection of the schemes.

[Translation]

Extradition Treaty with UAE

2545. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made a formal request to the Government of United Arab Emirates (UAE) to enforce the extradition treaty so as to check terrorism and crimes;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of UAE thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) The Extradition Treaty between the Republic of India and the United Arab Emirates was signed at New Delhi on 25th October, 1999 and has come into force w.e.f. 29.05.2000. Sovereign states are expected to observe the provisions of Treaties signed by them. No separate request to enforce the Treaty has, therefore, been made to the Government of UAE.

[English]

**Scholarship Scheme for
the year 2001**

2546. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Council for Promotion of Employment for Disabled people (NCPEDP) announced its scholarship scheme for the year 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government also have its own such programme for disabled persons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No such information is available with the Ministry as NCPEDP is a privately managed organization.

(c) and (d) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD) extends soft loans to persons with disabilities for pursuing general/professional/technical education for training at graduate and higher levels.

Shortage of IAS Officers

2547. DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of IAS officers in several States of the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As on 1.1.2001 as against the total authorised strength of 5159 in the 24 States/Joint Cadres in the Indian Administrative Service, 5088 officers were in position. The details are indicated in the statement annexed.

(c) The Rules provide for a quinquennial cadre review and in such reviews the functional requirement of the State is taken into consideration. In the promotion posts in some cadres the deficit is mainly on account of ongoing litigations. However, considering the deficit noticed in the direct recruitment posts in the States of Manipur-Tripura, Nagaland and Sikkim, a decision has been taken to step up the direct recruitment in these States from the Civil Services Examination 2000 & 2001.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Cadre	Total Authorised Strength	As on 1.1.2001 Officers in Position
1	2	3	4
01	Andhra Pradesh	314	315
02	AGMUT	232	247
03	Assam-Meghalaya	226	212
04	Bihar	264	246
05	Chhattisgarh	100	93
06	Gujarat	248	227
07	Haryana	212	209
08	Himachal Pradesh	126	126

1	2	3	4
09	Jammu & Kashmir	112	116
10	Jharkhand	129	120
11	Karnataka	248	264
12	Kerala	178	180
13	Madhya Pradesh	296	319
14	Maharashtra	351	343
15	Manipur-Tripura	198	155
16	Nagaland	64	54
17	Orissa	202	203
18	Punjab	193	193
19	Rajasthan	260	239
20	Sikkim	50	40
21	Tamil Nadu	325	329
22	Uttaranchal	68	72
23	Uttar Pradesh	467	484
24	West Bengal	296	302
Total		5159	5088

Fish Finder

2548. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Electronics have developed a Fish Finder to locate fish in the sea;

(b) if so, the details of the "Global Positioning System" (GPS); and

(c) the manner in which it is likely to help in navigation guidance system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (c) Bharat

Electronics has developed an integrated fish finder and navigation guided system which basically consists of a global positioning system receiver and an echo-sounder. The global positioning system is an electronic device receiving satellite transmissions, to determine the geographical position of the platform on which it is located, which in the case of fishing is a boat. It can also be pre-programmed to enable the boat to be navigated to a pre-determined position.

Approval for Projects

2549. CH. TEJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the welfare projects pending with the Union Government for approval at present, Uttar Pradesh in particular;

(b) the details of the projects pending for want of inspection reports from State Government;

(c) the financial assistance sought by NGOs in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The scheme-wise details of the welfare projects which are at various stages of process in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for approval, and the projects where inspection reports from State Governments have not been received, are given in the Statement.

(c) The financial assistance is sought by NGOs according to the norms of the scheme.

(d) There is no specified time for sanction of project. 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 where it is proposed to be set up.

Statement

Scheme-wise details of the welfare projects which are at various stages of process in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for approval, and the projects where inspection reports from State Governments have not been received (As on 05.08.2001)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	No. of the welfare projects which are at various stages of process in the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for approval		No. of the welfare projects where inspection reports from State Governments have not been received	
		All over India	Uttar Pradesh	All over India	Uttar Pradesh
1.	Promote Voluntary Action for persons with Disabilities	60	11	16	3
2.	Assistance to Disabled persons for purchase of Aids/Appliances	37	5	NII	NII
3.	Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance (Drugs) Abuse	18	1	3	1
4.	Grant-in-aid Programme for Assistance in the field of Social Defence	30	2	1	1
5.	Integrated programme for Street Children	20	1	4	1
6.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	79	9	2	NII
7.	Assistance to Panchayati Raj Instts./Vol. Orgns./ Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for Older Persons	17	4	NII	NII
8.	Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Orgns. Working for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes	16	NII	1	NII
9.	Scheme of Assistance to Vol. Orgns. Working for the Other Backward Classes	75	10	NII	NII
10.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for the Other Backward Classes	14	0	4	0
11.	Scheme of Pre-examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria	6	0	2	0
Total		372	43	33	6

Ayurvedic Centre in Moscow

2550. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed to set up a joint Ayurveda Centre in Moscow;

(b) whether Indian Ayurveda experts have been working in Russia; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) As per the information available, a Joint Indo-Russian Centre

on Ayurveda is envisaged to be set up under the Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology (ILTP).

(b) and (c) Three Indian Ayurveda experts are working on an individual contract basis for a private sector clinic "Medical Centre NAAMI-Ayu, Moscow".

Revival of Sick Units

2551. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the viable SSI sick units which were closed down after the super-cyclone in Orissa;

(b) whether the RBI has drawn any revised guidelines for rehabilitation of such sick SSI units in the State; 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) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) guidelines already exist for revival of potentially viable sick SSI units, which are also applicable to those SSI units, which were affected by the super-cyclone in Orissa. RBI's guidelines also exist for rehabilitation of damaged units affected by natural calamities under which certain concessionary facilities can be provided to tiny and small scale sector by way of term loans for repair and renovation of factory buildings/sheds and machinery as also the replacements of damaged parts and working capital for purchase of raw materials and stores, providing further working capital, rephasing of term loans etc.

In addition, the Government also announced on 26th November, 1999, a Relief Package for Small Scale Industries in Orissa, which included a component from SIDBI for providing assistance for revival of the SSI units affected by the super-cyclone. Further, the State Government in cooperation with financial institutions/banks have

conducted a survey of cyclone affected SSI units and have provided cyclone loan assistance for repair and restoration of fixed assets and creation of damaged current assets. Loan assistance has been provided to SSI units at a concessional rate of 12% under refinance scheme of SIDBI.

Filling up of Vacancies

2552. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of posts are still vacant in the Public Sector Enterprises, since long;

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

(c) the action taken by Public Enterprises Selection Board to fill up these vacancies expeditiously; and

(d) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of vacant Board level posts in various Public Sector Enterprises as on 30.6.2001 is 92. The reasons for delay in filling these posts are mainly due to non-receipt of vigilance clearance or the recommended candidates not joining the posts or the vacancy being unforeseen.

(c) and (d) The PESB has already taken necessary action to fill these posts in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Government in the matter.

[Translation]

AIDS-II Project

2553. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had sanctioned a sum of Rs. 395.58 lakh to implement AIDS-II project in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) If so, whether the Government have released the outstanding amount of Rs. 291.58 lakh to the State Government so far;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) If not, the reasons for not releasing the remaining funds to the State Government; and

(e) the time by which the above funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. An annual plan for an amount of Rs. 395.58 lakhs was sanctioned for the Himachal Pradesh State AIDS Control Society for implementation of AIDS-II Project during 1999-2000. Based on availability of budgetary provision, a sum of Rs. 318 lakhs was released to the Society during 1999-2000.

(b) to (e) Apart from the above a sum of Rs. 262.50 lakhs have been released to Himachal Pradesh during the year 2000-01. In 2001-02 the sanctioned plan for the Himachal Pradesh Society is Rs. 266.89 lakhs against which Rs. 100 lakhs have been released, so far.

[English]

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

2554. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take any steps for the proper conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that direction in Orissa during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The following Central Schemes have been implemented for Conservation and Cultivation of Medicinal plants in the States including the State of Orissa :

- Scheme for Central assistance of Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy for setting up of Medicinal Plants gardens and Research Project on development of Agro-techniques of Medicinal plants.

- Schemes for Central assistance on Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Department of Agriculture & Co-operation.
- Scheme for Central assistance on Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal plants under the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

Vacant Posts in Defence Forces

2555. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :

DR. S. VENUGOPAL :

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a perceptible decline in the interest amongst the youth to join the armed forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action, if any by the Government to check this trend;

(c) the number of vacancies that occurred in the ranks of commissioned officers in the three services, respectively during each of the last three years; and

(d) the number of officers recruited/commissioned during the corresponding period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (d) With the opening up of the economy leading to new vistas of lucrative job opportunities in the civil sector, coupled with relatively risky and hazardous career in the armed forces, there has been some impact on youth's preference for a career in the armed forces.

Several steps have been initiated by the government. An Image Projection Campaign of the Army was launched during 1997-98. The campaign has made a positive impact on the availability and selection of candidates. Steps have been taken to continue the campaign.

Sustained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to join the Air Force. About 3000 schools and colleges are on the mailing list for sending the publicity material. Schools and colleges are visited regularly for administering motivational talks.

Increased publicity and candidate friendly recruitment procedures have been adopted by Navy in addition to general publicity and motivation drives.

The number of vacancies that occurred in the ranks of commissioned officers during the last three years and that recruited/commissioned during that period is given below :

Service	No. of vacancies	No. of officers recruited/ commissioned
Army	1998-2590	1998-1431
	1999-2683	1999-1712
	2000-2978	2000-2211
Air Force	1998-687	1998-467
	1999-709	1999-397
	2000-737	2000-407
Navy	1998-418	1998-261
	1999-346	1999-248
	2000-330	2000-240

Agreement for Cooperation in I.T.

2556. SHRI ANNASHEB M. K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and New Zealand have signed an agreement of cooperation in the field of Information Technology;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether New Zealand have sought the assistance of India for enacting a law on the lines of information Technology Act;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

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

the visit of Hon'ble Minister of Information Technology in April, 2001, New Zealand did show interest in the India Information Technology Act and they are thinking of bringing out a legislation on the lines of this IT Act.

New Zealand has also shown interest in entering into an MOU with Ministry of Information.

[Translation]

Assistance to Physically Handicapped

2557. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the type of assistance provided to the poor and physically challenged and deaf and dumb persons living in rural areas of various States, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi in particular alongwith the name of the agencies through which the assistance is being provided;

(b) whether it is a fact that poor and hapless physically challenged and deaf and dumb persons are not getting any type of assistance even today; and

(c) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide direct assistance to the poor and hapless physically challenged and deaf and dumb persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) A number of schemes and programmes are being run in the country for the welfare and development of persons with disabilities including deaf and dumb persons. They include assistance for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances, running of rehabilitation centres for manpower development, special schools, promotion of self employment and placement services, soft loans for education and entrepreneurial activities etc. These activities are undertaken by the National Institutes, Rehabilitation Council of India, Non-Governmental Organisations, District Disability Rehabilitation Centres and National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation.

[English]

Cases registered under Prevention of Corruption Act

2558. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in some cases the CBI approaching courts to close cases filed by it under Prevention of Corruption Act;

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

(c) the total number of letters the Government have received against corruption in Government offices/ autonomous bodies, during the last three years;

(d) the total number of cases registered by the CBI under Prevention of Corruption Act during the last three years and the number out of them are against IAS, IPS and IRS officers separately, State-wise;

(e) the number out of them in which the CBI has been able to procure conviction during the period; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide clean and corruption free administration in 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 (c) As per the information furnished by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in cases registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, where evidence available is completely insufficient to establish any misconduct/lapse on the part of accused persons/delinquent public servants, the cases are closed. In all cases where it is decided not to file a charge sheet in the court of law against the accused persons, a closure report is filed in the competent court, as per the provisions of Section 173 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. The details of all cases where closure reports are filed in the court and the letters received against corruption in Government offices/autonomous bodies, are not centrally maintained.

(d) and (e) The CBI registered 2256 cases under the Prevention of corruption Act, 1988 during the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and upto 30.6.2001, as detailed below :

1998	1999	2000	Upto 30.6.2001
612	606	654	384

2. Out of the total 2256 cases, 45 cases involving 41 IAS, 4 IPS and 23 IRS officers have been registered. In respect of IRS Officers, there is no State Cadre. State-wise details of cases of IAS and IPS officers is enclosed as Statement.

3. Out of the cases registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 (upto 30.06.2001), 31 cases have resulted in conviction.

(f) The Government is fully alive to the need to eradicate corruption at all levels of public services. For this purpose, a three pronged strategy of Surveillance, Prevention and Punitive/Deterrent action is followed by the Government. The policies formulated in this regard are modified from time to time in order to make them more effective and responsive to the changing environment. Besides, some of the recent major initiatives taken by the Government include introduction of Central Vigilance Commission Bill in Lok Sabha to confer statutory status upon the commission. Freedom of Information Bill, 2000 to bring greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Government etc.

Statement

State-wise details of IAS and IPS Officers against whom cases have been registered

State	IAS	IPS
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	03	-
Bihar	01	-
Gujarat	05	-
Haryana	03	01
Jammu & Kashmir	03	-
Karnataka	01	-

1	2	3
Madhya Pradesh	07	-
Maharashtra	01	-
Orissa	01	-
Punjab	01	-
Rajasthan	01	-
Sikkim	01	-
Tamil Nadu	03	-
Uttar Pradesh	09	02
AGMU	01	01
Total	41	04

Growth of Electronic Sector

2559. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :
SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently set up a Group on Consumer Electronics sector;

(b) If so, the aim, term and objectives of the group;

(c) whether the growth rate of electronic sector in the country have fallen considerably during the past few years;

(d) If so, the factors responsible for such a fall in growth rate of electronic sector; and

(e) the corrective steps 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, a Specialist Group on Consumer Electronics was set up on 10.4.2001. The Group consists of 5 officers from Ministry of IT and President, CETMA. The Term of Reference of the Group is as follows :

"To study the production, exports and technology adoption of the Electronics Hardware Industry in India with a special focus on Consumer products and associated components in the context of the global scenario, examine the competitive strengths and weaknesses of Indian industry and infrastructure and financing issues and work out an Action Plan alongwith policy instruments in order to achieve leadership position in the global market by 2008".

(c) to (e) The production trends in the electronics sector during last 4 years has been as follows :

Year	Production (Rs. crores) Electronics & Software	Growth %
1997-98	32,070	20.4
1998-99	41,140	28.3
1999-2000	52,450	27.5
2000-01	68,450	30.5

Steps taken by the Government to promote Electronics Hardware sector are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to promote Electronics Hardware 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. Electronics Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme is implemented under the aegis of the Ministry of Information Technology through a single window mechanism of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).
4. DTA access upto 50% of the FOB value of export is permitted for electronics hardware units under EOU/EPZ/EHTP schemes. Broadbanding is

permitted in the DTA sales of Hardware units for items covered in the Letter of permission.

5. Accelerated depreciation norms for computers and computer peripherals for electronic units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP) have been enhanced. These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years instead of around 5 years earlier.
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. The Depreciation on Computers had been allowed @ 60%.
9. 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. Customs duty on parts of Telecom reduced to 5%. 32 items (additional) of Capital Goods allowed at a concessional duty of 5% for the manufacture of semiconductors.
10. 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%.
11. Second hand capital goods upto 10 years old have been made freely importable.
12. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
13. EOU/EPZ/EHTP units are exempted from payment of Income Tax on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Section 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act.
14. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been extended to the IT sector.
15. Tax holiday under provisions of Section 80-IA (Infrastructure Status) has been extended to Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Broadband Network providers.
16. 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.
17. Information Technology Act 2000 has been enacted. This act deals with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects. The will encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

[Translation]

Safety from Missile System ISRO-DRDO

2560. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any programme has been developed to protect the space based systems of the country from the missiles with the help of Indian Space Research Organisation and Defence Research and Development Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budgetary provision made for its effective performance and implementation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) India has satellites

in Geo-stationary and polar orbits and they conform to normal safety standards of civilian standards. Therefore, there is no programme launched to protect these satellites.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Sriharikota Space Station

2561. SHRI P. KUMARASAMAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand Sriharikota Space Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Sriharikota Range (SHAR), is the main launch center of ISRO with major activities of launch vehicle assembly and static test, range operations including launch, liquid storage and service and solid propellant space booster plant. Suitable augmentation/modernization of various facilities and restructuring of various activities needed for these programmes are done on a continuing basis. Based on programmatic requirements, the facilities available in Sriharikota Range (SHAR) are being expanded, including the construction of a Second Launch Pad, which is in progress.

[Translation]

Lowering the age limit of Senior Citizens

2562. SHRI K. E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are reviewing to decrease the age limit to qualify as Senior Citizens in India from 65 years to 60 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of prevailing benefits to them from the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) As per the National Policy on Older Persons announced in January, 1999 the age limit to qualify as Senior Citizens in India is 60 years plus. However, due to budgetary constraints several Ministries and departments of the Govt. of India have been prescribing different age limits to qualify as Senior Citizens.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For the Welfare of the senior citizens financial assistance as grant-in-aid is given through various programmes/schemes by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment i.e.

- (i) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons- Under this scheme the Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment provides Grant-in-aid/financial assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations for establishment and maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centre, Mobile Medicare Units and Non-Institutional Service Centres.
- (ii) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/ Multi Service Centres for Older Persons- Under this scheme the Grant-in-aid is provided to eligible organizations for construction of Old Age Home and Multi service centres for older persons.

Apart from the above financial assistance, there are the following welfare schemes by the Government for the older persons :

- (i) Government have recently approved a scheme called "ANNAPURNA Scheme" under which 10 Kgs of food grains would be provided to such destitute elderly every month who are not in receipt of old age pension scheme of Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.

- (ii) On the request of this Ministry, Chief Justice of India advised Chief Justices of all High Courts in the Country to ensure expeditious disposal of Court Cases involving Older Persons.
- (iii) Union Health Ministry has issued instructions to all the State Governments/UT Administrations for provision of separate queues for older persons in hospitals at all stages.
- (iv) At the initiative and with the financial assistance of this Ministry, a Telephone helpline for older persons has been started by an NGO called Agewell Foundation. This helpline is functional from April 1999.
- (v) The Department of Telecommunications has already announced the Government decision to give telephone connections to senior citizens aged 65 years and above on priority.
- (vi) National Institute of Social Defence has started a 3 months course for home care of elderly disabled persons in August, 1999. This course will help to prepare a cadre of Geriatric Animators to render comprehensive care to the aged in their homes and in the community.
- (vii) Aadhar has been set up to function as Secretariat of National Council for Older Persons (NCOP). The major activities of Aadhar include receiving and taking follow up action on representations, the complaints and grievances of older persons.

eye donation before signing death certificate and releasing the body for last rites, by making suitable amendment (if necessary) in the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994;

(c) If so, whether the Government also propose to arrange for free air time on Radio and Television for the Eye Bank Association of India during the National Eye Donation Fortnight between August 25th and September 6th every year; and

(d) the names of the hospitals linked with various Eye Banks, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The part-wise reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5658 answered on 25th April, 2001 is as follows :

"(A) Information is not centrally maintained.

(B) Information regarding collection of eyes in the year 2000 state-wise is given in the enclosed Statement. Hospital-wise information is not maintained.

(C) The proposal is under consideration of the Government, however, as the matter involves legal procedures such as amendment of the Human Organ Transplantation Act, 1994, no specific time frame can be given for the implementation of the same.

(D) Efforts are being made to link up registered Eye Banks and nearby hospitals in order to ensure timely collection of eyes, however any Eye Bank can provide eyes to any hospital depending on availability of eyes in Eye Bank and the capacity of the hospital involved."

(b) The proposal is under the consideration of the Government, but no specific time frame can be given for its implementation at this stage.

(c) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government at the present time and

(d) Any Eye Bank can provide eyes to any hospital who requires it depending upon the availability of the eyes in the Eye Banks and the capacity of hospital involved in eye transplantation to transplant the eyes.

[English]

Donation of Eye

2563. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5658 on April 25, 2001 and state :

(a) the information as asked for in parts (a) to (d) of the said question separately;

(b) whether Government propose to make it mandatory at least for hospitals run by Governments, Central or State and Government aided hospitals to make a post-death request to relatives of diseased patients for

Statement*State-wise statistics of Cornea Collection by the Member Eye Banks of EBAI*

Sl.No.	State	Eyes collected in 1996	Eyes collected in 1997	Eyes collected in 1998	Eyes collected in 1999	Eyes collected in 2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	650	1114	1040	917	1306
2.	Assam	0	0	Not reported	Not reported	0
3.	Bihar	20	26	28	68	17
4.	Chandigarh	109	150	200	225	246
5.	Delhi	691	914	846	997	973
6.	Gujarat	5259	5430	5133	588	6078
7.	Haryana	20	20	10	Not reported	168
8.	Karnataka	709	655	723	776	842
9.	Kerala	345	324	238	206	264
10.	Maharashtra	2134	1896	2700	1477	4189
11.	Madhya Pradesh	298	277	310	456	408
12.	Orissa	6	27	Not reported	Not reported	0
13.	Punjab	659	714	752	100	199
14.	Rajasthan	105	44	47	143	218
15.	Tamil Nadu	1776	2145	2534	1201	3359
16.	Uttar Pradesh	212	32	319	224	214
17.	West Bengal	410	352	214	296	531
18.	Pondicherry					67
Total		13,463	14,411	15,194	12,174	19069

*[Translation]***Nursing Colleges in Rajasthan**

2564. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of medical and nursing colleges in Rajasthan for which approval has been accorded during the last two years;

(b) whether the Medical Council of India and Nursing Council of India have conducted a survey of the above places before awarding recognition to the Medical Colleges and Nursing Colleges of Rajasthan; and

(c) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No new Medical or Nursing College has been permitted in Rajasthan during the last two years.

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

[English]

KVIC Board in Madhya Pradesh

2565. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Khadi and Village Industries Boards in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the number of blocks selected under different programmes to establish a large number of Khadi Industries in the country, particularly in the State of Madhya Pradesh?

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 list of KVI Boards with their location is given in the Statement attached.

(b) Khadi and Village Industries programmes are being implemented throughout the country including the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Statement

State/UT Khadi and Village Industries Boards

1. Andhra Pradesh KVIB,
Grama Prashramala Bhavanam,
No. 10-4-2, Humayun Nagar,
Hyderabad—500028

2. Andaman and Nicobar Islands KVIB,
Udyog Parlsar,
Middle Point,
Port Blair—744101

3. Arunachal Pradesh KVIB
Udyog Sadan, Ground Floor,
Itanagar—791111

4. Assam KVIB
Chandmari,
Guwahati—781003

5. Bihar KVIB
Mahesh Bhawan
Gandhi Maidan (East)
Patna—800004

6. Chandigarh KVIB
39, Industrial area, Phase II
Chandigarh—160002

7. Delhi KVIB
Old ITI Building, 1, Canning Lane,
Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi—110001

8. Goa, Daman and Diu KVIB
Janta House,
2nd Floor
Panji, Goa 403001

9. Gujarat KVIB
Gram Nirman Bhawan,
Juna Wada],
Ahmedabad—380013

10. Himachal Pradesh KVIB
Cleave Land, Choura Madan,
Shimla—171004

11. Haryana KVIB
SCO No. 841, Kalka Road,
NAC, Manimajra,
Chandigarh—160101

12. Jammu and Kashmir KVIB
Old Secretariat
Srinagar—190001

13. Karnataka KVIB
10, Jasma Bhawan Road,
Bangalore—56052

14. Kerala KVIB
Vanchiyoor, Gramasoubhagya,
Thriuvananthapuram—695035

15. Lakshdweep KVIB
Kavaratti—682555 (UT)

16. Madhya Pradesh KVIB
Chittod Complex Zone—1
Maharana Pratap Nagar,
Bhopal—462011

17. Maharashtra KVIB
9/12, Manohardas Street,
Bhatia Balrakshak Vidyalaya,
Fort, Mumbat—400001
18. Manipur KVIB
North to District Collector Office,
Lamphelpat, Imphal—795004
19. Meghalaya KVIB
Lower Lachumiere, Temple Road,
Shillong 793001
20. Mizoram KVIB
Dr. Jalrema Building, Zarkawt,
Aizwal, Mizoram—796001
21. Nagaland KVIB
Near New Secretariat Complex,
Kohima—797001
22. Orissa KVIB
Kharvela Nagar Unit III
Bhubneswar—751001
23. Pondicherry KVIB
Plot No. 1-2, Kamaraj Salaj,
New Saram,
Pondicherry—605013
24. Punjab KVIB
SCO No. 2429-30
Sector—22-C
Chandigarh
25. Rajasthan KVIB
Jawaharlal Nehru Marg,
Near Telephone Exchange,
Bajaj Nagar Circle,
Jaipur—302017
26. Sikkim KVIB
Deorali Gangtok,
East Sikkim—737102
27. Tamilnadu KVIB
Kuralagam, 5th Floor
Chennai—600108
28. Tripura KVIB
Colonel Chowmuhanl,
Distt. Tripura (West)

29. Uttar Pradesh KVIB
Gramodyog Bhawan,
8 Tilak Marg,
Lucknow—226001

30. West Bengal, KVIB
12, B.B.D. Bag
Kolkata—700001

**Development of Rural Industries
in Tamil Nadu**

2566. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the development of rural industries and agro industries in various States and Tamil Nadu in particular;

(b) the amount allocated for various programmes during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any new proposals to support and assist financially and technologically the agro and rural industries in the country; 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) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) gives support to Khadi and Village Industries including agro and rural industries in the form of financial, technical and managerial assistance. The Margin Money Scheme of the KVIC, is applicable throughout the country. Under this scheme 25% of the project cost is provided as margin money. For project cost above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakh plus 10% of the balance cost of the project. For weaker sections margin money is given at the rate of 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakh and for the balance amount (upto Rs. 25 lakh) it is 10%.

(b) The funds disbursed by the KVIC as loan and grants State-wise in the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The Government of India announced a package for the promotion of Khadi and Village Industries sector on 14th May, 2001, with the prime objective of creating more jobs in rural areas and empowering the

women and backward classes. The main features of this package comprises of a 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 and cluster development.

Statement

Disbursement of loans to various States/Union Territories by KVIC during the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/U.T.	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
State							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63.02	17.68	19.76	31.10	49.29	3.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	0.00
3.	Assam	19.43	0.37	0.79	2.00	106.17	13.02
4.	Bihar	30.17	0.14	53.83	7.02	26.37	-
5.	Goa	0.00	31.32	0.00	1.55	-	-
6.	Gujarat	7.00	13.37	43.34	29.13	19.38	-
7.	Haryana	18.75	219.36	2.10	8.88	84.71	8.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	6.52	4.33	4.78	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.38	0.00	6.61	0.52	-	-
10.	Karnataka	170.75	68.05	102.75	61.58	43.16	0.68
11.	Kerala	3.15	1.46	35.48	13.68	15.49	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.21	48.88	8.18	12.11	14.75	-
13.	Maharashtra	10.84	48.68	7.62	41.96	8.77	15.66
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	11.86	0.42
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.86	0.23	-
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	-	-
17.	Nagaland	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	15.41	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Orissa	18.95	3.87	6.10	8.34	3.20	2.30
19.	Punjab	0.00	2.50	11.45	1.21	60.94	5.00
20.	Rajasthan	28.59	26.21	19.70	23.60	34.69	1.49
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	0.25	26.57	42.27	37.41	22.45	8.06
23.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
24.	Uttar Pradesh	61.81	135.90	332.88	191.10	64.25	36.54
25.	West Bengal	43.15	4.97	36.28	48.54	13.92	1.00
	U.T.						
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
27.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
29.	NCT of Delhi	0.00	0.00	1.65	10.11	5.00	-
30.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.29	4.20	-
32.	Lakshdweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
33.	Departmental	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.67	-	30.71
34.	Other schemes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
Total		477.45	651.33	737.41	544.33	609.02	126.84

Disbursement of Grants to various States/Union Territories by KVIC during the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/U.T.	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
		Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.	Khadi	V.I.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
State							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	174.29	737.29	275.35	340.75	627.53	705.15
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.40	0.50
3.	Assam	35.06	6.30	59.79	6.72	86.87	0.77

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	748.45	4.00	1198.53	33.96	305.36	44.48
5.	Goa	1.00	9.84	0.00	40.36	0.79	-
6.	Gujarat	1387.00	94.71	2554.96	268.56	1585.85	12.96
7.	Haryana	592.79	52.25	652.94	185.23	414.44	239.42
8.	Himachal Pradesh	123.30	153.97	76.51	272.94	445.99	26.37
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	81.92	40.53	182.50	352.13	112.96	20.77
10.	Karnataka	438.63	561.35	1008.73	1228.32	426.31	756.44
11.	Kerala	322.60	15.58	205.45	395.94	762.62	357.98
12.	Madhya Pradesh	367.27	319.06	178.49	1319.02	595.37	23.32
13.	Maharashtra	32.93	285.31	310.59	308.97	419.17	444.24
14.	Manipur	0.00	281.51	0.00	266.93	0.40	169.70
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	2.36	44.93	7.42	6.50
16.	Mizoram	0.00	49.63	0.02	344.39	0.99	155.74
17.	Nagaland	7.18	90.00	5.37	396.94	17.48	5.38
18.	Orissa	30.99	60.50	172.53	87.02	116.61	161.67
19.	Punjab	619.41	124.79	345.73	605.12	967.26	158.33
20.	Rajasthan	105.26	314.15	1490.71	461.80	879.73	319.85
21.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	1268.80	58.77	2690.76	414.10	3874.13	262.07
23.	Tripura	0.02	0.00	0.50	0.00	-	1.91
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1947.68	77.71	4201.30	1454.00	5153.75	514.17
25.	West Bengal	235.00	7.60	595.10	20.49	325.78	6.36
	U.T.						
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	4.36
27.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
29.	NCT of Delhi	22.29	10.74	669.27	31.34	354.06	72.96
30.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.23	0.23	0.50
32.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.39	34.64	-	-
33.	Departmental	217.35	21567.01	752.48	7707.43	1169.63	10018.21
34.	Other schemes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-
Total		8760.09	24922.60	17628.36	16648.26	18656.13	14485.11

[Translation]

Dr. Satish Chandra Committee

2567. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendations of the Dr. Satish Chandra Committee in regard to the examinations other than Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission;

(b) the date on which the report of the Committee was submitted to the Government;

(c) whether the recommendations made by the Committee have been accepted/implemented by the Government;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by which the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented?

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 Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Satish Chandra submitted to the UPSC in May, 1990 the report containing, inter-alia, recommendations regarding introduction of multilingual system of examinations conducted by UPSC. The Committee made specific recommendations regarding various examinations held by UPSC ranging from giving option to candidates to write answers in English or in any

of the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to continuance of the existing system i.e. English as the only medium of examination.

(c) to (e) The recommendations made by Dr. Satish Chandra Committee in this regard have been under the consideration of the Government. In view of the importance and sensitivity of the matter and divergent views on the subject, Government's endeavour is to arrive at a consensus and evolve a nationally acceptable policy after holding wider consultation with the State Governments and others concerned.

[English]

**Integrated Infrastructure Development
for SSI in Maharashtra**

2568. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have provide Integrated Infrastructure Development for the Small Scale Industries located in rural areas of the backward districts of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some steps to improve the conditions of Small Scale Industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF

PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of a proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra and its appraisal by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), an Integrated Infrastructure Development Centre was sanctioned in September 1994 for Ghatodi in Yeotmal district, Maharashtra. The Central Grant of Rs. 2.00 crores and SIDBI loan of Rs. 3.00 crores has already been provided to the Implementing Agency i.e. Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., Mumbai for this Centre. The Government of Maharashtra has indicated that the developmental work of this centre is complete. No fresh proposal from Maharashtra has been received.

(c) to (e) The Government has announced a comprehensive policy package to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The policy package provides for easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Radioactivity Induced Ailments

2569. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Jaduguda (Jharkhand) tribals are suffering from various ailments due to the emitting of the radio-activity from the mines of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

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

Uranium Corporation of India Limited, (UCIL) a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), at present operates three underground uranium mines at Jaduguda, Bhatin and Narwapahar, and a mill at Jaduguda for processing the ore from all the mines for recovering uranium. All these facilities are located in the East Singhbhum District of Jharkhand State. UCIL has put in place measures necessary for radiological safety and the radiation levels at Jaduguda (Jharkhand) and in the surrounding areas are well within the permissible limits laid down for the purpose by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). In addition, for the systematic and effective monitoring of radiation levels in and around the mines/mills, a well equipped Health Physics Unit-cum-Environmental Survey Laboratory of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), which is independent of UCIL, has been in operation at Jaduguda since the inception of UCIL. The scientists of this Unit, qualified and trained in the field of radiological safety and protection, regularly measure the radioactivity in the area, maintain constant surveillance on environmental releases and undertake measurements of pollutants in the atmospheric and aquatic systems of the environment in and around Jaduguda.

Surveys conducted in the past by teams of medical doctors and specialists including doctors from the Tata Main Hospital, Jamshedpur and Health Department of the Government of Bihar and Health Physicists and medical officers from BARC, have also established that the specific cases of diseases examined by the teams have no relation to radiation. Recent radiation survey of the area around Jaduguda has also reconfirmed that the operations of UCIL have not resulted in any increase in the background radiation levels beyond those prescribed by AERB.

Appropriate mechanisms are already in place to ensure the safety of mine workers. The radiation levels in and around Jaduguda on account of releases from mines/plants of UCIL are regularly monitored and are found to be within the limits prescribed in this behalf by the AERB which are, in turn based on the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

Establishment of South Asian Regional Parliament

2570. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU :
SHRI Y. V. RAO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to pursue the matter with regard to the establishment of a SAARC Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) There is no proposal for the setting up of a SAARC Parliament under consideration of the SAARC at present.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Sainik Schools

2571. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for the establishment of new Sainik Schools in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the areas identified therefor; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared and schools will be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of proposals have been received from State Governments, VIPs and others for the setting up of Sainik Schools.

(c) Under the existing scheme, the state government has to provide land, building, equipment, scholarship and special grants-in-aid for running of the Sainik School. Ministry of Defence provides three Service officers, NCC/Physical Training Instructors and some scholarships to the wards of the Defence personnel studying in these schools. Consequently, the setting up of a Sainik School and the time required, would largely depend on the state government fulfilling and meeting their share of responsibility. Presently, no proposal from any state government, in conformity with the above requirements, is pending.

[English]

Eye Donation

2572. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

SHRI R. S. PATIL :

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

(a) the estimated total number of eyes donated by people to the eye banks throughout the country for the last three years as on July 31;

(b) the estimated total persons in the country who have agreed in writing (given bonds) to donate their eyes after their death;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a substantial increase in their number during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The total number of eyes donated to the various eye banks in the country in the last three years, as per updated information received from Eye Bank Association of India, are 15,194 in 1998, 12,174 in 1999 and 19,069 in 2000.

The total number of persons who have agreed to donate their eyes (in writing), as per information received from the Eye Bank Association of India, is 46,236. However, no comments can be made on the trends on the basis of information available.

[Translation]

Special Component Plan

2573. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring an amendment in the constitution by formulating a Special Component Plan as per the population of Dalits so that the allocation made thereunder is not spent elsewhere;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) Guidelines on formulation and implementation of Special Component Plan for welfare of the Scheduled Castes by the State Governments and Central Ministries have been issued by the Planning Commission. Implementation of the Special Component Plan by the State Governments is reviewed by the State Government concerned as well as this Ministry. Implementation of Special Component Plan by the Central Ministries is reviewed from time to time by this Ministry as well as the Planning Commission and the National Commission for SCs and STs.

There is no proposal to amend the constitution for this purpose.

[English]

Mushrooming IT Industries

2574. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the mushrooming of IT Institutes are leading of decline in the quality of IT education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the quality in the IT education?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) There has been an increase in private IT training institutions during the last few years.

(c) AICTE has initiated number of schemes for faculty development and training such as Quality Improvement Programme (QIP), Early Faculty Induction Programme (EFIP) and Continuing Education Programme (CEP). In addition, DOEACC Society, and autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Information Technology has a voluntary scheme under which computer training institutions in the private sector are given accreditation for conduct to DOEACC Courses subject to their meeting well defined criteria in terms of faculty and infrastructure.

Expenditure for Eradication of Malaria

2575. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR :

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

(a) the total outlay earmarked/released to each State under Malaria Eradication and Control Programme during each of the last three years;

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon during the said period;

(c) the total budget outlay earmarked/released for this programme for the year 2001-2002;

(d) whether the State Government of Karnataka has asked the Centre to enhance allocation to that State for NMEP; 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) Statement showing State-wise distribution of central assistance under National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) during the last 3 years is attached.

(c) The total budget outlay earmarked for the programme including Kala-azar Control Programme during 2001-02 is Rs. 225.00 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

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 & N Islands	155.68	116.46	231.76
Chandigarh	44.30	47.25	44.79
D & N Havell	24.90	25.94	18.12

1	2	3	4
Daman & Diu	10.08	16.42	9.90
Lakshadweep	5.24	5.81	5.57
Total	11305.48	11210.00	9518.41
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]

Poor Condition of Hospitals

2576. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that poor management of resources, insufficient staff, shortage of medicines, poor condition of patients, sanitation, medical treatment are the main problems of Government hospitals in Delhi especially in Safdarjung, Ram Manohar Lohia and All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have stressed or propose to stress the need of thorough examination of functioning and working conditions of all Government Hospitals of Delhi by a expert Committee; and

(d) if so, the details of the progress made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Improvement is a continuous process and Government is striving to improve the condition of the hospitals by augmenting infrastructural facilities, equipments and manpower etc. within the available resources.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Shortage of Engineers in IAF

2577. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of engineers and aeronautic experts in the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to take special steps to meet the said shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (d) While there is an overall shortage of engineers and aeronautical engineers in the Indian Air Force, the combat units are being manned almost at 100% level by making some internal adjustments.

Substained publicity efforts are on to attract talented youth to the IAF. Schools and Colleges are visited regularly to generate interest. A website is also operative on the internet to provide career information.

[English]

Spurious Drugs

2578. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5806 on 25.4.2001 and state :

(a) whether the committee constituted on November 16, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Dr. J. N. Pande, HoD (IM), AIIMS, New Delhi to prepare a comprehensive formula for CGHS and MSO and also to consider the procedure to be adopted or minimizing reference to private chemists by Medical officers/specialists in CGHS for procuring drugs has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made and action taken/being taken thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Non-Plan Expenditure for NIH

2579. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the non-plan expenditure has been

drastically reduced for National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped (NIHH) for the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for this reduction and steps proposes to review such reductions?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Rural Industries in Chhattisgarh

2580. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any specific proposal for development of Rural Industries under Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the State of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy given by the Government to the State during the current financial year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Industrialization is the specific responsibility of the concerned State Governments and the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) provides assistance in the form of grants, interest subsidy, rebate, training, marketing etc. for the promotion and development of Khadi and Village Industries. The Government of India does not release any fund to the State Governments directly. It releases funds to the KVIC which, in turn, releases funds for various programmes as per requirement.

**Alternative Jobs to Retired
Defence Personnel**

2581. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of defence personnel who retired before attaining the age of 50 years during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of such retirees who were absorbed in different Government jobs after retirement;

(c) whether there is a policy to grant alternative Government employment in para-military forces or the police to defence personnel retiring at young age; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) During the year 1999, 6,521 ex-Servicemen were provided employment in the Central and State Governments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Central Government has reserved 10% of Group 'C' posts and 20% of Group 'D' posts for ex-Servicemen. 10% posts of Assistant Commandants in para-military forces are also reserved for ex-Servicemen. 100% posts are reserved for ex-Servicemen in Defence Security Corps.

Statement

The details of number of defence personnel who retired before attaining the age of 50 years in respect of Army, Navy and Air Force are as under :

Army (Officers)		Personnel Below Officer Rank		
1998	320	1.4.1998 to 31.3.1999	39,917	
1999	254	1.4.1999 to 31.3.2000	40,480	
2000	267	1.4.2000 to 31.3.2001	58,215	
		1998	1999	2000
Army Medical Corps Personnel		1183	566	1159
Air Force Personnel		2370	3316	4875
Naval Personnel		2700	4023	2822

[English]

Impact of Computers on Eyes

2582. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Computer users vulnerable to eye complaints" appearing in the 'Statesman' dated May 5, 2001;

(b) if so, whether any research have been made by the Government on the impact of computers on eyes;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken proposed to be taken to project the eyes from the adverse affect of computers?

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

(b) to (d) According to ICMR, Research work on this issue has been published in various international journals. The main symptoms found in these studies relate to exaggeration of the residual refractive errors and convergence deficiencies. It also results in symptoms like redness of eye etc. Computer users may take precautions as advised by the treating physicians to avoid possible ill effects.

Interface with IT Sector

2583. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHI :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to conduct an exclusive interface with the leading entrepreneurs in IT sector;

(b) if so, whether any meeting with IT Hardware Sector has been held in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have identified the leading entrepreneurs in the Hardware Sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the results likely to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) The Ministry of Information Technology periodically interacts with the leading entrepreneurs of IT sector. There is also national Advisory Committee on IT and the Committee meets from time to time.

(b) to (f) The 4th meeting of the National Advisory Committee on IT is being held on August 11th, 2001 and would consider the issue related to IT Hardware.

[Translation]

Assistance to Bihar by KVIC

2584. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of assistance provided to Bihar by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission during the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 as on July 31, 2001; and

(b) the number of persons granted loan during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 as on July 31, 2001?

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 details of funds released by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to the State of Bihar during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (as on July 31, 2001) are as under :

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	KVIC Budgetary Source			CBC*
	Khadi	V.I.	Total	
1999-2000	331.73	44.48	376.21	-
2000-2001	306.01	2.42	308.43	-
2001-2002	10.37	0.80	11.17	0.74

*CBC : Consortium Bank Credit.

(b) The number of beneficiaries who received financial assistance during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (Upto July, 2001) are as follows :

Year	No. of beneficiaries		CBC*
	Khadi	V.I.	
1999-2000*	140	-	-
2000-2001	50	3	-
2001-2002	2	3	1

*Including aided institutions of the KVI Board, Bihar.

[English]

Funds for SAMEER

2585. SHRI RAMSHETHH THAKUR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the funds allocated to Society for Microwave Electronic Engineering and Research (SAMEER) during the last three years and current year;

(b) the amount spent out of the total allocation on research and development activities during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make SAMEER self-reliant?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a)

(Rs. in lakhs)

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	Current Year 2001-02
680.00	629.00	1060.00	1470.00

(b) The entire funds allocated are towards research & development activities covering creation of infrastructure for R & D, capital equipment, consumables, salaries, travel etc.

(c) Government is encouraging SAMEER to earn revenue through sponsored R & D as well as services in

areas like Electro-Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) Compliance Testing and Consultancy Services, Electro-Magnetic Interference (EMI) Measurement and Suppression Technology, Electronic Packaging, Industrial Design and Training Programmes offered etc.

Reservation of Employment in Private Sector

2586. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes in employment in Private Sector; as well as in the Joint Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation of Funds under PMRY

2587. SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for allocation of funds to the States under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana in the country;

(b) whether the funds were not allocated proportionately to the States, particularly Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to make up the short fall; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT

OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) funds are released for subsidy, training, contingency etc. the funds for subsidy are authorised to the Reserve Bank of India and are not released to the States/UTs. The funds for training, contingency etc. are released to the States/UTs. The criteria laid down for allocation of funds for training, contingency etc. is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) The funds allocated to all the States including Tamil Nadu were as per the criteria laid down under the Scheme.

Statement

Criteria for allocation of funds to States under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

I. Training Funds

Industry Sector

Total	Rs. 1000/- per beneficiary sanctioned loan
Stipend	Rs. 300/- per beneficiary sanctioned loan
Training Expenses	Rs. 700/- per beneficiary sanctioned loan

Service and Business Sector

Total	Rs. 500/- per beneficiary sanctioned loan
Stipend	Rs. 150/- per beneficiary sanctioned loan
Training Expenses	Rs. 350/- per beneficiary sanctioned loan

II. Contingency Funds

Contingency funds @ Rs. 250/- per beneficiary sanctioned loan.

Herbal Plant

2588. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that several endangered herbal plants continue to be exported despite the ban on such export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to streamline the herbal drug industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Department of Commerce have informed that no such instance has come to their notice.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Following measures have already been taken :

- Setting up a Medicinal Plants Board which will address the need to augment supply of good quality raw material so that the standards and efficacy of the drugs improves which in turn is expected to enhance preservation of plants found in the wild while promoting production of the end products.
- Giving policy level support to the use of ISM & H medicines by encouraging State Governments to provide drugs in keeping with the Essential Drugs List for Government dispensaries & hospitals.
- Assisting State Pharmacies and laboratories to renovate and upgrade their infrastructure which, inter-alia, would have a beneficial effect on production of better quality drugs.
- Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) has been notified.
- Private Laboratories are proposed to be recognised for testing of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha drugs.
- Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet in their report has placed focus on identifying a few herbs which can provide opportunities for large scale employment and take advantage of the domestic and global market for value added

herbal or herb based products. The report identifies 45 Medicinal herbs for cultivation all over India, out of which, 7 herbs have been recommended for immediate action.

Level Playing Field to SSI

2589. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre has been urged to provide level playing field to small scale industries which is necessary for fair and healthy competition;

(b) whether the Laghu Udyog Bharti has also urged the Union Government for timely and adequate credit facilities at low interest to small and tiny industries, benefit from technological advancement and innovations; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote the village and agro industries?

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

(c) To promote the Village and Agro Industries, Government have been implementing the Margin Money Scheme of the KVIC in the country, under which 25% margin money is provided to the general category of entrepreneurs and 30% in the case of SC/ST/Women/handicapped etc. for project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and 10% of the project cost over and above Rs. 10 lakhs upto Rs. 25 lakhs. The Government has also announced on 14.5.2001 a Policy Package for strengthening the Khadi & Village Industries sector which is comprised 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.

**Wheat for Oil Agreement
with Iraq**

2590. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the latest position with regard to the wheat for oil agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : India and Iraq have reached an understanding in principle about the possibility of a counter trade arrangement which would enable Iraq to effect import of certain food items (especially wheat) against export of crude oil and oil products. The modalities regarding implementation are being worked out.

T. B. Control

2591. SHRI S. D. N. R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the some State Governments for financial assistance to launch the National T. B. Control Programme;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned by the Union Government to the States for implementing National T. B. Control Programme in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to launch a fresh plan 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) National T. B. Control Programme is implemented in all the States and Union Territories of the country since 1962. Under the Programme, Anti-TB drugs for all cases in the areas covered under the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) and for sputum positive cases in non-RNTCP areas and binocular microscopes are supplied to the districts by the Centre as commodity grant. For purchase of anti-TB drugs for sputum negative cases in non-RNTCP areas cash assistance is provided to the State Governments. For undertaking various activities for the implementation of the Revised National TB Control Programme, cash assistance as grants-in-aid is given to the State/District TB Societies. A statement indicating the funds released to the States under the National TB Control

Programme during the year 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Presently about 400 million population is covered under the RNTCP. It is planned to extend the Programme to cover another 300 million population by 2004.

Statement

*National Tuberculosis Control Programme Allocation
1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	1999-2000 Allocation*	2000-2001 Allocation*	2001-02# Allocation*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	482.76	448.58	714.959
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.54	95.47	24.143
3.	Assam	114.13	298.62	314.194
4.	Bihar	1054.73	1029.88	524.768
5.	Goa	3.17	12.91	1.337
6.	Gujarat	1203.88	880.39	1403.185
7.	Haryana	79.13	236.72	202.696
8.	Himachal Pradesh	133.64	116.52	176.564
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	37.30	80.8	14.645
10.	Karnataka	701.35	671.49	667.750
11.	Kerala	885.69	607.93	968.925
12.	Madhya Pradesh	418.17	765.85	244.417
13.	Maharashtra	852.84	1275.43	1433.459
14.	Manipur	31.66	30.09	242.489
15.	Meghalaya	8.60	19.74	4.992
16.	Mizoram	3.48	7.58	1.913
17.	Nagaland	2.77	13.84	3.499
18.	Orissa	325.38	455.89	358.130
19.	Punjab	95.98	229.44	88.420

1	2	3	4	5
20. Rajasthan	397.40	988.05	1574.775	
21. Sikkim	1.90	4.43	1.120	
22. Tamil Nadu	660.48	1133.92	1888.735	
23. Tripura	13.36	30.25	7.651	
24. Uttar Pradesh	897.57	1695.07	836.102	
25. West Bengal	2083.18	1143.3	1449.120	
26. Delhi	0.00	195.04	310.852	
27. Pondicherry	2.78	15.6	26.456	
28. Andaman & Nicobar	1.25	2.58	0.468	
29. Chandigarh	3.47	7.38	1.337	
30. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.67	0.07	0.334	
31. Daman & Diu	0.49	1.48	0.267	
32. Lakshadweep	0.25	5.53	1.003	
33. Jharkhand			40.710	
34. Uttaranchal			24.667	
35. Chhattisgarh			45.917	
Total	10500.00	12499.87	13600.000	

(i) Assistance to Voluntary Organisation	Allocation reduce to 95 crores at RE stage
(ii) E-ray Rolls	
(iii) Commodity Grant	
(iv) TB Cell at Head Quarter	
(v) Grant-in-aid to TB Societies	
(vi) Payment to HSCC	

Grand Total	10500.00	12499.87	13600.000
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* Includes Commodity Grant and Grants in aid to TB Soc.

** Includes Commodity Grants

#Note : The above allocation is tentative only. Out of the above allocation anti TB drugs for all cases in RNTCP, for

sputum positive in Non-RNTCP areas and Binocular microscopes will be supplied to the districts as commodity grant. For procurement of anti TB drugs for sputum negative cases cash assistance will be released to the State Govt. For undertaking various activities relating to implementation of RNTCP, Cash Assistance as Grants-in-Aid will be released to State/District TB Societies.

Electro-Homeopathy Course

2592. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for the administrative approval to give the Homeopathy Diploma course to the students who have completed Electropathy and Electro-Homeopathy Courses and allow them to practice Homeopathy only in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra approached the Central Government to give administrative approval for a Diploma Course in Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery which was envisaged to be introduced to enable students of Electropathy and Electro-Homeopathy to acquire the proposed qualification. The proposal sought to amend the Bombay Homoeopathic Practitioners' Act, 1959, as the proposed amendment contravened the provisions of the Homeopathic Central Council Act, 1973.

(c) As the Diploma Course in Homeopathy has been stopped from 1999 onwards, the proposal of the State Government could not be acceded to. Besides the Central Council of Homeopathy also ruled out the possibility of introducing such a Diploma Course.

Physicians under ISMH

2593. SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the physicians working under ISM&H Branch are being deprived with the benefits of the Fifth Pay Commission:

(b) whether the physician working in UTs/remote areas are being harassed by not including in cadre and also be not extending benefits at par with their counterpart;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (d) The Pay Commission recommendations in regard to general parity of career progression of Indian System of Medicines and Homeopathy Physicians with General Duty Medical Officers of Central Health Service, payment of Non-practicing Allowance and upgradation of pay scales of Group B & C Officers having medical qualifications in ISM&H have been implemented.

(b) and (c) No Central Cadre for ISM&H Physicians has been constituted so far in which the Physicians serving in Union Territories can be included. As regards extending pay scale of ISM&H Physicians to the Physicians working in Union Territories, it is necessary for the Union Territory Administration to frame rules and job description comparable to ISM&H Physicians working under the Central Government.

Screening Test for Doctors

2594. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of MBBS degree holders from South American and other unrecognized Medical Colleges, seeking registration in India;

(b) whether a proposal exists to re-examine such degree holders in India, before granting recognition;

(c) if so, the details of such a scheme; and

(d) the time by which it is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The Medical Council of India has been receiving a number of applications for registration from candidates having undergraduate medical qualifications obtained from medical

institutions abroad which are not recognised by the Medical Council of India for the purpose of Indian Medical Council Act 1956. The Council has not granted registration to such applicants.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. A bill has been passed by Rajya Sabha on 06.08.2001 to amend the Indian Medical Council Act 1956 to provide for screening test for the Indian nationals holding foreign medical qualifications for their registration with the Medical Council of India/State Medical Councils.

I.T. Education

2595. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government are assisted by the Centre to promote I.T. education; and

(b) if so, the assistance sought by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and extended by the Centre to the State to promote I.T. education during the last three years?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Unutilisation of Material

2596. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether material had been procured for 10 plants during 1986 to 1992 whereas civil works had not commenced for anyone of them and consequently the material worth Rs. 1069 crore is lying unutilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the material was not properly stored;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any investigation has been conducted into the matter and responsibility and accountability fixed;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the details of the material purchased out of Rs. 1089 crore and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The "Nuclear Power Profile" formulated in the year 1984 envisaged setting up of 10,000 MWe of installed nuclear power capacity by the year 2000. Advance actions for procurement of long delivery and critical equipment to suit the then envisaged project schedules, were taken for 10 units (4x220 MWe and 6x500 MWe PHWRs) to meet the schedules of projects envisaged in the Profile. The project construction including civil works for the plants could not be commenced due to financial resource constraints. In the year 1998, construction on 2 units (TAPP-3&4) of 500 MWe at Tarapur, Maharashtra was reactivated. Recently, with the accord of project financial sanction by the Government of India in May 2001, construction work on 2 units (Kaiga-3&4) of 220 MWe at Kaiga, Karnataka has also commenced. The civil works on these projects have also since commenced. About 77% of the total equipment/materials, procured in advance means for these projects, have been put to use in these projects which are under construction.

(c) and (d) The equipment/materials procured were stored properly for use progressively as the projects are taken up.

(e) to (g) Does not arise, since the material is put to the intended use.

(h) As explained in (a) & (b) above, about 77% of the material/equipment have been put to use in the projects under construction. The balance material/equipment, procured in advance representing about 23% of the total advance procurement, are meant for 2x220 MWe and 4x500 MWe PHWR projects which are proposed to be included, for commencement of construction, of projects in the X Five Year Plan proposals. The materials purchased are of special raw material and critical equipment which have no shelf life restrictions. The materials/equipment for these projects are properly stored and preserved.

Visa Free Entry

2597. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Pakistan are considering a proposal to allow their people to travel between the two countries without visa restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussion has been held between the two countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the response of the Pakistan thereto;

(e) whether the Union Government have studied the pros and cons of visa free entry between the two countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration to allow travel between India and Pakistan without the requirement of a visa. There have been no discussions between India and Pakistan on the subject.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Media Lab Asia

2598. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish more Media Lab Asia in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the places where such labs are likely to be located?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Media Lab Asia programme has been conceived as a network of projects at various locations in the country, with the operational office (Headquarters) at Mumbai. The process of setting up the not-for-profit organisation is in progress. The initial projects would be taken up after the establishment of the organisation. The locations of the Media Lab Asia activities/labs will depend on the projects identified.

Task Force on I.T.

2599. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has called upon Karnataka Government to extend its model of IT Task Force to all industries and set up institutionalised meetings by putting in place Business/Export Councils, to include private sector;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has agreed to the suggestions made by the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) This observation has been made in a paper called "Karnataka : Improving Business Environment for Sustained Growth" which was prepared by the World Bank. However, no such formal proposal has been received by the Karnataka Government from the World Bank.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Computer Training Courses

2600. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that C. M.C. (A Government of India Undertaking) provides various short-term and long-term software training courses to the public;

(b) if so, since when this undertaking is providing Computer Training Courses and the details of various courses provided and fees charged by this institute;

(c) whether one year's Computer Training Course provided by this undertaking is recognised by the Government offices and Undertakings for promotion/employment purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) CMC Ltd. has been providing training in software since 1978. Details of various Computer courses are as follows :

Sl.No.	Course	Duration	Fees (Rs.)
1.	*Diploma in Advanced Software Technology (DAST)	104 weeks Part time	26000-35000
2.	*Computer Awareness Program (CAP)	12 weeks Part time	3500
3.	*Computer Training Program for Banks (CTPB)	16 weeks Part time	3500
4.	Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Application (PGDCA)	26 weeks Full Time or 52 weeks Part time	36000-42000
5.	Scheduled Courses like MS Office, Oracle, Java, VB, C++ etc.	1-2 weeks	3500-5000 per week
6.	Corporate Courses	1-2 weeks	2000-5000 per week

*Normally conducted at franchise centres.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Transfer Policy of Dental Doctors

2601. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any Transfer Policy for Dental Doctors working in various Central Government Hospital in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the transfers effected during the last three years, hospital-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The following guidelines are kept in view while recommending cases of officers for postings and transfers :

- (a) To post, as far as possible, both the husband and wife at the same station.
- (b) To avoid transfer in case of officers who have less than 5 years to retire unless they have represented/requested for it.
- (c) To attempt to fill up posts of Dental Doctors in Polyclinics of CGHS especially outside Delhi.
- (d) To attempt to fill up teaching posts in Medical Colleges on priority.
- (e) To post officers returning from deputation/job abroad to places where vacancies exist for long periods.

(c) Only one doctor was transferred during the last three years. In March 2000 one Staff Surgeon (Dental) was transferred from Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Delhi (CGHS) to CGHS, Chennai against the post that had fallen vacant due to voluntary retirement of the incumbent.

Grade-I Panel of CSS

2602. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the panel for Grade-I Officers of the Central Secretariat Service for the year 1989 and 1990 have been approved by the Union Public Service Commission to the Government;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to issue the orders to enable the Officers to get their belated promotions; and

(c) the time by which all the remaining select lists from 1991 to 2000 are likely to be finalised?

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 panels for 1989 and 1990 in respect of Grade-I (Under Secretaries) of Central Secretariat Service (CSS), as finalised in consultation with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), have been notified.

(c) Considering the enormity of the task and complexity of the problem, it is not possible to indicate specific time-schedule for finalisation of the subsequent panels.

Medicine for Asthma

2603. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India for the first time in the world has developed a medicine for the relief and remedy of Asthma;

(b) if so, the name of the medicine;

(c) whether the medicine has been duly tested and proved successful in curing the disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?`

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) According to Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), a medicine for Asthma has been developed by that Institute by the name of ASMON. Toxicity and efficacy of this medicine is stated to have been tested in animal model (guinea-pigs) which yielded successful results.

Consultancy Fee

2604. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the DAE paid a sum of Rs. 50.12 crores towards consultancy fee for two plants whereas it was to be paid/utilised for 12 plants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any prior permission was taken before making the payment;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to hold enquiry into the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The design and consultancy expenditure of Rs. 50.12 crore up to end March 1998 includes Rs. 46.47 crore towards TAPP-3&4 (2x500 MWe), Rs. 2.36 crore towards RAPP-5 to 8 (4x500 MWe) and Rs. 1.29 crore towards Kaiga-3 to 6 (4x220 MWe).

The design and consultancy expenditure towards the first 2x500 MWe project (TAPP-3&4) includes works which are common to TAPP-3&4 and future 500 MWe units and works specific to TAPP-3&4. The common design and consultancy works are necessarily to be carried out irrespective of the number of 500 MWe units that may be set up as per the programme. Therefore, this expenditure will have to be borne by the first unit, that is, TAPP-3&4. In future 500 MWe units, the common works already carried out need not be repeated while site specific design and consultancy works as necessary will be carried out and to that extent the expenditure on design and consultancy will be proportionately lower.

(c) All payments were made in accordance with the contracts which were approved by the respective competent authorities.

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

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to NGOs

2605. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have no information about the assistance provided to the Corporations and Non-Governmental Organisations functioning in the State and their jurisdiction under various schemes;

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

(c) the details of assistance provided to the States for corporations and Non-Governmental Organisations, State-wise during last two years?

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 subject matter regarding the assistance provided to the Corporations functioning in the States falls under the jurisdiction of State Governments. Concerned administrative Ministries/ Departments of Government of India have information on the assistance provided to the NGOs functioning in the States.

(c) Planning Commission has recently initiated action to compile the information on financial assistance provided to NGOs state-wise and year-wise for building a database.

New Routes for Infiltration

2606. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan is using Chinese manufactured unmanned aeroplanes for finding new routes of infiltration as reported in Rashtriya Sahara dated May 21, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the specific steps being taken by the Government to check such activities to safeguard the borders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) Pakistan is known to be in possession of the following Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) of Chinese origin :

- (i) ASN 105A – 06
- (ii) ASN 206 – 06

These UAVs are used for tactical military reconnaissance and its linkage to infiltration cannot be ascertained.

(c) Adequate security measures have been undertaken to prevent such activities owing to security reasons it is not possible to give details of the specific steps being taken in this regard.

MPLADS

2607. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Member of Parliament are not allowed to spend even a rupee from the Local Area Development Fund at their discretion and for that they have to follow guidelines/programmes issued by the Union Government;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints from MPs regarding improper behaviour of the bureaucrats and meaningless rules;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) the details of action taken by the Government to solve the problem;

(e) whether Government are considering for issuing any orders as according to which MPs will be allowed to spend a certain percentage of the total fund in the work of their choice; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) In accordance with Guidelines on MPLADS, each MP will give a choice of works to the concerned Head of the District for implementation. The chosen work should be admissible under MPLADS Guidelines.

(b) to (d) Some complaints like non-compliance of guidelines on MPLADS, delay in execution of works,

irregular use of funds etc. have been received from some Members of Parliament. As and when such complaints are received the concerned State Governments are requested to investigate the matter and take remedial action.

(e) and (f) Under MPLADS only the works which are recommended by the MPs are taken up. As and when suggestions to amend the Guidelines are received from the MPs these are considered in consultation with the committees on MPLADS of Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha.

[English]

Conversion of INS Vikrant into Maritime Museum

2608. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether INS Vikrant is being converted into maritime museum;

(b) if so, the details finalised with Navy and Maharashtra Government in this regard;

(c) the time-frame worked out thereof; and

(d) funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (d) The State Government of Maharashtra had evinced keen interest in converting 'INS Vikrant' into a maritime Museum. Accordingly, it was decided to gift the ship to the State Government for conversion into a museum. However, in April, 2000, the State Government conveyed its inability to implement the scheme. As such, it was decided to dispose of the ship as "scrap" and tenders were invited accordingly. However, in July, 2000, the State Government of Maharashtra renewed their request for conversion of the ship into a museum. As such, the process initiated for disposal of the ship as "scrap" was kept in abeyance.

The State Government have since informed that the feasibility report and the site have been finalized. The State Government has been requested to shift the ship to an alternate berth and ensure the ship's safety.

The museum project is to be undertaken entirely by the Government of Maharashtra and is likely to take about three years to complete. No funding support by the Navy is envisaged.

Decline in Sex Ratio

2609. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA :

SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE :

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI Y. S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the recent census revealed alarming decline in the sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for this decline;

(c) whether the Government propose to work out any action plan to reverse the alarming sex ratio;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the action plan is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) As per population census 2001, the sex ratio has declined in the age group (0-6) at all India level in 2001 compared to that of 1991. The information showing sex ratio in all States/UTs in 1991 and 2001 is enclosed as Statement.

(c) to (e) There are many socio-economic reasons for declining sex ratio in the age group, the foremost among them being the practice of dowry, son-preference and neglect of girl child. However, this Ministry is currently implementing Reproductive and Child Health Programme since 1997 for Mother and Child Care Services with special emphasis on quality of Primary Health Care and client satisfaction which will prevent the mortality of female child and high maternal mortality.

Besides, to discourage the practice of female foeticide, the Government of India has enacted the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Missue) Act, 1994. The implementation of the PNDT Act rests with the States/UTs.

The States/UTs have been advised to mount an

effective awareness campaigns to make the public and service providers aware of the provision of the Act.

The State/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non-Governmental Organizations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act. After the Census 2001 figures were available, letters have been addressed to the Chief Ministers of all States/UTs to give focused attention to the issue of adverse sex ratio. Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs have also been addressed recently for following up on implementation of various provisions of the PNDT Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organized at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take up projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and public at large. In December, 2000 the Department of Family Welfare has written letters to 82 Mother NGOs to direct the field NGOs to generate within their jurisdiction, awareness and public opinion against the malpractice of selective abortion.

The co-operation of the NGOs has also been elicited in listing and enumerating, within their jurisdiction, the name and address of premises where the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) is being performed, with a view to detecting registered/unregistered clinics.

Statement

Sex Ratio (Female per thousand males) in the age group (0-6)

India and State/Union territory	1991	2001
1	2	3
INDIA	945	927
Jammu & Kashmir	NA	937
Himachal Pradesh	951	897
Punjab	875	793
Chandigarh	899	845
Uttaranchal	948	906
Haryana	879	820

1	2	3
Delhi	915	865
Rajasthan	916	909
Uttar Pradesh	927	916
Bihar	953	938
Sikkim	965	986
Arunachal Pradesh	982	961
Nagaland	993	975
Manipur	974	961
Mizoram	969	971
Tripura	967	975
Meghalaya	986	975
Assam	975	964
West Bengal	967	963
Jharkhand	979	966
Orissa	967	950
Chhattisgarh	984	975
Madhya Pradesh	941	929
Gujarat	928	878
Daman & Diu	958	925
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1013	973
Maharashtra	946	917
Andhra Pradesh	975	964
Karnataka	960	949
Goa	964	933
Lakshadweep	941	974
Kerala	958	963
Tamil Nadu	948	939
Pondicherry	963	958
Andaman & Nicobar	973	965

Source : Census of India Provisional Population Totals Paper 1 of 2001

Inclusion of Mochi Caste in SC

2610. SHRI J. S. BRAR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mochi Caste is included in the list of Scheduled Castes almost all over India except in the State of Punjab, where it is included in the list of Backward Classes;

(b) whether the Government have received representations for inclusion of Mochi Caste in the list of Scheduled Castes in Punjab; and

(c) if so, the action/decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Mochi Community has been notified as scheduled Caste only in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Delhi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal for inclusion of 'Mochi' caste in the list of Scheduled Caste for Punjab is under process as per approved modalities. As this process involves consultation with several organizations, it will take considerable time and as such it is not possible to indicate any time frame for finalising the proposal.

[Translation]

Increase in Tuition Fee

2611. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance tuition fee being paid to Government Employees for their wards studying in Public School;

(b) if so the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be enhanced; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF

PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The rates of reimbursement of tuition fee were revised w.e.f. 1.8.97 on the basis of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to enhance these rates.

[English]

Institutions in Karnataka

2612. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether any institution/statutory body has been set up in Karnataka under the control of his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (c) whether the Government propose to establish some more such institutions in the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Under this Ministry, two Small Industries Service Institutes (SISIs) (at Bangalore and Hubly) and two branch SISIs (at Mangalore and Gulbarga) in the State of Karnataka are functioning under the administrative control of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries). A Branch Office of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), is functioning at Bangalore. In addition, the Central Institute of Coir Technology is also functioning at Bangalore.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Ban on Smoking

2613. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE :

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether WHO has urged developing countries to adopt stringent measures including ban on public smoking in view of tobacco related diseases;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) the total funds provided by WHO for the care of patients during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the action plan chalked out of national level to prevent the ill-effects of tobacco on health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Keeping in view the adverse impact of tobacco on health, all the Member States of the WHO resolved to implement tobacco control strategies through legislative means and increased public awareness.

(b) A Bill namely, the Cigarettes and other Tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001 with a view to discourage use of tobacco products was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7.3.2001. This Bill, inter-alia, seeks to ban smoking in public places. It has been referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development of Rajya Sabha for consideration on 12.3.2001.

(c) WHO has not provided any funds specifically for care of patients addicted due to use of tobacco in the last three years.

(d) In addition to steps on introduction of legislation listed at reply to part (b), the Government has taken steps to create awareness amongst the public about the ill effects of use of tobacco products through Television, Radio as well as Department of Field Publicity under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. In addition, the following other steps have been taken :

1. Under the Cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975, manufacturers or persons trading in Cigarettes are required to display a statutory warning. Similar warning is required to be displayed on advertisement also.
2. Instructions have been issued through the Cabinet Secretariat prohibiting smoking in Hospitals, Dispensaries, Educational Institutions, Conference rooms, Domestic Air Flights, AC Sleeper Coaches, Sub-urban Trains etc.
3. Direct tobacco related advertisements are prohibited on Doordarshan and All India Radio. The Cable TV Regulation Act has been recently amended prohibiting tobacco advertising on Cable TV also.
4. Under prevention of Food Adulteration rules, a warning "Chewing of Tobacco is Injurious to Health" has also been made mandatory on packets of Gutka.

Doctors Ratio in Rural/Urban Areas

2615. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the availability ratio of doctors *vis-a-vis* people separately in rural as well as urban areas in the country as on 30 June, 2001;

(b) the above ratio in respect of Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani Doctors separately;

(c) the percentage of total GDP earmarked for health services separately for rural as well as urban areas for the year 2001-2002;

(d) whether the Government have made any monitoring or study to find out as to whether the allocated funds for health sector has been utilized properly or not;

(e) the number of cases of misutilisation in regard to above notice till 30 June, 2001; and

(f) the concrete measures taken/being taken during the remaining period of current year and in 2002-03 to improve health services particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) More than 5 lakh registered allopathic medical practitioners and about 6 lakh registered practitioners of ISM&H are available to take care of present health care services in the country. Rural/Urban break up is not available.

(c) As per the World Health Report, 2000 the total expenditure on Health as a percentage of GDP for 1997 was 5.2. The figures are not separately available for rural and urban areas.

(d) and (e) Funds are normally utilised with due care as per set procedure and for the purpose for which they are approved. Regular monitoring of disease control programmes is done through periodic reports submitted by State/District Societies, review meetings at district State and Central level and field visits. Regular auditing is also done by CAG. Cases of mis-utilisation of funds that have been noticed are minimal.

(f) Measures are continuously being taken to improve delivery of health services in the country including rural areas. Some of these include improving rural health infrastructure, mobilising external assistance to tackle the major diseases involving NGOs and Panchayati Raj institutions, upgrading rural hospitals in certain States with World bank assistance, etc.

Induction of Low Working RADAR System

2616. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to purchase RADARs capable of detecting the aircraft flying at low level;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps in this direction so far; and

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

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details cannot be given in the interest of national security.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Defence Canteens

2617. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of large scale irregularities in Defence Canteens as reported in the Hindustan of Delhi edition on May 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against guilty officers in this regard;

(c) whether the Government initiated action on the reports submitted by intelligence agencies in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) The Government is aware about the report published in Hindustan of Delhi edition on May 11, 2001. The contents of the report regarding irregularities are not correct. Canteen facilities are being provided to entitled persons only.

(b) Not applicable in view of answer at (a) above.

(c) No reports have been received from intelligence agencies in this regard.

(d) and (e) Not applicable in view of answer at (c) above.

[English]

Acquisition of Pieces of Bamiyan Buddha Statues

2618. SHRI ANNASAHAB M. K. PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether diplomatic initiatives have been initiated to acquire the pieces of Bamiyan Buddha statues for putting them together in Bodh Gaya, Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Following the issue of a decree on 26th February, 2001 ordering destruction of all statues in Afghanistan, the Taliban militia, in complete disregard of international opinion and appeals, destroyed the Bamiyan Buddhas over a period of time.

In a statement issued on 27th February, 2001, the Government had condemned the Taliban decree and called upon them to ensure full protection of Bamiyan Buddhas and other relics. On 2nd March, 2001, the External Affairs Minister made a statement in both Houses of Parliament in which, inter-alia, offered to bring these artifacts to India for safe keeping for the Afghan people. On the same day both Houses of Parliament adopted unanimous resolution condemning this barbarism. The Government also raised this issue internationally. Prime Minister also wrote to several heads of Governments, including permanent members of the UN Security Council, the UN Secretary General and others urging that the collective voice of humanity be raised against this outrage and that the Taliban be made to see reason. There was a widespread international condemnation of the Taliban militia's actions. The UN Secretary General, Director General of UNESCO, European Union and several Muslim countries were critical of the Taliban militia.

[Translation]

Indo-Israeli Talks on Pilotless 'Lakshya' Planes

2619. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Israel has shown interest in acquiring pilotless plane 'Lakshya' developed by India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) Israeli

Ministry of Defence had requested for technical details of LAKSHYA aerial target.

(c) The details have been provided. Israeli response is awaited.

Growth in Export of SSI Products

2620. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of capital investment made in the small scale industries during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether there has been a significant growth in the export of SSI products;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the incentives proposed to be given by the Government to SSIs during the year 2001-02?

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 capital investment made in the small scale industries during the last three years, i.e., 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 are estimated at Rs. 6,640 crores, Rs. 4,880 crores and Rs. 6,865 crores respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The exports by the small scale industries during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 are estimated at Rs. 48,979 crores, Rs. 54,200 crores and Rs. 59,978 crores respectively.

(d) In order to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government have announced a comprehensive policy package on 30th August, 2000. The policy package 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.

Atomic Power Stations in Rajasthan

2621. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of atomic power station units working in Rajasthan and the number of units proposed to be installed;

(b) whether the atomic power station unit at Kota in Rajasthan often develops snags;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of times/days the units got closed due to the snags during the last two years and the persons responsible for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Presently, four atomic power units RAPS-1 (100 MWe), RAPS-2 (200 MWe), RAPS-3 (220 MWe), RAPS-4 (220 MWe) are in operation in Rajasthan, Additional 2x220 MWe and 2x500 MWe units are planned for commencement in 10th Five Year Plan subject to availability of financial resources.

(b) and (c) In the year 2000-01, RAPS-2 and RAPS-3 performed very well registering capacity factors of 91% and 84% respectively. RAPS-1 which was operating satisfactorily till September 2000, was shut down for attending to the moderator heat exchanger tube leak, End-shield repairs and In Service Inspection (ISI). This unit has been synchronised to grid recently on 24.7.2001 after end-shield repairs and completion of other jobs. RAPS-4 which commenced commercial operation from 23.12.2000, has overcome the initial teething problems and is approaching stable operation phase.

(d) During the Year 1999-2000 the number of outages for RAPS-1, RAPS-2 were 12 and 16 respectively and availability factors for these units were 71% and 83% respectively. During the year 2000-01 the number of outages for RAPS-1, RAPS-2, were 10 and 3 respectively.

RAPS-2 has during the year 2000 operated continuously for 181 days (a record performance) from 22.1.2000 to 22.7.2000.

RAPS-3 and RAPS-4 have commenced commercial operation on 1.6.2000 and 23.12.2000 respectively. RAPS-3 and RAPS-4 had 9 and 5 outages respectively with availability factors of 86% and 51% respectively in the year 2000-01.

The above outages includes planned maintenance outages, outages due to grid disturbances and forced outages. Such outages are considered normal for power plant operations.

[English]

Setting up of Joint Venture

2622. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are exploring the possibilities of setting up independent units or joint ventures by Indian software Giants in the Germany and other parts of the world;

(b) If so, the details and plans worked out therefor;

(c) whether the Government plan to rope in State Governments to grab the opportunities; and

(d) if so, the details of the State Governments likely to be involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir. The Union Government have no plans of setting up any such units abroad. The Indian Software companies are free to set up or acquire software development facilities, wherever they see a window of opportunity.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SC/ST in Dental Medical College

2623. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to admit students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved for this community in the year 1993 as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister;

(b) If so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of seats offered in different faculties/disciplines in all the Dental Medical Colleges (receiving the grant-in-aid from the Central Government) in the Graduation/Post Graduation level courses during the last five years, year-wise;

(d) the total number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the above referred courses in different faculties courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during the last five years, year-wise;

(e) the reasons for not implementing recommendations satisfactorily; and

(f) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) As per the comments given by the Department of Education on the recommendations of the Reservation Sub-Committee of the Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee : 15% of seats in all courses in Central Universities are to be reserved for students belonging to SCs and 7½% for those belonging to STs. The Department of Education as well as the UGC have taken a number of steps and measures to ensure that the reservation policy is implemented in letter and spirit. A committee has been set up by the UGC to monitor the reservation policy on general Education for welfare of SC/STs in the University system. UGC has issued instructions to all Universities to provide reservations to SC/ST students in all courses.

(c) The Government of India is not giving grant-in-aid to any Dental College.

(d) Does not arise.

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

National Trust for Welfare of Disabled

2624. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted a National Trust for welfare of persons with multiple disabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Trust has undertaken some activities in Delhi and outside; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with funds spent for each activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted a National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities by an Act of Parliament dated 30th December, 1999. The objectives of the Trust are :-

- (i) To enable and empower persons with disabilities to live as independently and fully as possible within or close to the community to which they belong.
- (ii) To strengthen facilities to provide support to persons with disability to live within their own families.
- (iii) To extend support to registered organisations to provide needs based services during period of crisis in the family of persons with disability;
- (iv) To deal with problems of persons with disability who do not have family support;
- (v) To promote measures for the care and protection of persons with disability in the event of death of their parent or guardian;
- (vi) To evolve procedures for the appointment of guardian and Trustees for Person with disability requiring such protection;
- (vii) To facilitate the realization of equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation of persons with disability; and
- (viii) To do any other act which is incidental to the aforesaid objects.

(c) and (d) The National Trust has started functioning since July 2000. 78 districts level local level committees have been constituted in 11 States (other than Delhi) and two Union Territories. Also 179 (3 in Delhi) organizations

have been registered with the National Trust under Section 12 of the Act.

The National Trust has also launched the schemes of establishment of relief institutions and training of caregivers.

Awareness generation camps have been held in Kolkata and Ahmedabad and interaction has taken place with many State Governments. Since its inception the National Trust has till June, 2001 spent Rs. 165529 on its activities.

[Translation]

Sickle Cell

2625. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has submitted any report to the Government about the prevalence of sickle cell gene and the rural population in the country suffering from that disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government on the said report of the ICMR to check and control the disease;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government with the ICMR in this regard; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) No specific report has been submitted to the Government by ICMR on the prevalence of Sickle Cell gene in rural areas.

[English]

Bus Service Between Agartala and Dhaka

2626. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have agreed to start service between Agartala and Dhaka; and

(b) if so, by when this service is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The Governments of India and Bangladesh have signed an Agreement and a Protocol to operate a passenger bus service between Agartala and Dhaka on July 10, 2001 in Dhaka. The regular bus service is likely to begin in the last week of August 2001.

[Translation]

Leakage from Atomic Power Plants

2627. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the atomic power stations in the country which are to be completed;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that there is no leakage of radio-activity substances from these stations;

(c) the details of the atomic power plants from which leakage of radio-activity substances had occurred in the last three years;

(d) whether any study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to determine its effect on families residing near these plants;

(e) if so, the outcomes thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Proposals for nuclear power development in the Ninth Five Year Plan

include commencement of 2x500 MWe plant at Tarapur (TAPP 3&4) and additional 2x220 MWe unit at Kaiga (Kaiga 3&4), besides commissioning of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the 2x1000 MWe Nuclear Power Station at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu with Russian assistance and commencement of work on the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) of 1x500 MWe towards the end of the 9th Plan. Further, as per the present plans, two projects viz. Kaiga-5&6 (2x220 MWe) and RAPP-5&6 (2x500 MWe) are planned to be commenced during 10th Plan period subject to availability of financial resources.

(b) and (c) Periodic inspection of equipment, prevention of leakages and careful control and monitoring of radioactive discharges are the preventive measures that continuously remain in force to ensure that radioactive discharges/leakages do not exceed the limit laid down by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).

Some amount of radioactivity is permitted to be discharged from every Nuclear Power Plants (NPP). The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has specified the limits for the discharge of radioactivity for each of the NPPs.

In the last three years, there has been one incident where this limit was exceeded. Subsequent to a leak in moderator heat exchanger of RAPS Unit-2 on May 5, 1998, heavy water containing tritium activity got released into Rana Pratap Sagar Lake. Though the limit on the tritium discharge was exceeded, the annual radiation dose to the public due to this release was estimated to be less than 25 microsievert compared to the annual limit 1000 microsievert prescribed by AERB.

There was another incident, in MAPS Unit-2 of heavy water leak due to failure of seal plug during coolant channel inspection on March 26, 1999. This incident led to release of some radioactivity through the stack, which was well within the specified limit. There was no release through the liquid route.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. The atomic power plants are operated safely. The radioactive dose to the public residing near these plants due to the radioactive releases are well within the limits prescribed by AERB. In the light of this no study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to determine the effect of leaked radioactivity on families residing near these plants.

*[English]***CGHS Facilities to Pensioners**

2628. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have collaborated with Insurance Companies to extend health cover of pensioners living in areas not accessible to the CGHS facilities;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement worked out with Insurance Companies;

(c) whether pensioners are also allowed to go the nearest private hospital and get treatment and then be reimbursed; and

(d) if so, the details of rules and stipulations?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Central Government servants living in non-CGHS areas are given medical facilities under CS(MA) Rules, 1944. However, the CS (MA) Rules, 1944 are not applicable to the Central Government pensioners and consequently therefore, pensioners are not allowed to get permission/reimbursement for taking treatment in the nearest private hospital under the said rules. The Department of Pensions & Pensioner's Welfare vide their O.M. dated 19.12.1997 has granted Rs. 100/- per month as medical allowance for day to day medical care to those Central Government pensioners whose place of residence falls in a non-CGHS area.

Special Award to SSI

2629. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to institute a special award to encourage small scale units to commercialise indigenous technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to encourage SSI in order to ensure that they do not get swamped and marginalised by the big units?

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 Government of India have already a Scheme for giving National Awards for Research & Development Efforts in the Small Scale Sector from the Award year 1999 to encourage in-house R&D efforts and to promote this spirit in the larger interest of qualitative development of Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector. These Awards are in three categories—First, Second and Third, and are to be conferred once in a calendar year on deserving registered Small Scale Industrial Units which have been in continuous production for at least four years before the year of Award. The First, Second and Third Awards carry, besides a Certificate and Trophy, a cash prize of Rs. 25,000/-, Rs. 20,000/- and Rs. 15,000/- respectively.

(c) To strengthen the Small Scale Sector and to enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, the Government has announced a comprehensive Policy Package on 30th August, 2000. The Policy Package provides enhanced fiscal support, easier credit, improved infrastructural support, better marketing facilities and technological support.

*[Translation]***Ayurvedic and Indian System of Medicine**

2630. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH :

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to promote the Ayurvedic and Indian System of Medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more colleges of Ayurvedic and Indian System of Medicine; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) In order to develop and promote the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy including the Ayurvedic system, the Government in 1995 established an independent Department which is implementing schemes for the development & cultivation of medicinal plants, preparation of agro-techniques, upgradation of undergraduate/postgraduate institutions, standardisation of drugs, assistance to State Pharmacies and Laboratories, broadening the testing facilities, notification of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), encouraging intra-mural & extra mural research and dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC). A Medicinal Plants Board has been established to give focussed attention to development of the medicinal plant sector to provide good quality raw material for the manufacture of ISM drugs and products.

(c) and (d) Opening of colleges for ISM&H is a State responsibility which is done through State Government resources or private endeavour. Meanwhile, the Central Government has established National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, National Institute of Homoeopathy, Calcutta, National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, and Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi.

[English]

Communicable Diseases

2631. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

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

(a) whether the Urban slums are being hit by various communicable diseases particularly in Monsoon season such as malaria, dengue, leptospirosis, kala-azar, gastro-enteritis;

(b) if so, whether various Governments have

requested for formulation of Comprehensive policy for Urban health case;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Urban slums are prone to Malaria, Dengue etc. particularly during monsoon. However, a decline in the trend of Malaria and Dengue incidence has been registered during the last 3 years in the metro-cities through efforts for effective prevention and control of the diseases.

For control of Malaria including Dengue, National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) has been in operation in the country as a Category-II Centrally sponsored Scheme Urban Malaria Scheme under NAMP envisages adoption of the following strategies for Malaria control in the urban towns sanctioned under the scheme :-

1. To provide treatment to patients through passive surveillance institutions such as hospitals, dispensaries and malaria clinics.
2. Recurrent anti-larval measures through larvicides like temephos in towns.
3. Minor engineering methods like deweeding etc.
4. Biological control using larvivorous fish
5. Awareness campaigns such as the observance of anti malaria month in June every year

Larvicides (excluding Mosquito Larvicidal Oil (MLO) and Pyrethrum Extract 2% are supplied to the States by the Centre under Urban Malaria Scheme. The entire operational cost and the cost of MLO and equipment are borne by the States. Steps taken to control Gastro-enteritis and Leptospirosis inter-alia are:-

Gastro-enteritis :

- Lifting of water samples for testing
- Surveillance of affected areas
- Distribution of Chlorine Tablets
- Distribution of ORS packets

- Imparting of Health Education to the community through Handbills, posters, group discussion, Media etc.

- Mobile clinics to treat the poor in under served areas.

Leptospirosis :

- Guidelines indicating nature of the disease, its prevention and control have been circulated to all States.
- Doctors have been sensitized to maintain high degree of vigilance in order to send suspected cases for laboratory confirmation.
- States have undertaken intensive containment measures like (a) anti-rodent activities; (b) cleanliness drives; (c) house to house surveys; and (d) anti vector measures.

Special Employment Exchanges for Handicapped

2632. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have special Employment Exchanges for handicapped people;

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

(c) the details of the criteria adopted for establishment of such Special Employment Exchanges;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to open more Special Employment Exchanges in 2001-2002; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the number of Special Employment Exchanges for persons with disabilities, State-wise is enclosed.

(c) A special Employment Exchange is set up where 1000 or more persons with disabilities are available for registration.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

1 Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2 Assam	Guwahati
3 Bihar	Patna
4 Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Baroda, Rajkot, Surat.
5 Haryana	Chndigarh
6 Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
7 Karnataka	Bangalore, Mysore, Hubli, Gulbarga
8 Kerala	Trivendrum, Kozhikode, Kollam, Ernakulum
9 Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
10 Maharashtra	Mumbai
11 Manipur	Imphal
12 Orissa	Bhubneshwer
13 Rajasthan	Jaipur, Ajmer, Alwar
14 Tamil Nadu	Madras
15 Tripura	Agartala
16 Punjab	Ludhiana
17 Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Alighrah, Agra, Varanasi, Barailly, Lucknow, Mathura, Ghaziabad, Allahabad
18 West Bengal	Kolkata
19 Delhi	Curzon Road, Shahdara (Jhilmil)

Policy on Rehabilitation of Widows

2633. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any stated policy for rehabilitation of widows and wards of defence personnel dying in harness, war or otherwise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time schedule worked out for completion of formalities and release of benefits; and

(d) number of such dependants given jobs during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (d) The Government is having various welfare schemes for the resettlement of ex-Servicemen including widows of Defence Services personnel dying in harness, war or military operations. Most of the widows/dependants of deceased Defence Services personnel reside in States. Such persons prefer to have jobs near their native place, which can be provided by respective State Governments.

The Department of Personnel and Training have also issued instructions for providing compassionate appointments to the dependants of the Government servants dying in harness. Such appointments can be made up to 5% of vacancies falling under direct recruitment quota in any Group 'C' and 'D' posts. Under the same provision, widows/dependants of Defence service personnel dying in harness are also considered for appointment on compassionate grounds against vacancies in civilian group 'C' and 'D' posts of Service Headquarters.

Two members of the family of a Defence Service personnel, whose death is attributable to military service, are eligible on Priority IIA for employment against Group 'C' and 'D' post, for which recruitment is made by the Directorate General of Employment and Training.

Employment on compassionate grounds and under Priority IIA Scheme of the Ministry of Labour are made as and when vacancies are available. The information regarding employment provided to widows/dependants is not centrally monitored.

Widows of Defence Service personnel, whose death is attributable to military service, are also eligible for allotment of Oil Product Agencies under 'Defence quota'.

Widows in penury are given financial assistance of Rs. 1,000/- per month for two years from Raksha Mantri Discretionary Fund.

Handing Over of Jinnah House

2634. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has requested India to hand over the Jinnah House in Mumbai for opening of a Consulate Office;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether objections have been raised to the said proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the past, Pakistan Government had requested for Jinnah House for use as residence of its Consul General in Mumbai.

(c) to (e) The Government of India, after carefully considering the request had conveyed its inability to accede to its request to the Government of Pakistan.

Visit of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State

2635. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian

Affairs Ms. Christina Rocca visited India from 23-25 July 2001.

(b) and (c) Ms. Rocca's visit provided an opportunity to continue the on-going dialogue with the new U.S. Administration on our shared desire of building a more meaningful and productive relationship between India and the United States, covering political, economic and security matters. Towards this end, the two discussed further strengthening of the bilateral Dialogue Architecture. In addition, the two sides also exchanged views on regional developments. Ms. Rocca was also briefed on the recently held Summit level meeting between India and Pakistan in Agra. Further, the two sides discussed a wide range of multilateral issues, including UN peacekeeping, international terrorism and the forthcoming World Conference against Racism.

[Translation]

Action Plan Linked with KVIC

2636. SHRI JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to review various action plans linked with Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have started any new action plan through Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the year 2001-2002;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new plan will be started?

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) The Government of India announced a package for the promotion of Khadi and Village Industries sector on 14th May, 2001, with the prime objective of creating more jobs in rural areas and

empowering the women and backward classes. The main features of this package comprises a Rebate Policy for five years, options of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover the 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]

Review Medical Colleges Fees

2637. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to review medical colleges fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to increase the quota of NRI seats for new colleges; and

(d) If so, the steps taken by the Union Government on the above requests of the Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The fee structure in private medical colleges, both for merit and payment seats was reviewed recently in consultation with the State Govts and increase in fee by 15% over and above the fee fixed in 1997-98 was allowed from the year 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) The quota for NRI/Management is determined on the basis of various judicial pronouncements. The Central Government have already advised the State Governments in 1999 that they can introduce 15% NRI/foreign students quota in Government Medical Colleges within the approved intake after ascertaining the requirement and needs of local students.

[Translation]

Promotion of Assistants

2638. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Assistants became eligible for promotion to the grade of Section officer as on June 30, 2001 as per Central Secretariat Services Rules;

(b) the time by which all the Assistants are likely to be promoted;

(c) whether the Government propose to promote Assistants also with 12 years qualifying service on the lines of promotion being given to the Section Officers and the under Secretaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) 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. Promotion for the grade of Assistants to that of Section Officers depends on the number of vacancies arising in respective cadres and for this reason, no time-frame can be specified.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. 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 List 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 issued at regular intervals.

[English]

Leprosy

2639. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government made any review on Leprosy Eradication programme;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Leprosy patients in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether Government have a proposal to set up separate Lepers home and hospital exclusively for Lepers in those States;

(e) if so, the steps taken/being taken in that regard particularly in Karnataka during last three years and so far;

(f) the funds demanded by the State Governments and provided by the Union Government during each of the last three years and so far for the above proposals; and

(g) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Review of the programme is done regularly both at Central Level and in each of the endemic States.

(c) Prevalence of leprosy has reduced from 10 per 10,000 in March, 1994 to 3.74 per 10,000 in March, 2001. Percentage of leprosy cases put on MDT has increased from 98.5% to 99.7%. Statewise details of leprosy cases are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(d) No, Sir. Hospitalization is not required for the treatment of leprosy. The programme is giving emphasis on domiciliary treatment with Multi Drug Therapy which is being provided free in all the districts of the country.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Details of funds released to States are given in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

No. of Leprosy Cases by end of March 2001

Sl.No.	State/UT	Cases on record at the end of month	Prevalence Rate per 10000 Population
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28567	3.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	154	1.41
3.	Assam	2219	0.83

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
4. Bihar		77330	9.33	21. Orissa		25871	7.05
5. Chhattisgarh		16058	7.72	22. Punjab		1267	0.52
6. Goa		456	3.40	23. Rajasthan		4303	0.76
7. Gujarat		8398	1.66	24. Sikkim		48	0.89
8. Haryana		764	0.36	25. Tamil Nadu		25449	4.10
9. Himachal Pradesh		339	0.56	26. Tripura		168	0.53
10. Jharkhand		29349	10.91	27. Uttar Pradesh		71931	4.33
11. Jammu Divn.		649	1.53	28. Uttaranchal		1533	1.81
12. Kashmir Divn.		163	0.28	29. West Bengal		22396	2.79
13. Karnataka		11499	2.18	30. A & N Islands		103	2.89
14. Kerala		2874	0.90	31. Chandigarh		283	3.14
15. Madhya Pradesh		15002	2.48	32. D & N Haveli		134	6.09
16. Maharashtra		29947	3.10	33. Daman & Diu		27	1.71
17. Manipur		207	0.87	34. Delhi		6211	4.51
18. Meghalaya		68	0.29	35. Lakshadweep		23	3.83
19. Mizoram		61	0.68	36. Pondicherry		334	3.43
20. Nagaland		55	0.28	Total		384240	3.74

Statement-II*State-wise Allocation under National Leprosy Eradication Programme during Last 3 Years*

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States	1998-99				1999-2000				2000-2001			
		Cash	Kind	Distt.	Total	Cash	Kind	Distt.	Total	Cash	Kind	Distt.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	172.00	48.50	102.00	322.50	172.00	68.10	202.11	442.21	160.00	130.00	218.75	508.75
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.00	0.42	142.84	168.26	21.00	0.00	39.36	60.36	18.00	7.00	111.00	136.00
3.	Assam	33.00	42.00	224.00	299.00	5.00	41.63	189.30	235.93	5.00	21.00	86.00	112.00
4.	Bihar	200.00	511.45	293.00	1004.45	200.00	500.38	622.39	1322.77	232.00	248.80	389.00	869.80
5.	Goa	2.00	0.48	8.00	10.48	0.50	1.01	0.00	1.51	0.50	1.00	0.00	1.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
6.	Gujarat	19.00	127.16	101.00	247.16	19.00	111.23	100.14	230.37	16.00	115.00	99.00	230.00
7.	Haryana	10.00	0.08	15.00	25.08	1.00	4.89	37.35	43.24	1.00	6.00	16.00	23.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10.00	6.76	91.27	108.03	10.00	0.16	44.37	54.53	9.00	8.00	44.00	61.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	43.00	12.89	95.00	150.89	20.00	8.82	34.79	63.61	18.00	4.00	65.00	87.00
10.	Karnataka	108.00	71.48	169.00	348.48	71.00	15.04	161.94	247.98	61.75	138.00	103.00	302.75
11.	Kerala	85.00	10.00	137.00	232.00	10.00	16.89	120.41	147.30	9.00	104.00	124.00	237.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	148.50	150.00	458.83	756.83	148.00	150.81	495.54	794.35	131.13	180.00	334.23	645.36
13.	Maharashtra	35.00	126.56	364.00	525.56	35.00	88.60	267.44	391.04	28.00	221.60	149.00	398.60
14.	Manipur	12.00	3.05	117.86	132.91	2.00	0.00	93.71	95.71	2.00	4.00	119.00	125.00
15.	Meghalaya	10.00	2.59	66.22	78.81	2.00	4.16	39.10	45.26	2.00	4.00	41.00	47.00
16.	Mizoram	30.00	0.34	45.43	75.77	30.00	1.62	19.60	51.22	24.00	4.00	33.00	61.00
17.	Nagaland	10.00	1.20	41.00	52.20	8.00	0.00	98.09	106.09	8.00	4.00	97.00	109.00
18.	Orissa	170.00	230.94	169.00	569.94	170.00	133.42	277.67	581.09	184.00	186.00	258.00	628.00
19.	Punjab	30.00	3.96	101.00	134.96	30.00	6.87	63.52	100.39	23.00	2.00	11.00	36.00
20.	Rajasthan	61.00	22.00	425.51	508.51	61.00	0.00	87.37	148.37	52.00	22.00	31.00	105.00
21.	Sikkim	22.00	1.00	42.00	65.00	22.00	0.00	49.36	71.36	18.71	3.00	20.00	41.71
22.	Tamil Nadu	125.00	64.43	160.00	349.43	125.00	122.11	138.68	385.79	100.00	152.00	170.74	422.74
23.	Tripura	24.00	1.50	50.35	75.85	24.00	0.00	23.18	47.18	20.00	4.00	10.00	34.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	185.00	303.36	426.00	914.36	164.50	290.46	962.14	1417.10	185.91	256.60	651.00	1093.51
25.	West Bengal	106.00	207.85	139.00	452.85	106.00	215.31	520.22	841.53	153.00	174.00	457.00	784.00
26.	A & N Islands	6.50		-	6.50	1.00	4.63	0.00	5.63	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
27.	Chandigarh	1.00		5.00	6.00	0.50	5.58	7.21	13.29	0.50	0.00	3.00	3.50
28.	D & N Haveli	1.00		-	1.00	1.00	0.17	0.00	1.17	1.00	0.00	7.79	8.79
29.	Daman & Diu	9.50		0.00	9.50	9.50	0.00	0.00	9.50	9.50	0.00	5.00	14.50
30.	Delhi	2.00		51.15	53.15	2.00	2.38	10.00	14.38	2.00	0.00	39.50	41.50
31.	Lakshadweep	2.00		9.53	11.53	1.00	0.36	0.00	1.36	1.00	0.00	2.00	3.00
32.	Pondicherry	2.00		0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	5.00	7.00
Total		1699.00	1950.00	4049.99	7898.99	1474.00	1794.63	4704.99	7973.62	1479.00	2000.00	3700.01	7179.01

Achievement of Indian Scientists on Space Research

2640. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the significant achievements of Indian Scientists in the context of Space Research;

(b) whether the country has attained maximum utilisation of space technology for weather prediction, telecommunications and identifications of natural resources; 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 significant achievements of Indian Scientists in Space research in India are self-reliant development of world class satellites and launch vehicles/rockets and utilizing space systems in areas relevant to national development in a cost-effective manner. India has established two indigenously built operational space systems viz., Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRS) and Indian National Satellite System (INSAT) contributing to the national development in various fronts. India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is well proven through four successive successful flights and it provides self-reliant launch capability to orbit remote sensing satellites of 1.2 Tonne class in Polar Sun-synchronous orbits. The successful flight of Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) on 18th April, 2001 is a major landmark in the Indian Space Programme making India the sixth country in the world to demonstrate capabilities for geo-stationary satellite launch. Front ranking scientific investigations are being carried out in the fields of astronomy, atmospheric sciences and long-term climatic research using satellites, balloons, sounding rockets and ground instruments.

(b) and (c) The multipurpose INSAT satellite system which is one of the largest domestic satellite systems in the world is extensively used for television broadcasting services through connectivity to more than 1100 TV trans-

mitters, providing telecommunications including rural/remote area connectivity, networking of radio stations, gathering meteorological data for weather prediction and cyclone warnings, and providing search & rescue support. These satellites are also used for transmission of developmental programmes in rural areas and for educational training. The Indian Remote Sensing Satellite system is among the best in the world for generating information useful for management of natural resources and the data from IRS are used world-wide. The IRS satellite data are used for identification & management of natural resources at national level including identifying location of zones of availability of ground water, monitoring of forest areas, identification of waste lands for development, preharvest agricultural crop acreage and production estimation, monitoring of irrigated command areas and mapping of bio-diversity in bio-rich areas of the country.

Funds for Maharashtra

2641. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a request from the Maharashtra Government for grant-in-aid for the proposed "Simhastha Kumbhamela" to be held in 2003-2004 at Trimbakeshwar and Nasik in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been considered by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the amount proposed to be released by the Union Government for the 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central assistance of Rs. 50 crore, each year for the years, 2001-02 and 2002-03, totalling to Rs. 100 crore, has been sought by the State Government.

(c) and (d) The request is under consideration.

Dengue

2642. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of dengue fever reported from different parts of Capital and adjacent States of Delhi during this rainy season; and

(b) the details of the preventive steps taken to stop the occurrence of dengue fever?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Only 1 (One) incidence of Dengue has been reported from the Capital during the month of June, 2001.

(b) steps taken to prevent and control the disease include :

- Dengue/Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) has been made a notifiable Disease in Delhi.
- Disease and vector surveillance.
- Vector control mainly through source reduction.
- Early diagnosis and case management in hospitals.
- Information, Education and Communication for community awareness.
- Early response to epidemics.
- Capacity building through organization of training of personnel involved in prevention and control of the disease.
- Regular monitoring and review of Dengue situation by the concerned authorities.

Yellow Fever Vaccine

2643. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN :

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Yellow Fever Vaccine are not available in the country in sufficient quantity particularly in Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide the vaccine in sufficient quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Shortage of Yellow Fever Vaccine has not been reported by any of the Yellow Fever Vaccinations Centres in Delhi, Calcutta & Chennai. The vaccine is being produced at Central Research Institute, Kasauli and supplied to all the centres of the country.

(c) The production of Yellow Fever Vaccine has been increased in the current financial year at Central Research Institute, Kasauli with an installed capacity of 50,000 doses. World Health Organisation (WHO) had also been requested to procure additional 50,000 doses of the vaccine to meet the immediate requirements.

Shelter Houses

2644. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of shelter houses sanctioned for Animals in distress during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total applications received by the Government for this purpose and actually cleared;

(c) whether out of 118 shelter houses sanctioned so far, only 20 have been completed in spite of releasing the funds to the NGOs;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure completion of the work in time by those NGOs to whom the funds have released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) 137 number of Shelter Houses have been sanctioned for animals in distress so far. The State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) A total of 400 applications have been received by the Ministry for grant in aid under the Shelter House scheme so far. Out of this, grant-in aid has been sanctioned to 137 Organisations so far.

(c) Out of 137 shelter houses sanctioned so far second instalment has been released for 76 organisations out of which 22 organisations have sent their completion reports.

(d) The grant-in-aid to an organization is released in two instalments. 50% of the grant-in-aid is released as first instalment. Second instalment is released only after receipt of utilization certificate of the first instalment, inspection report and photographs of the work completed. So far, second instalment has been released to 76 organisations out of which 22 have sent completion reports. The number of organizations from whom completion report is due is 24.

(e) The organizations who have not submitted the completion report in time are being pursued to send the same.

Statement

State-wise Number of Shelter Houses sanctioned during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (up to 6.8.2001)

S.No.	State	Number of Shelter Houses sanctioned			
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (upto 6.8.01)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	3	0
2.	Assam	1	0	0	0
3.	Bihar	1	1	0	0
4.	Goa	0	2	0	1
5.	Gujarat	0	8	3	1
6.	Haryana	5	2	6	2
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	1	0
8.	Karnataka	3	1	3	1
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2	1	3	0
10.	Maharashtra	1	4	0	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
11.	Manipur	1	2	1	0
12.	Delhi	4	5	5	0
13.	Orissa	1	1	1	0
14.	Pondicherry	0	1	0	0
15.	Punjab	0	4	1	1
16.	Rajasthan	1	8	4	3
17.	Tamil Nadu	4	1	2	1
18.	Tripura	0	1	0	0
19.	Uttar Pradesh	1	5	5	4
20.	West Bengal	3	3	0	0
Total		29	52	38	18

Pollution of Sea Water

2645. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dhruva Research Reactor at Trombay is said to be discharging hot water into the upper Bombay bay and thereby polluting sea water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Dhruva Research Reactor was built with total indigenous effort and became operational during August, 1985. The Sea Water discharge temperature from Dhruva is well within the limit that was specified at the time when the reactor started full power operation. Dhruva being a research reactor is not designed to produce Nuclear Electricity and hence the total energy content of sea water discharged is much less

compared to a thermal power station and hence its polluting effect would be insignificant.

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

Backlog of Vacancies for STs

2646. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any review in regard to backlog of vacancies of posts for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes in various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan has been drawn by the Government to fill up the backlog of vacancies; and

(d) if so, the latest position 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) Consequent to the Constitution (Eighty-First Amendment) Act, 2000 which empowered the State to treat the backlog vacancies as separate and distinct group thereby not subjecting it to the ceiling of 50% reservation on total number of vacancies in a year, all Ministries/Departments of the Central Government have been advised, vide Department of Personnel and Training OM No. 36012/5/97-Estt(Res) Vol. II dated 20.7.2000, to carry out a review for early assessment of the backlog vacancies in respect of both by way of direct recruitment and promotion and to make concerted efforts to fill up backlog vacancies. Each individual Ministry/Department is required to take follow up action in this matter.

[Translation]

Violations of Indian Airspace

2647. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian airspace violations by Pakistani remote pilotless vehicles have been going on as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated May, 21, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this issue with Pakistan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Government have seen the press report of Indian airspace violations by Pakistani remote pilotless aircraft, appearing in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated 21 May 2001.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of the "Agreement between India and Pakistan on Prevention of Air Space Violations and For Permitting Over Flights and Landings by Military Aircraft" signed by India and Pakistan in 1991, Government have been taking up all cases of airspace violation by Pakistan.

[English]

Private Satellite Ownership

2648. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is contemplating a new hybrid plan to increase the number of transponders over Indian skies and allow private satellite ownership.

(b) if so, whether the ISRO propose to have joint ventures with other Satellite systems;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a single window clearance system for private satellite operators;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the ISRO is coordinating with the Department of Telecommunications, M/o Information and Broadcasting as well as the Wireless Monitoring Advisor for settling issues like orbital slots and broadcast frequencies; and

(g) If so, the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Department of Space is in discussion with other satellite operators like Binariang Satellite Systems Sdn. Bhd (Malaysia) and Intersputnik International Organisation regarding joint ventures. However, so far no agreements have been concluded.

(d) to (f) The Satellite Communication Policy approved by the Government allows private Indian Companies to open, establish and operate Indian Satellite Systems, for which the Indian Administration would be the notifying administration for coordination and notifying process and frequency assignments. The Government has set up a Single Window Committee viz., Committee for Authorising Indian Satellite Systems (CAISS) for clearing private Indian Satellite Systems. The constitution of CAISS is as given below :

1. Secretary, Department of Space	... Chairman
2. Secretary, Department of Telecommunications	... Member
3. Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	... Member
4. Secretary(R), Cabinet Secretariat	... Member
5. Secretary, Ministry of Defence	... Member
6. Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	... Member

Wireless Adviser to Government, WPC Wing of Ministry of Communications is a Special Invitee for the Committee meetings. Director of the Satcom Programme office of the Department of Space is the Secretary for the Committee. Issues like orbital slots and broadcast frequencies will be settled by this Committee, as and when

applications are received for operation of private Indian Satellite Systems.

(g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Establishment of Passport Office

2649. SHRI TARACHAND SAHU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a Passport Office in Chattisgarh;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Chhattisgarh has been approached to locate suitable office premises at Raipur.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Fixation of Pay-Scale of Section Officers

2650. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service have been representing against the anomaly in the fixation of their pay scale by the Fifth Pay Commission and have been demanding upward revision of their minimum scale of pay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision 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 DEPART-

MENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service have been demanding a higher scale beyond the replacement pay scale of Rs. 6500-10500, which has already been granted to them, as recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission. It has not been found possible to agree to their demand for upward revision of the pay scale.

Visit of Team to China

2651. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of Indian Parliamentarians, Trade Unionists and Industrialists visited China recently to assess its economic reforms;

(b) if so, whether the team has given its assessment report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of discussions held by the team with their Chinese counterpart; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (e) Dr. Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha led a Parliamentary-cum-business-cum-trade union delegation to China from July 1-7, 2001 at the invitation of Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National People's Congress of China.

The purpose of the visit was to further develop contacts between parliamentarians, industry and other people-to-people exchanges with a view to promote friendship, deepen understanding and expand mutually beneficial exchanges in economic and other fields between India and China.

Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha called on NPC Chairman, Li Peng and Prime Minister Zhu Rongji. Both conveyed satisfaction at the improving relations between the two countries and their sound development in recent times. Premier Zhu stated that the need for promoting Sino-

Indian cooperation far outweighed existing differences between the two countries. He also spoke of the importance of furthering economic and trade relations between India and China. NPC Chairman Li Peng noted that preserving and developing healthy and stable good neighbourly cooperative relationship based on Panchsheel was not only in mutual interest but also beneficial for peace and stability of Asia and the world.

Both sides agreed to strengthen bilateral relations, including economic relations.

Expenditure Reforms Committee

2652. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Committee constituted to review the staff strength in group "A" services has given its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to implement these recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be 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) to (e) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) has been set up to review the roadmap for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Central Government, to review the framework of all subsidies, rationale adopted for determination of user charges of departmental and commercial entities and to recommend an effective strategy for cost recovery through user charges etc. The ERC has submitted seven reports so far and these reports have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries/Departments for implementation.

Indo-Pak Summit

2653. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian representatives and high officials visited U.S. and discussed some issues including Osama and other subjects before Indo-Pak summit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome thereof; and

(d) its impact on Indo-Pak summit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Indian and U.S. officials met in Washington D.C. on 25-26 June 2001 for the third meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism. The Joint Working Group is part of the architecture of institutional dialogue between India and the United States.

(b) and (c) The two sides expressed concern at the growing menace of international terrorism and unequivocally condemned all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever committed, and whatever the considerations that may be invoked to justify them. The two sides also agreed on a range of proposals to upgrade and widen the scope of cooperation between India and the United States in the area of anti-terrorism training and strengthening of counter-terrorism institutional structures in India. In addition, the two sides continued consultations on the India-proposed Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism being discussed in the Sixth Committee of the UNGA, and reiterated support for its early finalisation.

Both sides agreed that the policies of the Taliban continue to foster terrorism that threatens the interest of both countries, as well as regional and international stability. They affirmed their support for United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1267 and 1333 imposed on the Taliban for supporting terrorism, harboring Usama bin Ladin and failing to close down terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. They agreed on the critical importance of the

effective implementation of these resolutions, including through an appropriate monitoring mechanism.

(d) The meeting of the Joint Working Group took place in the context of the shared commitment to continue and intensify their cooperation to combat international terrorism and it was unrelated to any other event.

Financial Assistance to Software in Bangalore

2654. SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have agreed to finance the project of Computerisation of Treasuries being executed by Software Technology Parks of India, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the amount allocated and released so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have received requests from various State Governments including Maharashtra and Karnataka to provide assistance for computerisation of District and Sub-treasuries;

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

(e) the time by which the funds are likely to be released for completion of this project, State-wise?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Information Technology through National Informatics Centre (NIC) has been providing technical support to all the States for computerisation of their treasuries. This Ministry also provides limited financial support for pilot projects to establish proof of concept and the mass scale deployment has to be undertaken by the respective States from their own resources. A proposal seeking financial assistance of Rs. 47.4 crores for computerisation of treasuries was received from Government of Karnataka which has been examined and they have been advised to re-cast the same in accordance with existing guidelines.

*[Translation]***Indo-Russia Ties**

2655. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether India and Russia have signed a memorandum of understanding recently/in the past for collaboration in the field of science and technology to further strengthen their respective management and planning structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date from which the above MOU is likely to be effective?

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

(b) and (c) The agreement on Integrated Long Term Programme (ILTP) on Indo-Russian Cooperation in Science and Technology was signed on October 3, 2000 for extension of the ILTP for the next ten years. This was signed by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Hon'ble Minister for Science and Technology, Government of India, and H.E. Mr. Ilya Klebanov, First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. This is effective from October 3, 2000 for ten years.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Novosibirsk Region of the Russian Federation was signed on May 14, 2001 by Shri B.S. Rawat, Hon'ble Minister for State Science and Technology, Government of India and H.E. Mr. Victor Tolonski, Governor of the Novosibirsk Region of the Russian Federation. This MoU is effective from May 14, 2001.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Bashkortostan was signed on May 18, 2001 by Dr. Y.P. Kumar, Adviser, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and Mrs. Rosa Bukanova, Chairperson, State Committee for Science, Higher and Secondary Professional Education, Republic of Bashkortostan, Russian Federation. This is effective from May 18, 2001.

However, these MOUs do not provide for strengthening of management and planning structure.

Growth of Software Industry

2656. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been constant growth in the software industry of the country during the past few years;

(b) if so, the total number of industrial institutes registered by the end of March 2001, State-wise; and

(c) the number of big, medium and small institutes among these institutes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) The IT software sector is amongst the fastest growing sectors of Indian economy. The software exports has contributed significantly in this growth, with growth rate of more than 50% over the past five years. The information in respect of number of IT software units state-wise, registered under the STP scheme till 31st March, 2001, and units categorized on the basis of exports during the year 2000-01, is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

STP Units registered State wise Under STPI upto March, 2001

STPI Center	Upto March, 2001
1	2
Karnataka	932
Orissa	157
West Bengal	226
Tamil Nadu	667
Gujarat	308
Andhra Pradesh	1206
Rajasthan	79
Punjab	147
Maharashtra	1352

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	235
Delhi	879
Haryana	129
Madhya Pradesh	74
Kerala	208
Assam	30
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jharkhand	5
Bihar	2
Pondicherry	7
Daman, Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	8
Total	6652

*Units Categorized on the basis of Exports
during 2000-01*

S.No.	Exports	No. on Units
1	Upto Rs. 5 crores	1978
2	Rs. 5 to 50 crores	352
3	Above Rs. 50 crores	122

[English]

Export of Medicinal Plants

2657. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether meeting of World Health Assembly was held in Geneva recently;

(b) if so, the details of the matter discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether India has received a proposal to export medicinal plants to the tune of Rs. 5,000 crore in the next two-three years; and

(d) if so, facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The 54th Session of World Health Assembly was held during 14th to 22nd May, 2001 in Geneva. Following main issues were discussed in the World Health Assembly.

Technical and Health Matters

1. Mental Health
2. Global strategy for infant and young child feeding
3. Health promotion
4. Global health security : epidemic alert and response
5. Control of schistosomiasis
6. Strengthening nursing and midwifery
7. Strengthening health systems in developing countries
8. Framework convention on tobacco control : report by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body
9. HIV/AIDS
10. Smallpox eradication : temporary retention of variola virus stocks
11. Revised Drug Strategy
12. International Classification of functioning, disability and health
13. Health effects of depleted uranium
14. Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

Administrative and Financial Matters

1. Report of the Executive Board on its 106th and 107th sessions
2. Reports of the main committees
3. Human Resources : Annual Report
4. Amendments to the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules

5. Report of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board
6. Appointment of representatives to the WHO Staff Pension Committee
7. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations-International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
8. Use of languages in WHO
9. General programme of work
10. Proposed programme budget for 2002-2003
11. Miscellaneous income budget
12. Unaudited interim Financial report on the accounts of WHO for 2000 and comments thereon of the Administration, Budget and Finance Committee
13. Interim report of the External Auditor
14. Report of the Internal Auditor
15. Status of collection of assessed contributions, including members in arrears in the payment of their contributions to an extent which would justify invoking article 7 of the constitution
16. Special arrangements for settlement of arrears
17. Real Estate Fund
18. Casual income

19. Assessment of new members and associate members

20. Scale of assessments for 2002-2003

This Ministry has, however not received any proposal to export medicinal plants to the tune of Rs. 5,000 crore in the next two-three years.

[Translation]

Medical/Hospital Development in Tribals

2658. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had received any requests regarding grant of financial assistance from the States including Maharashtra for extension and development of Medical Colleges and Hospitals in Tribal and Dalit dominated areas during the last three years;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) No such specific request has been received. However, requests have been received from some States including Maharashtra for foreign funding. Details of proposals received during last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of proposals received from State Governments for external funding

Sl.No.	State	Subject	Financial assistance requested from
1	2	3	4
1.	Karnataka	1. Equipping 4 Medical Colleges and 11 associated hospitals	Govt. of Finland
		2. Improvement of Mother and Child Health Programme for Bangalore Medical College and attached teaching hospitals	Japanese Grant in aid
2.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Establishment of (a) Apex Trauma Centre and (b) Burn Unit at King George Medical College, Lucknow	Japan International Cooperation Agency

1	2	3	4
		2. Establishment of Stereotactic Neurosurgery Unit at Kamla Nehru Hospital, Allahabad	Japanese Debt Relief Grant
3.	Mizoram	Installation of CT Scan and Establishment of Hospital Waste Treatment at Aizawl Civil Hospital	Japanese Debt Relief Grant
4.	Tamil Nadu	1. Super Speciality Cancer Hospital Project, Argnar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital, Karapettai, Kancheepuram 2. Purchase of medical equipment for 37 medical colleges and attached hospitals 3. Purchase of medical equipment for Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai	Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Govt. of Finland
5.	Assam	Purchase of medical equipment for 3 medical colleges and 3 hospitals	Govt. of Finland
6.	Manipur	Purchase of medical equipment for State level hospital of 200 beds, 7 district hospitals and 5 CHCs	Govt. of Finland
7.	Kerala	Purchase of Linear Accelerator for Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram	Japanese Debt. Relief Grant
8.	Maharashtra	Purchase of Medical Equipment for medical colleges and Civil Hospitals	Japanese Debt. Relief Grant
9.	Govt. of NCT of Delhi.	Proposals for grants for three hospitals—GB Pant Hospital, GTB Hospital, and LN Hospital	Japanese assistance

*[English]***Irradiation Technology**

2659. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any discussions have been held by the BARC with Food Corporation of India officials regarding the use of irradiation process to enhance the life of foodgrains stored in the FCI godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is technically possible to irradiate bulk commodities like foodgrains;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the BARC has developed any pilot project primarily for foodgrains irradiation to extend their shelf life; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the results 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. Discussions were held with Quality Control Manager of Food Corporation of India Ltd., in 1969.

(b) Since 1967, large scale experiments on "Storage of Radiation Processed Wheat" were conducted. These experiments proved the efficacy of radiation processing. However, as clearance for radiation processing of

foods was not available at that time, commercial application of the same was not tried.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) When grain is treated in free flowing form in a radiation facility it should be immediately transferred in silos or airtight metal bins after processing to avoid cross contamination. While treating the bulk grains filled in airtight bags sealed properly, adequate care in handling must be taken during processing.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Pilot scale Irradiators namely "Food Package Irradiator" and "Through Flow Grain Irradiator" were used for R&D studies on food grain irradiation. End clearances for radiation processing of food products and grains as approved by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been obtained.

Development of Software

2660. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI RAMSHEETH THAKUR :

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Ministry of Information Technology goes to school" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated July 11, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Ministry of Information Technology is supporting national initiative in online learning or e-learning. E-learning is applicable for a variety of contexts such as higher education especially IT education, continuing education, up-gradation of the skills of teachers, school education etc. Ministry of Information Technology has set up a Resource Centre at National Centre for Software Technology, Mumbai and has also supported a

few other development projects. The objective is to tap the full potential of this technology in the country as well as for addressing global markets. This Ministry has spent approx. Rs. 6.08 crores on this initiative so far and is promoting efforts in academia, research institutions and industry.

Special Schemes for Backward Classes

2661. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether large sections of Backward Classes do not get any assistance from the Union Government;

(b) whether MEDARAS community of Andhra Pradesh have yet to avail of any financial scheme of the Government;

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to design special schemes for such Communities;

(d) whether any special action plan is proposed to be devised in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details of such plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) the Government of India has been implementing schemes for the benefit of all backward classes and not for individual caste/community. Benefit of these schemes is available to the castes/communities included in the Central Lists/State Lists of OBCs from time to time subject to the income limit prescribed in each scheme.

Setting up of CGHS Dispensary

2662. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the delay in setting up CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) dispensary at Chandigarh;

(b) whether the Chandigarh Union Territory Administration has offered necessary accommodation for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the dispensary is likely to be set up at Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Opening of new dispensaries under CGHS require 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 open a CGHS dispensary in Chandigarh at present.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

New Health Policy

2663. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE :

SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

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

(a) whether any meeting of State Health Ministers was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the matters discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether the Government have prepared new draft on Health Policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Governments have agreed to the new draft on Health Policy;

(f) if not, the objections raised by the State Health Ministers in the said meeting; and

(g) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Seventh Conference of the Central Council for Health and Family Welfare in which Health Ministers of all States/UTs. are members was held in July, 2001 at New Delhi. The Council is the highest advisory body on health and family welfare. Apart from issues related to revision of

National Health Policy, matters relating to prevention and cure of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, food and drug administration, regulatory measures for private medical practitioners/nursing homes, implementation of national disease control programmes, matters relating to Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy and Family Welfare were discussed during the two day Conference.

(c) and (d) Draft of new National Health Policy is under preparation. The new policy will envisage to focus on various determinants which have an impact on the health status of the people like financial resources, equity considerations, role of States, issues such as medical research, disease surveillance, role of IEC, NGOs, population stabilisation etc.

(e) to (g) During the Conference only important features relating to the new National Health Policy were discussed on which a broad consensus emerged. Draft of the new policy is being prepared keeping in view the suggestions received from the various State Health Ministers and the health experts during the Conference. Draft National Health Policy shall be circulated to States/UTs for comments before final approval of Union Cabinet is solicited.

[Translation]

Plan for GSLV

2664. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has formulated any plan for launching GSLV series in the year 2003 and 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have signed any contract with Russia for purchase of cryogenic engines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of engines already procured by ISRO under this agreement and the number of the same to be procured by 2004?

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. After the successful flight of GSLV-D1 in April 2001, it is planned to launch GSLV every year. In the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, it is being planned to launch INSAT-3D, GSAT-3, Matsat-2 and GSAT-4 by GSLV.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A contract with the then USSR was initially signed in 1991 and later modified in 1993 for the development and supply of 7 cryogenic stages.

(e) So far, four cryogenic stages have been received in India. The remaining stages are expected by 2003-2004.

Earthquake Relief to Peru

2665. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sent any help and relief material to Peru which was struck by earthquake recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

AIIMS Regulation Amendment

2666. SHRI SUBODH ROY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amendment to AIIMS regulation 37 as notified *vide* notification No. 12, Part III, Section 4 dated February 26, 1999 has been made since 1961; and

(b) if so, the date of the notification made and the date of the prior approval from the Union Government as stipulated under Section 29 of the Act 25 of 1956?

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

Amendment to AIIMS regulation 37 as notified *vide* notification No. 12, Part-III Section 4 dated 26th February, 1999 has been carried out.

(b) Not applicable.

Rent Control Act

2667. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States/UTs exempted Wakf properties from the purview of their respective State Rent Control Act;

(b) the number of States where such property is under their Rent Control Act;

(c) whether it is a fact that after exempting the Wakf property from Rent Control Act, the commercial utilization of Wakf property had increased;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to take up the matter with the State Governments to exempt the Wakf properties for commercial use; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Wakf properties have been exempted from the purview of the respective Rent Control Act in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Pondicherry and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) While no specific information is available regarding the effect on commercial utilization of Wakf properties following their exemption from the Rent Control Act, such exemption has facilitated management of Wakf properties.

(e) and (f) The matter has already been taken up with the other States/Union Territories.

Revision of Rate of Pension

2668. SHRI J. S. BRAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence personnel were having much higher rates of pension as compared to civilians in pre-independence era;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons for reduction in the rate of pension to Defence personnels in subsequent reviews after independence;

(c) whether the Government are considering enhancement in the rate of pension of the Defence personnel to compensate for early retirement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) In the pre-Independence era, the rates of pension of the Armed Forces personnel were slightly higher than the pension admissible to the civilian personnel. However, it is not possible to give detailed comparative figures after such a long interval. After Independence, pay and pension structures of the Armed Forces personnel and civilian personnel have been reviewed by the successive Pay Commissions/Committee. The pay and pension structures have been rationalised and revised from time to time on the basis of the recommendations made by the successive Commissions/Committee.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The present pension structure has been prescribed in pursuance of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission which considered all the relevant factors before making its recommendations.

[Translation]

Handing over Belongings

2669. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians died in harness in Gulf countries during the last three years;

(b) whether their belongings have not been handed over to their relatives;

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

(d) the number of pending applications from Maharashtra in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d) Generally the belongings of the deceased Indian nationals abroad are despatched alongwith the mortal remains of the deceased by the local sponsor. Such belongings are not usually sent through the Indian Mission. Also, our missions abroad do not keep State-wise records of such cases.

Constitution of Education Research and Technology

2670. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted an 'Education, Research and Technology Department' under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the date on which the said department was constituted;

(c) the average annual budget of this department during the last three years;

(d) whether the department has made any achievements in the field of research and analysis;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the way they are likely to be made available to the common people?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) has set up a Division called "Education Research Division" on 1.02.2001 as a part of reorganization of various Divisions of MIT. The areas of responsibility handled includes online Learning/e-Learning/Distance Education, Media Lab Asia, Technologies for 21st Century, ERNET India and Institutes of Higher Learning in IT.

(c) to (f) In the area of Online Learning, MIT is setting up a National Resource Centre for Online Learning at National Centre for Software Technology (NCST), Mumbai

and also supporting a few development projects at IGNOU, BITS Pilani, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur. Expenditure for the above activity in the past three years is approximately Rs. 608 lakhs.

Project formulation in the area of Quantum Computing, Molecular Computing, Biometrics etc. is being explored.

Setting up of Media Lab Asia jointly with MIT Media Lab, USA has been approved. An amount of Rs. 65 crores has also been approved for the one year exploratory phase. The objective of Media Lab Asia programme is to carry out research which focuses on bringing the benefits of state-of-the-art and future technologies to the common man and thus help bridge the digital divide. The thrust areas for Media Lab Asia programme are creation, innovation and invention of futuristic technologies including Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for the benefit of common man, mainly for the areas of improvement of health, education and micro entrepreneurship.

In respect of ERNET India, approval for upgradation of the network has been obtained and implementation is in progress. Rs. 55 crores of budgetary support for a period of 4 years has been provided.

[English] .

Admissions in ICMR Centres for Advanced Research

2671. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended for ensuring admission of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved for this community in all the educational/academic institutions in the year 1993;

(b) If so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of seats offered in all ICMR Centres for Advanced Research in Post Graduation and higher level courses during each of the last five years;

(d) the total number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the above referred courses

indifferent faculties/courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during the said period;

(e) whether the above recommendation is not implemented satisfactorily;

(f) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the efforts being made 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) According to the instructions, 15% and 7.5% of total seats for undergraduate/Post graduate medical courses in all the Medical Colleges under the Central Government are reserved for SC/ST candidates respectively and these instructions are being followed in letter and spirit.

(c) to (g) Information from the ICMR is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Irradiation Centre

2672. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the officials of the BARC have held talks with the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa regarding setting up of an irradiation centre exclusively for marine products;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a site has been selected for the purpose;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expenditure to be incurred 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Officials of BARC have held talks in February and April

2001 with officials of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh Government and also with Fisheries experts, consultants and industrialists for setting up radiation processing plants exclusively for seafoods.

(c) Exact site has not been selected for installation of Seafood Irradiator.

(d) In view of 'C', does not arise.

(e) Details of expenditure to be incurred for the construction of these plants has not been worked out. This can be done only after plant details are finalised.

Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Boys and Girls Hostels

2673. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring about changes in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme in regard to for Boys and Girls Hostels;

(b) the manner in which the new Scheme is likely to be different from the present one;

(c) the number of students likely to be benefited under this Scheme in 2000-2001;

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(e) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to monitor the proper usage of such funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) A proposal for amendment of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Boys and Girls hostels for Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes students is under process in this Ministry with a view to provide required assistance in an integrated manner.

(c) Creation of hostel facilities for about 6500 students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes were sanctioned during the year 2000-2001.

(d) Rs. 55.00 crores (Rs. 40.00 crore for SCs + Rs. 15.00 crore for OBCs) has been allocated under the Schemes for the current financial year 2001-2002.

(e) Following steps are being taken to monitor the proper use of funds :

(i) Progress of construction of hostels is monitored on regular basis.

(ii) The aided agencies have been requested to submit quarterly progress of construction from the date of sanction till its completion and occupation of the hostel.

Damage to Indian Consulate

2674. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Consulate in Zahidan province of Iran was ripped apart in a blast on June 14, 2001;

(b) if so, the extent of loss of life and property as a result thereof;

(c) whether an enquiry had been held into it by Iranian authorities; and

(d) if so, the details of enquiry report and the steps taken to ensure safety of Consulate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) There was a blast outside the Indian Consulate in Zahidan on 14th June, 2001.

(b) There was no injury or loss of life. Window panes of the Consulate building were broken and the boundary wall developed some craters on account of the blast.

(c) Yes, the Iranian Authorities are enquiring into the matter.

(d) The enquiry is yet to be completed. The Iranian authorities have stepped up security around Indian diplomatic premises in Iran. In the Indian Consulate in Zahidan, electronic and physical measures for the security of the Consulate have been augmented.

Family Planning Programme

2675. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement two children norms in every State;

(b) if so, the response of each State Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote family planning in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary and non-coercive in nature. It aims at ensuring that all facilities are in place and accurate information and counseling is at hand that will enable a couple to adopt the most appropriate family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their choice and without any compulsion.

The National Population Policy adopted by Government of India in February, 2000 after detailed consultations seeks to promote the small family norm.

The immediate objective of the National Population Policy is to address the unmet needs of contraception, health infrastructure, health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child health care. The medium term objective is to bring the total fertility rate to replacement level by 2010, through vigorous implementation of inter sectoral operational strategies. The long term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045, at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

The Policy lists National Socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010. It also enumerates 12 strategic themes with a detailed action plan for each and 16 promotional and motivational measures that will ensure that Government facilitates the achievement of the small family norm.

Development of Backward Districts

2676. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to give similar central grants to another backward districts of Orissa namely Keonjhar on the line of KBK for its, all round development; and

(b) if so, the steps taken 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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Wakf Act, 1995

2677. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Wakf properties in different States which are under encroachment or illegal hold;

(b) whether despite the Wakf Act 1995, no sincere efforts have been made by Government to restore the possession of such properties from illegal occupants;

(c) whether the Union Government have asked the State Wakf Boards to amend their law to provide for intervention of District Administration in tackling the problem of unauthorized occupants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) A statement indicating the position, as per available information, is enclosed.

(b) to (e) As per provision under the Wakf Act, 1995 the State Governments and Wakf Boards are required to take action for proper management of Wakf properties including their restoration from illegal occupants. The matter has been taken up with the States/Union Territories. The States/UTs other than Karnataka have been requested to consider inclusion of Wakf properties as public premises under the Public Premises Act, as done in Karnataka, with a view to facilitate removal of encroachments.

Statement

Details of cases of illegal sale/encroachment of Wakf properties

Name of State/UT	Details
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	42 cases of illegal sale/encroachment of Wakf properties in Mahboob Nagar District and 15 cases in Adilabad District reported.
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil.

1	2
Assam	Nil.
Bihar	Shia Wakf Properties—5 incidents reported. Sunni Wakf Board—42 cases reported.
Goa	Nil.
Gujarat	Nil.
Haryana	175 Wakf properties reported under encroachment.
Himachal Pradesh	22 Wakf properties reported under encroachment.
Jammu & Kashmir	Wakf Act, 1995 does not extend to J & K.
Karnataka	159 cases reported.
Kerala	No incident of sale and encroachment reported.
Madhya Pradesh	403 cases of encroachment reported.
Maharashtra	72 cases of illegal transfer and 200 cases of encroachment reported.
Manipur	Nil.
Meghalaya	Nil.
Mizoram	Nil.
Nagaland	Nil.
Orissa	No incident of sale and encroachment reported.
Punjab	391 Wakf properties reported under encroachment.
Rajasthan	500 complaints received. 84 cases filed before Estate Officers.
Sikkim	Nil.
Tamil Nadu	Nil.
Tripura	8 incidents reported.

1	2
Uttar Pradesh	43 cases for sale and 58 cases of encroachment reported.
West Bengal	75 Wakf properties reported under encroachment.
Andaman & Nicobar	Nil.
Chandigarh	Nil.
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Nil.
Daman & Diu	Nil.
Delhi	Survey of Wakf properties is under progress.
Lakshadweep	Nil.
Pondicherry	Nil.

[Translation]

Gene-Bank

2678. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a 'Gene-Bank' to save the faune species which are at the verge of extinction due to environmental pollution and increasing population;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it would be established; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The habitats of the endangered wild animals have been designated as Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks so as to conserve them in in-situ conditions. Legal protection is also provided to such species through specific provisions in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The captive population of such species are preserved in Zoos in different parts of the country set up in accordance with the guidelines of Central Zoo Authority of India. Financial and technical support is provided for the management of such Zoos.

Funds Sanctioned by NSCFDC

2679. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of funds sanctioned by the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC) to various States for the welfare of the targeted groups during each of the last three years;

(b) the extent to which the State Government have utilized the funds;

(c) whether serious irregularities have been reported in the implementation of the programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; and

(d) the details of steps being taken for the optimum utilization of the funds allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The amounts sanctioned and disbursed by National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and utilized by Channelising Agencies of States/UTs (SCAs) for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during last three years are as under :

	(Rs. in Crore)		
Amount	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Sanctioned by NSFDC	119.17	113.70	154.34
Disbursed by NSFDC	126.62	100.07	132.48
Utilized by States/UTs	52.98	125.69	79.30 (as per available reports)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Following creation of Ministry of Tribal Affairs for looking into the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes, the existing Corporation was bifurcated into National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Scheduled Tribes

Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) for looking after the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. These two Corporations have started activities with effect from April, 2001.

Following steps are being taken by National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) for optimum utilization of the fund allocated :

- (1) Allocation of fund is being conveyed to the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) at the beginning of the financial year.
- (2) Utilisation of fund by the SCAs is being monitored by National Corporation.
- (3) State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested for making special projects by dove-tailing subsidy out of Special Central Assistance with loan under NSFDC Schemes.
- (4) Higher rate of interest is being charged from SCAs on the fund remaining unutilized with them for period exceeding 120 days.
- (5) Smaller Projects/units costing up to Rs. 5 lakhs should be given emphasis.

[English]

No Objection Certificate from C.V.C.

2680. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a mandatory for the Government to obtain No Objection Certificate from Central Vigilance Commission for the appointment of certain posts in the Government;

(b) if so, the details of those posts for which the No Objection Certificate is mandatory from the CVS;

(c) the posts for which the Government did not obtain NOC from CVC during the last five years alongwith reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government disregarded the objections of CVC on the appointment of the then Chairman CBEC and Home Secretary, Chandigarh

and both these officers were later on charged for corruption;

(e) if so, whether any responsibility/accountability of those officials responsible for disregarding the objections of CVC had been fixed;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Vigilance clearance from the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is necessary for making appointments of Chief Vigilance Officers in Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and also to posts in Central Public Sector Undertakings. The vigilance clearance from the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is obtained directly by the concerned Ministries and data relating to cases where such clearances are given or refused is not maintained centrally.

(d) No, Sir. The Chairman, CBEC and the Home Secretary, Chandigarh Administration, were clear from vigilance angle at the time of the appointment.

(e) to (g) In view of the reply to part(d) above, the question of fixing responsibility and accountability does not arise.

Development of North-East States

2681. DR. JAYANT RONGPI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have advised all the Ministries to earmarked ten percent of budgetary provision of each department for North-East States;

(b) If so, actual amount released Ministry-wise as well as State-wise under the above formula;

(c) whether all the Ministries are complying with the decision;

(d) If not, the details of the defaulting Ministries

alongwith reasons for non-implemetation of the said decision; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure the release of ten percent fund by the defaulting Ministries?

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) All Union Ministries/ Departments are required to spend at least 10% of their Budget(s) on schemes/projects for the benefit of the North Eastern Region and Sikkim. Some Union Ministries/ Departments have been specifically exempted from the requirement because of location/scheme specific nature of the Plan provision in their Budget(s). In order to ensure that adequate Plan allocation is made for the North East (and Sikkim), Ministries/Departments have been advised to indicate a separate Head in their Demands for Grants for the purpose of making lump-sum provision (10% of Budget) for the North East and Sikkim. Shortfalls in meeting 10% norm for the North East (and Sikkim) are to be pooled in a Central Pool of Resources. So far, an amount of Rs. 951.07 crores has been released from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the various projects in these States. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise/year-wise release of funds from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

(Rs. in crores)				
State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02 (Till date)
1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	15.00	19.65	43.96	20.00
Assam	28.81	105.86	69.31	15.00
Manipur	20.34	121.67	23.85	—
Meghalaya	8.79	3.00	32.63	—
Mizoram	9.00	62.15	27.06	25.10

1	2	3	4	5
Nagaland	20.01	44.08	15.91	9.00
Sikkim	10.00	32.01	23.78	6.51
Tripura	10.00	22.50	67.08	20.55
Common to North Eastern States and Sikkim	—	9.00	9.46	—

Development of W.B.

2682. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal in a recent meeting with Prime Minister has sought the Centre's co-operation in the development of the State;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action 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) to (c) The Chief Minister, West Bengal, in a recent Meeting with the Prime Minister, on the 30th May, 2001 submitted a Memorandum. A statement, showing the details of the issues raised and indicating their status of implementation, is enclosed.

Statement

Issue	Present status
1	2
1. No wagon orders have been released for 2000-2001 by Railways Ministry. Wagon industry, in public and private sectors, are in serious crisis. Railway budget for 2001-2002 provides for procurement of 23,000 Four Wheeler Units (FWUs). A drastic curtailment of the procurement programme is apprehended.	Initially, certain checks had revealed use of the cheaper, mild steel in place of the Corten Steel, supplied by the Railways to the wagon manufacturers, as a free supply item. While the Tender case for wagons for 2001-02 was close to finalisation, similar use of mild steel in place of the specified Corten Steel by some more manufacturers was detected by the Vigilance, which warranted more comprehensive checks by the representative of the wagon manufacturers, RDSO and Vigilance, in order to assess the quantum and magnitude of the problem. During 2000-01, Ministry of Railways released a fresh order for 21,225 FWUs. Against the total order of 24,750 FWUs (including outstanding order of 3,525), 15,425 FWUs were produced. As against the budgetary provision of 23,000 FWUs for 2001-02, 17,000 and 6,000 FWUs are to be acquired through Railways' own resources and the Own Your Wagon Scheme (OYWS) & the Built Own Lease-Transfer (BOLT) Schemes respectively. An order for 2,460 FWUs under +30% Option Clause against 2001-02 contract was released for 2001-02. Another 2000 FWUs have been ordered on Railways workshops making the total coverage of about 12,000 FWUs for the year 2001-02.
2. Production target of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) is being gradually reduced by Railways Ministry resulting in reduced man hours and labour redundancy. In 1998-99, CLW pro-	Ministry of Railways estimate the requirement of electric locomotives on the basis of traffic projections for each year and the trends of their utilization. This practice has been followed for 2001-2002 also.

1

2

duced 165 locomotives. The target was reduced to 108 in 1999-2000, subsequently increased to 120. For 2000-2001, the target was fixed at 94. In the Railways budget for 2001-2002, the target has been reduced to 90 and after the recent review, the target has been further reduced to 67 only.

3. In 1998, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) decided to close down 64 coal mines—mostly located in West Bengal and some in Bihar. In response to Chief Minister's letter, Minister for Coal offered a few options to the State Government which were found unacceptable. The State Government has requested Government of India to formulate a revival plan for ECL in consultation with all the agencies concerned including the State Government and trade unions.

Because of substantial increase in the accumulated losses, M/s Eastern Coalfields Ltd. referred itself to BIFR once again, on 17.11.99. After hearing its case on 30.8.2000, BIFR have declared ECL as a Sick company and appointed State Bank of India as the Operating Agency to prepare a revival plan for the Company. The Appraisal Report of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, on business and financial restructuring of ECL is being examined by the Ministry of Coal.

4. Indifferent attitude of Government of India towards their own Public Sector Undertakings which are mostly located in West Bengal.

There are 19 PSUs, located in West Bengal, 4 out of which are in profits, whereas, 15 are incurring losses. 46,253 persons are employed in these PSUs and during 2000-01, the value of production from these PSUs was Rs. 2426 crore with a net loss of Rs. 532.70 crore which is lower than the respective losses of Rs. 635.86 crore and Rs. 657.09 crore, incurred during 1999-2000 and 1998-99.

5. Discontinuance of Aeroflot flights from Kolkata International airport. These flights should be restored.

Aeroflot's decision to withdraw services from Kolkata has been prompted by commercial considerations. Government is not in a position to interfere in this regard, as foreign Airlines decide their routing etc. according to their commercial judgement.

6. Discontinuance of Indian Airlines flights through Kolkata International airport to Singapore. These flights should be restored.

Low level of traffic has prompted Indian Airlines to restructure its international operations passing through Kolkata. However, presently, Indian Airlines provide an over-night connection between Kolkata and Singapore over Bangkok and a 'same day' connection in the return direction on four days of a week. In addition to this, Indian Airlines provide daily connection between Kolkata and Chennai with onward daily connection to Singapore.

7. Daily flights from Kolkata to Bagdogra since the runway at Bagdogra has been repaired and the airport modernized.

Indian Airlines have restored the 'thrice a week' operation on Kolkata—Bagdogra—Kolkata sector. Indian Airlines also undertake additional operations from time to time between Kolkata and Bagdogra keeping in view the seasonal passenger demand.

Financial Assistance to KVIC

2683. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from State Governments for providing financial assistance to KVIC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Funds for the Plan and Non-Plan activities of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) are provided by the Central Government. These funds are provided in the form of grants and loans and the Commission re-allocates them to its implementing agencies, namely State KVI Boards, Cooperative Societies, Nationalized Banks etc. The State Governments do not send proposals for providing financial assistance to the KVIC.

[Translation]

Study of CSS

2684. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission have conducted any study regarding implementation of the Centre Sponsored Schemes in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the shortcomings noticed in implementation of these schemes in the State; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for proper implementation of these schemes?

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) to (d) Do not arise.

Project in Gujarat

2685. SHRI DINSHA PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which Gujarat Government availed external assistance during the 9th Plan Period; and

(b) the details of projects undertaken in Gujarat with the external assistance together with the amount in each case and funding agency during the period?

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) During the 9th Plan period, following amounts were released to Gujarat Government under Externally Aided projects :

Sl.No.	Year	Rs. in lakh
1.	1997-98	21926.63
2.	1998-99	26764.96
3.	1999-2000	51233.05
4.	2000-01	89124.42
5.	2001-02	95803.77

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

#(DC/LC in millions)

Sl.No.	Source	Loan description	Currency	Loan/Gr. Amount
1.	Netherlands	1997 .05 Training women in Agr.- Gujarat Ph II dt. 9.12.97	Dutch Gulder	6.611
2.	Germany	NABARD V Advasi Prog. Gujarat AI No. 93 65842 dt. 23.12.94	Deutsche Mark	26.000
3.	Japan	IDP 112 Gujarat Forestry Project dt. 25.01.96	Japanese Yen	15760.000
4.	Japan	IDP 115 Ship Breaking Dev. At Pipavav dt. 25.01.96	Japanese Yen	7046.000
5.	Netherlands	Water Resources Dev. And management Prog. Ph 1	Dutch Gulder Dt. 17.02.95	1.450
6.	-do-	Grant India 1996-06 Gogha Regional Water Supply dt. 4.8.97	-do-	19.369
7.	IDA	2930-IN (Environmental Mang. Capacity Building dt. 14.03.97	US Dollars	50.000
8.	Netherlands	1996.02 ORET. Project for Gujarat Health Care dt. 27.11.97	Dutch Gulder	39.826
9.	-do-	ORET Project for Gujarat at health care dt. 27.11.97	-do-	59.739
10.	Netherlands	20916-IN Netherlands Grant dt. 21.08.97 (I.D.A.)	US Dollars	25.800
11.	ADB	1506-IND Gujarat Public sector Resou. Management Prg.	-do- Dt. 20.12.96	250.000
12.	ADB	1803-IND Gujarat Power Sector Dev. Prog. Dt. 14.12.2000	-do-	150.000
13.	ADB	1804-IND Gujarat Power Sector Dev. Pro. Dt. 14.12.2000	US Dollars	200.000
14.	France	FRGL 40 FF376M Dt. 30.1.96	FRF	34.740
15.	IBRD	4577-IN Gujarat State Highway Pro. Dt. 18.10.2000	US Dollars	381.000
16.	ADB	1826.IND Guj. Earthquake Rehab. & Recon. Dt. 26.04.01	USD	500.000
17.	France	FRGL 4008 Fuesgates System on Dams in GU-376M	FRF dt. 17.5.99	34.740

#Donor Currency/Loan Currency.

A sum of Rs. 372.72 crore (US\$ 80 million) was provided to the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority on 30.3.2001 by the World Bank by diverting savings from under different World Bank aided projects.

*[Translation]***Funds for Bihar**

2686. SHRI RAJO SINGH Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of annual plan outlay allocated to Bihar by the Union Government during the current year;

(b) whether the State Government has sought to increase the allocation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Annual Plan Outlay of Bihar for the current year is yet to be finalized.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Marine Border Demarcation
with Sri Lanka**

2687. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have drawn any clear-cut Marine Border demarcation with Sri Lanka;

(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) and (b) Yes, Sir; the international maritime boundary line between India and Sri Lanka has been delimited through two Agreements signed in 1974 and in 1976.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

BPL Census

2688. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Below Poverty Line (BLP) Census for Ninth Plan for identifying families living below poverty line has since been completed;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for completion of the census of BPL?

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) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Statement

*State-wise results of BPL Census for Ninth Plan
(Provisional as on 17.03.2001)*

S.No.	Name of State	Total No. of rural families	No. of rural families below poverty line	%age of families below poverty line
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10484028	4184628	39.91
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	102852	80627	78.39
3.	Assam	3607241	2164416	60.00
4.	Bihar	18933813	9399281	49.64
5.	Goa	135816	23101	17.00
6.	Gujarat	5587768	1980879	35.45
7.	Haryana	2074615	503019	24.25
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1036996	286112	27.59
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1047251	606545	57.92
10.	Karnataka	6479832	2202756	34.00
11.	Kerala	Not reported	Not reported	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11651082	5111874	43.87
13.	Maharashtra	11010022	3860675	35.07
14.	Manipur	365670	246980	67.54
15.	Meghalaya	282362	156646	55.48

1	2	3	4	5
16. Mizoram		110570	74154	67.07
17. Nagaland**		146615	88541	60.39
18. Orissa**		6790202	4445736	65.50
19. Punjab		2330725	650209	27.90
20. Rajasthan		6768541	2097560	30.99
21. Sikkim		Not reported	Not reported	
22. Tamil Nadu		9388118	2737921	29.16
23. Tripura		595397	397798	66.81
24. Uttar Pradesh		20430204	7541494	36.91
25. West Bengal		11076686	4918296	44.40
26. A & N Island		Not reported	6421	
27. D & N Havell		26237	17231	65.67
28. Daman & Diu		10735	395	3.68
29. Lakshadweep		8625	885	10.26
30. Pondicherry		133555	63262	47.36
All India		130615558	53847442	41.23

**Rural Household

Source : Ministry of Rural Development

CGHS Facilities to P and T Pensioners

2689. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister has received a memorandum from 'All India Central Confederation of Pensioners Association' regarding the discrimination facing by the pensioners of the Department of Post and Telegraph, in the matter of CGHS facilities;

(b) whether pensioners of the P and T are not getting this facilities merely because they did not join CGHS scheme during their service period; and

(c) If so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the discrimination towards the pensioners of the Department of P and T?

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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Additional Fund for Gujarat

2690. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total interim financial assistance sought by the Government of Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the actual allocation funds made by the Union Government year-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) the reasons for not providing the full amount of assistance as sought by the State Government;

(d) whether the interim assistance sought during the current financial year has been provided;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) 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 (f) Statement-I indicating

details of various requests received in the Ministry of Finance from the Government of Gujarat during the last 3 years (1998-99 to 2000-01) and in the current financial

year so far and action taken thereon is enclosed. Statement-II showing the Central assistance allocated and released during 1998-2000 and 2000-2001 is also enclosed.

Statement-I

Request of the Govt. of Gujarat for additional financial assistance

Years	Request made by the State Govt.	Action Taken
1	2	3
1998-99	(i) Financial assistance of Rs. 10 crores for construction of Raj Bhawan at Gandhinagar	The State Govt. was informed that the construction of Raj Bhawan, was in the nature of Plan expenditure and should be a part of State Plan.
	(ii) Central assistance of Rs. 600 crores from NFCR** for relief and restoration of damages caused by Cyclone of June, 1998.	An amount of Rs. 55.35 crores was released from NFCR during 1998-99 in the wake of cyclone in Gujarat, as per the recommendation of M/o Agriculture.
1999-00	(i) Special Central assistance of Rs. 60 crores for Gokul Gram Yojana.	Additional C.A. for Gokul Gram Yojana of Rs. 60 crores was released to the State Govt. during 1999-2000.
2000-01	(i) Request for Special ways and means advance of Rs. 500 crores due to financial burden on State caused by the 5th Pay Commission and reduction in Central Devolution.	A ways and means advance of Rs. 300 crores was released to the State Govt.*
	(ii) Request for allocation of additional Market borrowing of Rs. 500 crores to compensate loss on account of Central devolution on Eleventh Finance Commission recommendations.	An additional Market borrowing of Rs. 250 crores has been approved.*
2001-02	(i) Request for ways and means advance of Rs. 350 crores to meet the overdraft position of the State.	Rs. 91 crores as ways and means advance and Rs. 150 crores as small saving loan on ad-hoc basis have been released.*

*These amounts were released after examining the requirement of the State Government.

**NFCR—National Fund for Calamity Relief

Statement-II

Central assistance allocated and released during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Rs. in crores)

Items	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released	Allocation	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Normal Central Assistance#	380.14	315.24	420.58	392.35	422.39	421.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. B.M.S.*	76.42	76.42	113.54	113.54	0.00	0.00
3. S.D.S.*	18.30	22.92	20.13	20.13	20.13	20.13
4. EAPs\$	564.00	267.65	503.18	512.33	467.5	891.24
5. BADP*	8.88	8.88	9.87	9.87	9.87	10.26
6. AIBP*	225.00	423.37	275.00	272.7	350.00	421.85
7. PMGY*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64.79	50.20
8. PMGSY*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.41	59.81
9. ACA for Gokulgram Yojana	21.00	21.00	60.00	60.00	30.00	30.00
10. Calamity Relief Fund	116.12	116.12	121.05	121.05	131.14	131.14
11. NFCR/NCCF##	0.00	55.35	0.00	54.58	0.00	555.00
12. APDP*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	109.63	109.63

Releases based on the Actual/Departmental/anticipated expenditure reported by the State Govt.

* Releases based on the recommendations received from different Ministries/Departments.

\$ Released on the reimbursement basis.

Releases on the recommendation of the M/o Agriculture.

LEGEND

BMS - Basic Minimum Services

SDS - Slum Development Schemes

EAPs - Externally Aided Projects

BADP - Border Area Development Programme

AIBP - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

PMGY - Pradhan Mantri Gramudyog Yojana

PMGSY - Pradhan Mantri Gram Saksh Yojana

ACA - Additional Central Assistance

NFCR/NCCF - National Fund for Calamity Relief/National Calamity Contingency Fund

APDP - Accelerated Power Development Programme

Funds for Training for SSI in Bihar

2691. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government impart training in the field of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated to States in this regard during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Needs based training is imparted under Entrepreneurship Development Programmes, Management Development Programmes, Skill Development Programmes and Motivational Campaigns all over the country for varying periods

through a network of Small Industries Service Institutes (SISs), Branch SISs, Regional Testing Centres and other specialised Institutes. Training is also provided for Entrepreneurship Development under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) through the State Governments/UTs.

(c) The funds for training are provided to the State Governments/UTs for training under PMRY only. The details of these funds released to the States/UTs during the last three years are given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

State/UT-wise funds released for training by the Central Govt. under the Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Rs. in thousands)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Funds Released During			Total
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10260.00	9663.70	12412.20	32335.90
2.	Assam	10901.27	2940.20	1312.20	15153.67
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	247.85	187.40	115.20	550.45
4.	Bihar	—	—	3165.00	3165.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	2254.80	2254.80
6.	Delhi	—	—	—	0.00
7.	Goa	38.27	82.80	147.00	268.07
8.	Gujarat	4380.00	0.00	3358.80	7738.80
9.	Haryana	1249.30	0.00	1468.11	2717.41
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	751.80	—	751.80
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	569.80	1603.80	2173.60
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	1587.60	1587.60
13.	Karnataka	7928.87	10630.00	6508.62	25067.49
14.	Kerala	8736.35	6121.00	4597.90	19455.25
15.	Madhya Pradesh	9200.63	10288.20	10984.25	30473.08

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Maharashtra	3926.60	22897.85	13016.75	39841.20
17.	Manipur	396.45	—	271.85	668.30
18.	Meghalaya	186.75	395.87	354.90	937.52
19.	Mizoram	119.20	231.10	106.20	456.50
20.	Nagaland	284.55	39.60	277.60	601.75
21.	Orissa	4491.60	3976.00	6680.90	15148.50
22.	Punjab	4169.25	4064.75	3023.40	11257.40
23.	Rajasthan	6470.00	5487.30	8184.20	20121.50
24.	Tamil Nadu	4155.00	7119.15	11657.10	22931.25
25.	Tripura	—	410.85	—	410.85
26.	Uttar Pradesh	26951.10	24768.95	25368.20	77084.25
27.	Uttaranchal	—	—	1236.46	1236.46
28.	West Bengal	—	—	—	0.00
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	30.00	79.20	31.80	141.00
30.	Chandigarh	70.00	32.40	31.80	134.20
31.	Daman & Diu	21.00	18.00	13.20	52.20
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15.00	30.60	24.60	70.20
33.	Lakshadweep	15.00	18.00	11.40	44.40
34.	Pondicherry	251.05	68.00	283.80	602.85
35.	Sikkim	—	94.20	10.52	104.72
Total		104495.09	110984.72	120078.16	335537.97

Financial Assistance from World Bank

2692. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it was discussed in the full meeting of the Planning Commission on June 29, 2001 to seek financial assistance from the World Bank; and

(b) 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.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Utilisation of Funds

2693. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether utilization of external assistance in the case of Maharashtra has been showing a downtrend during the first three years of the 9th Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the factors responsible for this decline; and

(d) remedial action taken by the Government on this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The utilization of external assistance has not been showing a downward trend during the said three years. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, around 20 Externally Aided Projects were under implementation, most of which were completed during the first three years of the Ninth Five Year Plan. As more and more of these projects were carried to completion during the first three years of the Ninth Plan, the receipt of external assistance progressively declined but the utilization of the external assistance, which is to the tune of 95%, has been as per expectation.

Drugs to Control AIDS

2694. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cipla company has offered to supply drugs to control AIDS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Cipla company has not offered to supply drugs for treatment of AIDS cases under the National Programme.

Violation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act

2695. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in World Bank assisted tender for T.B. sub-standard products are being supplied by the approved supplier;

(b) whether the supplies received are tested at NIPER for the quality;

(c) whether supplies are made without batch numbers violating of Drugs and Cosmetics Act; and

(d) if so, the report is likely to be submitted to Parliament on this national issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Procurement of anti-TB drugs and binocular microscopes required for World Bank assisted Revised National TB Control Programme is made by an independent procurement agency engaged with the approval of the World Bank. All procurements are made in accordance with the technical specifications prescribed in the tender document. All products, before issue, are inspected and tested by the Procurement Agency.

(b) The supplies are got tested by Procurement Agency in Government approved Testing Laboratories for assurance of quality before dispatch clearance is issued to the approved suppliers. Testing of the products at any specific institution is not prescribed. Moreover, NIPER is neither a Government Analyst Lab nor an approved private Drug Testing Lab.

(c) As per the technical specifications prescribed for anti-TB drugs in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, it is mandatory to indicate batch numbers, date of manufacturing and date of expiry of the blisters of packages. Supply of drugs are made directly from manufacturer to project districts/GMSDs. No complaint regarding batch numbers of supplies has been reported from any of the project districts or GMSDs.

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

Brands of Medicines

2696. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is rampant corruption among doctors who recommended brands of medicines of different pharmaceutical companies as reported in Times of India dated July 6, 2001;

(b) whether medical representatives offer expensive presents to the concerned doctors, such as air tickets, stay in five star hotels, etc. when they go abroad to attend conference etc.;

(c) If so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government to stop these corrupt practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Some of the recent reports in the Times of India refer to the unethical practice of some doctors of G.B. Pant Hospital and CGHS as well as private practitioners without mentioning any names of doctors involved. Necessary action under the code of conduct/disciplinary rules governing the doctors will be taken if any specific case of corruption comes to notice of the Government.

HIV

2697. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation has identified a number of districts in different States as hot spots of HIV;

(b) If so, the State-wise hot-spot districts so identified; and

(c) the action plan, if any, has been worked to effectively to control HIV, indicating phase-wise targets thereof and the concerned State Government share and participation therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The hot spot districts identified State-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme (Phase-II) with the following key components.

- Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counseling, 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 sector.

The main targets to be achieved by the end of the Phase-II (2004) of the programme are :

- To establish Voluntary Counseling Testing Centres (VCTCs) in all the districts;
- Establish blood banks in all districts;
- To raise the level of awareness to more than 90%;
- Condom usages among targeted populations—90%; and

- Reduce HIV transmission through blood and blood products to less than 1%.

Statement

Districts with high prevalence of HIV among STD, IDU and ANC attendees State-wise 2000

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Name of the District
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh (7)	Hyderabad Visakhapatnam Guntur East Godavari Chittoor Kurnool Warrangal
2.	Goa (1)	North-Goa
3.	Gujarat (4)	Ahmedabad Surat Baroda Rajkot
4.	Karnataka (10)	Bangalore Mysore Dharwad (Hubli) Bellary Belgaum Gulbarga Dakshin Kannada (Mangalore) Udipi Bijapur Shyamraj Nagar (Kollegal)
5.	Maharashtra (12)	Nagpur Sangli Pune Aurangabad

1	2	3
		Chandrapur
		Latur
		Kolhapur
		Nasik
		Satara
		Solapur
		Thane
		Mumbai
6.	Manipur (3)	Imphal Churachandpur Bishnupur
7.	Nagaland (2)	Kohima Tuensang
8.	Tamil Nadu (6)	Madurai Trichy Salem Namakkal Tirunelveli Chennai

AIDS

2698. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Karnataka is one of the six States in the country which is bracketed in the high risk zone for AIDS;

(b) if so, the estimated number of persons infected with HIV positive cases;

(c) whether Karnataka has requested to provide more Central assistance to fight the disease;

(d) if so, the amount presently given to Karnataka and the additional amount sought for; and

(e) the steps taken to provide more Central assistance to Karnataka to fight the above disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on Sentinel Surveillance data the estimated prevalence rate of HIV infection in various risk groups in Karnataka is as follows :

STD Patients	-	12.80%
Antenatal women	-	1.68%
Injecting Drug Users	-	4.23%

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Based on the annual action plan of Karnataka, the amount allocated during the year 2001-2002 is Rs. 1083.16 lakhs. Additional central assistance to Karnataka would be considered by Government of India based on their programme performance.

[Translation]

Visit of Dignitaries

2699. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foreign dignitaries including Heads of Government and Nation who visited India during the last one year till date;

(b) the details of the agreements signed with each of them separately; and

(c) the expenditure incurred as a result of the hospitality extended security provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Sir, the information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Information Technology Industry

2700. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a vast scope for the growth of Information Technology Industry despite current slow down in the country;

(b) If so, the steps taken to identify the new areas with a view to accelerate the growth of I.T. industry?

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

(b) The Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) periodically interacts with the leading entrepreneurs of IT sector. There is also National Advisory Committee on IT and the Committee meets from time to time. The initiatives taken by MIT to encourage growth of the IT industry are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Incentives to IT Sector

1. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) had been rationalised and extended uniformly to all sectors without any threshold limit on payment of 5% duty.
2. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
3. Powers of approval of the Designated Officers of MIT for implementation of STP and EHTP schemes have been further enhanced up to US\$ 20 million.
4. 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.
5. Accelerated depreciation norms for computers and computer peripherals for electronic units under Export Oriented schemes (EOU/EPZ/STP/EHTP) have been enhanced. These shall stand depreciated to overall limit of 90% over a period of 3 years instead of around 5 years earlier.
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. Customs duty on parts of Telecom reduced to 5%. 32 items (additional) of Capital Goods allowed at a concessional duty of 5% for the manufacture of semiconductors.
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. EOU/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. Exemption of withholding tax on interest on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been extended to the IT sector.
13. Definition of Computer Software, as in Section 80 HHE of the Income Tax Act has been widened to include transmission of data.
14. Benefit of Section 80 HHE is available to supporting software developers.
15. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of 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 en-

acted. 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]

Reduction of Development Schemes

2701. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to prune the number of development schemes;

(b) if so, the number out of these development schemes proposed to be wound up;

(c) the number out of these development schemes which are proposed to be executed after merging them; and

(d) the ministries-wise schemes proposed to be wound up and those to be merged and are related to the ministries?

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) Different Ministries/Departments of Government of India implement and monitor development schemes which address specific needs of the country. Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) funded by the Government of India and implemented by the State Governments account for a major proportion of development schemes. The Government has been concerned with proliferation of schemes on a very large scale. The Ninth Plan, therefore, emphasized that 'In principle, Centrally sponsored Schemes should be confined to schemes of an inter-State character; matters impinging on national security; selected national priorities where Central supervision is essential for effective

implementation; and multi State externally financed projects where Central coordination is necessary for operational reasons'.

The NDC in its meeting held in February, 1999 decided to constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with Union Ministers of Finance, Human Resource Development, Agriculture, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System and Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal to examine the issues of convergence, merger, discontinuation and transfer of CSSs to the States. The NDC Committee is expected to submit its report by 30th September, 2001.

The need for rationalization of development schemes has also been reiterated by the Prime Minister in the meetings of the Full Planning Commission held on June 27 and 29, 2001 to subject all schemes to Zero Based Budgeting before the start of the Tenth Five Year Plan. In view of this, all Central Ministries/Departments have been directed to review all development schemes based on Zero Based Budgeting Methodology and complete the exercise before the commencement of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Demonstration Centres

2702. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has set up demonstration Centres of food irradiation technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been any demand for this technology from farmers or agricultural markets in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the scope for making this technology commercially viable?

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) Demonstration plants for radiation processing of food have been set up in the country. Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) has set up a plant for radiation processing of spices at Vashi, New Mumbai. BARC is setting up a plant at Lasalgaon, Nasik District for processing food products like potatoes, onions, garlic, ginger, mango, dried raisins, semolina and wheat atta. The plant is expected to be commissioned by the end of the current year.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There is a wide scope for commercial deployment of this technology. Flexible approach to make this technology available to private, co-operative and government agencies is being adopted to facilitate early commercialisation.

Post Matric Scholarship Scheme

2703. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have brought about some changes in the Post Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs/STs students recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of students likely to be benefited from this scheme in 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students was last modified during 1998-99 when the following modifications were made :

(i) Removal of restriction on coverage of only two male children per family.

(ii) Abolition of requirement of provision for committed liability by the North Eastern States.

(iii) Provision of additional allowances for SC and ST students with disability.

(c) As per available figures, about 18.91 lakhs SC and ST students have benefited under the scheme during 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Inter Caste Marriage

2704. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme of the Government to create a casteless society to save those people from social harassment who opt inter-caste marriages; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 have been enacted as Central legislations for prevention of any incidence of untouchability and atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Person not being a member of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe committing atrocity against a member of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe is liable for punishment under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The Central Government is implementing a scheme under which assistance is being provided to the State Governments and UT Administrations for implementation of these special legislations in an proper manner. These interventions aim at creating a casteless society and preventing any harassment to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe persons.

In the event of any person belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe who had intercaste marriage, being harassed by a person other than Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, the later is held liable for action under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Papers (Hindi and English versions) :

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Goa Shipyard Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3903/2001]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Mazagon Dock Limited and the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence, for the year 2001-2002.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) of item No. 1 above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3904/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for the year 1998, under sub-section (4) of section 21 of the said Act.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3905/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for the Physically handicapped, New Delhi, 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 Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year, 1999-2000.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3906/2001]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 (Till 31.7.1996).

(ii) A copy of the Memorandum of Action Taken (Hindi and English versions) on the Advises tendered by the National Commission for Backward Classes.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3907/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the Indian Police Service (Probationers' Final Examination) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 367 in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2001 under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3908/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy of the Passport (Amendment) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 482 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2001, under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Passports Act, 1967.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3909/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, 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 Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, 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 3910/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Naturopathy, New Delhi, 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 Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year, 1999-2000.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3911/2001]

12.01½ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—LAID

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha.

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 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 7th August, 2001 agreed without any amendment to the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd March, 2001."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2001 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th August, 2001."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Repeal Bill, 2001 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 7th August, 2001."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table Two Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 2001.

1. The Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
2. The Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Repeal Bill, 2001.

[English]

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Sixteenth Report

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (PONDICHERRY) : I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

[English]

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

Forty Fifth to Fifty Second Reports

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (ELURU) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Industry :

- *(1) 45th Report on the Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/observations contained in the 36th Report on PSUs of Heavy Industry—Disinvestment, Sickness and Revival
- *(2) 46th Report on the MOU system under Telecom. Sector, Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- *(3) 47th Report on the Demands for Grants (2000-01), Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- *(4) 48th Report on the Demands for Grants (2001-02), Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.
- *(5) 49th Report on the Demands for Grants (2001-02), Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries.
- *(6) 50th Report on the Demands for Grants (2001-02), Ministry of Mines.

*The 45th to 51st Reports were presented to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on the 24th May, 2001 when the House was not in session.

- *(7) 51st Report on the Demands for Grants (2001-02), Ministry of Steel; and

- (8) 52nd Report on the Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 35th Report on the working of Rural Employment Generation Programme and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

[English]

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER REMOTE SENSING DATA POLICY

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) : Remote sensing data is an important source of information for managing the nation's natural resources, supporting and monitoring developmental activities at the local level, supporting disaster management activities, ocean state and weather forecasting and environmental monitoring. Today, the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) series provides an immense imaging capability to the national and global user community. As per defined Guidelines, IRS data is acquired and distributed to Government, private organisations and academia for a variety of operational applications and the data is also marketed all over the world.

With the availability of high resolution (1m resolution) images from commercial US satellites, images of any part of the world, including Indian regions, are available and these have immense potential to support local level development and cadastral applications. India also has plans for having such high resolution imaging satellites in the near future. These high resolution images also have strategic value and thus a regulated distribution of such high resolution images can not only take care of the user community requirements but also the national security interests.

*The 45th to 51st Reports were presented to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on the 24th May, 2001 when the House was not in session.

With this in mind, the Government has approved and adopted a comprehensive Remote Sensing Data Policy (RSDP) for the acquisition and distribution of satellite remote sensing data—from Indian and foreign satellites for civilian users in India. The policy comprehensively covers guidelines for satellite data acquisition and distribution in the country and also for licensing the IRS capacities to other countries. Department of Space (DoS) will be the nodal agency for implementing the Policy.

As per the policy, Government permission is required for operating a remote sensing satellite from India and also for distribution of satellite images in India. The National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) has been identified as the national acquisition/distribution agency for all satellite data within India and has been allowed to enter into agreements for any foreign satellite data distribution in India. Antrix Corporation (of DoS) is identified to license IRS capacities outside of India.

The policy has safeguards for ensuring that images of sensitive areas are screened out, so that national security interests are protected. In particular, the Policy streamlines the distribution of high-resolution data to Government users; private users involved in developmental activities with Government and other private/academic/foreign users.

The RSDP is a step forward towards makes transparent the procedures of satellite data distribution, including those from high resolution imaging systems, and without being restrictive, would help regulate the process of image distribution so that Indian users are not denied access to this valuable tool which has become a mainstay in the developmental and natural resources management activities of the country.

12.06 hrs.

MOTION RE : WITHDRAWAL OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAG MOHAN) : I beg to move :

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Rajya Sabha that the Lok Sabha do agree to

leave being granted by the Rajya Sabha to withdraw the Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on the 18th of December, 2000, and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 18th of December, 2000."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Rajya Sabha that the Lok Sabha do agree to leave being granted by the Rajya Sabha to withdraw the Bill to declare the Indian Council of World Affairs to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on the 18th of December, 2000, and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 18th of December, 2000."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

12.07 hrs.

RE : KILLING OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, Jammu and Kashmir is bleeding...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : I have given an Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy has given an Adjournment Motion. That is the reason why I called him first. Please do not disturb the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Where is the Home Minister?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even by the poor standards of law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir, what happened last evening in Jammu is outrageous and obnoxious. This House, on the contrary,

cannot remain a mute spectator to what all has been happening for so many months. After the fiasco of the Agra summit, the intensification of the terrorist activity was only to expect. We all urged the Government that the Government should increase its vigilance. I am sorry to say that the Government seems to have lowered its guard because of which so many incidents, one after another, one mayhem after another, one butchery after another, and one massacre after another, have been taking place in Jammu and Kashmir.

When these incidents are occurring in the Valley, it has been explained away on the ground that Valley was the hotbed of terrorism; when the incident occurred in Doda, it has been explained away on the ground that it was inhospitable, remote and inaccessible terrain. Now, this incident has taken place, right in the heart of Jammu at the railway station. It is a matter of shame...(Interruptions)
I think the Home Minister now has gone underground.

MR. SPEAKER : He is in the other House. As per the information given by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs to the Chair, he would be coming to this House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I would like to add that there is a limit to the endurance of the people; and there is a limit to the patience of the Opposition Parties. The B.J.P., which is in office, has organised a *bandh* in Jammu and Kashmir. Can the B.J.P. have the cake and eat it too? No Government in the history of India has been such a dismal failure on the law and order front...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House would also be discussing the same subject under the Calling Attention Motion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : It is amazing!...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is a serious matter. I called Shri Jaipal Reddy. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also here. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (DELHI SADAR) : Yesterday night again massacre took place at Jammu

railway station. The Government of India should now tell Pakistan that enough is enough...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana, do you want to speak on the same subject?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should clearly tell Pakistan that it should stop encouraging terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. A lot of bloodshed has taken place there...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is there anything from the Government side?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may inform the House that the Home Minister is in the other House and that he would be coming to this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please resume your seats. Government is ready to respond. Hon. Members may hear as to what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wanted to say. Please understand. The Home Minister is in the other House. He would respond when he comes here. That is what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs informed the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is the problem in the House everyday. Hon. Members raise matters but they are not listening to the response of the Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? I allowed Shri Jaipal Reddy to raise the issue. He has raised the issue but the hon. Members are not listening to the response of the Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the Home Minister is in the other House. Whenever he finishes his work in the other House, he would come to this House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA) : It is a serious issue...*(Interruptions)* We want the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to tell the House as to when the Home Minister is going to make an appearance in this House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members are not allowing the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to respond.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you people doing every-day? You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : He is responding as to why the Home Minister is not present here. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to tell about the presence of Minister of Home Affairs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have got the list. I will call everyone.

(Interruptions)

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajaiah Malyala, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the agitated mood of the House...*(Interruptions)* Let me complete. I will not speak more than four or five sentences...*(Interruptions)* Sir, if they do not want me to speak, I will sit down...*(Interruptions)* Today, the Home Minister has his Question day in the Rajya Sabha...*(Interruptions)* Sir, would they please allow me to speak?...*(Interruptions)* During Question Hour I went to the Rajya Sabha and told the Home Minister that naturally he should come to the Lok Sabha and explain as to what happened in Jammu. But in the Rajya Sabha, immediately after 12 o'clock this issue has been raised. I hope the House will appreciate that when he is there in Question Hour and when the issue is raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition of the other House, he should be present there...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister of Home Affairs has come, even then you are speaking. You all please sit down.

(Interruptions)

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : The Home Minister has come.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasadji, what are you doing everyday? What has happened to you? You have forgotten that you are in the panel of Chairman.

(Interruptions)

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, this is too much.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was in the other House when naturally immediately after Question Hour this issue relating to Doda and Jammu came up in this House. My colleagues have told me that Shri Jaipal Reddy referred to this matter and immediately after that the mood of the House reflects the anguish and agony felt by everyone in this House as well as in the country.

Here is a situation, though not totally unexpected, that has come in a manner as to shake everyone and to make everyone realise that when the Prime Minister told the House yesterday that if at Agra not even a joint statement could emerge, the principal reason was that our neighbour, whose leader had come to Agra, feels that this killing of innocent men, women and children any time and anywhere is the freedom struggle going on. It is, therefore, with the best of efforts and the best of intentions that there should be a durable peace between India and Pakistan, we could not even produce a joint statement at Agra.

Now, this is a situation that cannot be met—I appreciate—by strong statements. Even a strong debate in the House is insufficient. It has to be met on the ground. There is no doubt about it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is not happening.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I can tell you that Jammu incident happened yesterday night. But even before that, when we saw what was happening in Doda, immediately we planned about it. I spoke to the Governor. He came here. I spoke to the Chief Minister. He came here. I told him that this was not an ordinary situation. On the one hand, you have to redeploy forces because of the Amarnath yatra. But the redeployment has to be done in a manner so as not to leave areas exposed that had happened to an extent.

Many of us may have visited that area and seen what kind of Doda area is. Therefore, we decided that on Wednesday, we would meet all concerned with security: the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the DGP of Jammu and Kashmir, the various Heads of the Paramilitary Forces, my colleague in Government who is today responsible for Defence as well as External Affairs. We will all meet and evolve an appropriate strategy...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has to complete his statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing the Minister to complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vinay Katiyar, how can you speak while sitting? What is this? Shri Rashtrapal, please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : This evening, we shall be meeting the DGMO, the DGP of Jammu and Kashmir, the Heads of Paramilitary Forces and the principal political leaders, who guide the whole thing, and whom I have mentioned already. We shall be taking the view not only about Doda but also about the whole Jammu and Kashmir...(Interruptions) It is not that very simple. You being in the Opposition, you are entitled to vent your anger. I do not blame you for that...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is blaming the Chief Minister. This is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has not completed his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy, he has to complete his reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. Then only, you can raise it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, I can tell you the kind of difficult situation the people there on the ground, including the Chief Minister, are facing. It is not right on the part of anyone to put blame either on 'A' or 'B'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He has done it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, their party has blamed the Chief Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta has blamed the Chief Minister for this situation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They are accusing each other...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are deviating from the subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No deviation, please. Take your seats, please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Let me say with all the emphasis at my command that everyone there is alive to the situation and they are facing it amidst great difficulty. If any of my colleagues has blamed so and so, it is wrong and it is not the view of the Government....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE) : What is Government's view?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question-answer session. Let him complete please.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : This is a situation in which all of us have to work together and assist them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the whole Cabinet is talking in different voices. The question is whose voice is to be accepted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Scindia, let him complete first.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta is here, he should clarify the position...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete please.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing?

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : I have not blamed any particular individual...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta, please let him complete first.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, he is on his legs, let him complete first.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, it is not the Government's view. The Government's view is categorical. I have known him for all these three years, it is not today and the manner in which they are fighting, all of them, it is wrong for anyone to blame them. I can only say that you were kind enough to agree that a debate in this House will take place after this meeting...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It will take place tomorrow.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The debate can be in any form, whether it is in the form of a Calling Attention Motion or under any motion, I have no objection...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want a full-fledged debate on this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Minister, would you please yield for a minute?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, let him complete first.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, he is yielding.

What has his colleague said? Shri Chaman Lal Gupta accused the Chief Minister and Leader of the Unified Command that he cannot escape responsibility for shifting of troops leaving them vulnerable...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chatterjee, there are other notices also. Please understand.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He says, 'the Chief Minister is responsible'...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow we will be discussing this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is the view he has put forward...(Interruptions) He comes from that State...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the Home Minister said, 'we are anguished that we do not have the power'...(Interruptions) Sir, we also have the power and authority to make comments and put things in order...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise this tomorrow when the debate takes place.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply of the Home Minister...(Interruptions) Therefore, we walk out in protest...(Interruptions)

12.29 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Madhavrao Scindia and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we are also not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Home Minister, therefore, we are making a walk out.

12.29½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

12.29¾ hrs.

*At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh,
Shri Ramdas Athawale and some other hon.
Members left the House.*

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI) : Mr. Speaker Sir, much again in anguish, I would like to bring to the notice of the House a terrible tragedy which took place in a Mental Asylum in a small town Yerwadi in Ramanathapuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

In the early morning hours on Monday, due to this fire accident, 26 inmates of that Mental Asylum were charred to death.

This is a very serious issue. The whole country was shocked. It is shudder to see the photographs in the newspapers and the scenario in the electronic media. When they were screaming and shouting because they were chained, nobody could go to their rescue and all were burnt to ashes.

12.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Sir, only after this painful tragedy, things have come to light that thousands and thousands of mentally affected people are subjected to such horrible conditions in most of the mental asylums.

Today, Sir, according to a report, throughout the country 50 million people are suffering from mental problem and are in 43 hospitals with a bed strength of 23,000. Already the Mental Health Act envisages setting up of mental health authorities in every State in the year 1987 itself, but in most of the States this has not been implemented. Inhuman conditions are prevailing there. Already the life for these people was doomed. Therefore, it is high time that the Apex Court of this country took cognisance of this matter. The Central Government should take up this issue very seriously. A fact-finding team from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should monitor the prevailing conditions of the mental hospitals throughout the country.

Due to lack of modernisation facilities and basic amenities, they are suffering worse than cattle in those mental asylums. Sir, our hearts go to this gruesome tragedy. I express my deep anguish and condolences to the bereaved families. Most of them have been abandoned in such asylums. The most sufferers are the women inmates in most of the mental asylums.

Therefore, Sir, this is a very grave issue. The Government should take up this issue seriously and in all earnestness at least to prevent such tragedies in future.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, I strongly support his view...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shri K. Malaisamy.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has given a notice on this. That is why, I am allowing him to speak.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (RAMANATHAPURAM) : Sir, this incident has happened in my constituency. I am more competent to speak on this incident. I have also given a notice on this.

Sir, this is a very gruesome tragedy. As endorsed by our colleague, we are very much sorry that this has happened. The State Government was smart and quick enough to handle the tragedy and the Chief Minister, Madam Jayalalitha was able to send the Minister concerned and all the party functionaries to this place. The entire team of the District Administration was there. They were able to take immediate measures to see how the grant can be given. They have paid Rs. 50,000/- to the heirs each of victim, Rs. 15,000/- each to those who were seriously injured, and Rs. 6,000/- each to those who have got minor injuries. A probe has been ordered into this incident. The District Administration has taken enough measures to ban this kind of asylums immediately pending a detailed contingency plan, which is under operation.

In this regard, even the Supreme Court has issued a notice and has taken cognisance of this incident. We entirely agree that though the State Government has taken all-out effort to do something concrete on this matter, it is a matter of grave concern. The State Government will work on the one side at the micro level and even at the macro level, a national plan or policy can be thought of as to how the mentally ill, mentally deranged and the mentally challenged people like them who have immense faith, belief and practice to go to such places like the ERWADI Dargha, can be handled and cured. They still believe that some cure can be possible there. But all these things should be taken into account and a comprehensive policy can be thought of at macro level...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have 42 Members who have given notice. I am calling one by one.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please co-operate. All of you will be getting your chance.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I would also like to associate with this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, you are allowed to associate.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All of you are allowed to associate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, a Central team may be sent because it is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, please do not disturb. I have allowed you to associate.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (TIRUNELVELI) : Sir, I want two minutes to speak on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, you are allowed to associate.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, on behalf of my Party, I also associate myself with what Shri Vaiko has said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed you to associate.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have allowed them to associate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : When there is a issue relating to UP or Bihar, Members hold the House to ransom.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vaiko, Members from Tamil Nadu ought to have given notices. Only you and Shri Malaisamy had given notices.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Even then I have allowed them to associate.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Sir, I draw the attention of the House to a serious matter.

A great loss to public exchequer is taking place due to the faulty decisions of the management of the State Bank of India regarding the shifting of Forex Department from Kolkata to Mumbai from 1998 onwards. Prior to the shifting of the Department, the profit of the bank was to the tune of Rs. 463 crore in 1998, which came down to Rs. 278 crore in the year 2000-2001.

Though the profit of the State Bank nose-dived significantly, the profit of the foreign banks went up on regular basis. For example, the American Express Bank.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this? Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, you are not to read in the House during 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, I want a minute. It is a very important subject. Sir, it can be easily said that this decision which was taken by the management of the SBI to shift the Forex Department from Kolkata to Mumbai is totally wrong. Therefore, I demand the Government of India to direct the management of SBI to revert the Forex Department to Kolkata from Mumbai for the better service of the bank and for the greater interest of the nation.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY) : Sir, I fully support this...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, you are associating with him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, number of my notice is second...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, when your turn comes, I will call you. I will not delete your name.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I draw the attention of this august House to an important matter. The primary education is the fundamental right of the children of this country. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to set up a National Educational Fund to impart quality in the primary education. This is my first point. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government proposes to move in the direction of levying educational cess on multi-national companies and corporate houses.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (PURNEA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. In the other House, the hon'ble Minister had stated that the opinion of the concerned Members will be sought under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. The Government is of the view that opinion of the concerned Member should be sought before taking up the scheme. However, views of the concerned MP or legislator had not been solicited in Bihar before floating tenders for works under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana.

Next week the tender will finalised and once again the funds provided by the Government for this scheme will be misappropriated. Unless and until there is any control by an agency of the Union Government, the State Government of Bihar will once again misappropriate the funds provided under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana as it did in all other cases. The hon'ble Minister had stated during the last Session that the works will not be approved without seeking opinion of the concerned hon. Member regarding which road in the rural area should be approved and after that the concerned hon. Member would be authorised to Monitor it but all that did not happen. We get only Rs. 2 crore whereas a legislator of Delhi get Rs. 1.5 crore. In Bihar an MLA gets Rs. 1 crore whereas an M.P. who represents six legislative constituencies gets only Rs. 2 crore. Therefore, my suggestion is that if the allocation under MPLADS is not increased from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 4 crore then the whole allocation under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana should be put under MPLADS. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here, I would like to say that it is a very serious matter...(Interruptions) This issue concerns the entire country. This is an all-India issue...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (PATAN) : Sir this is a matter concerning not only Bihar; it affects the whole of India...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : hon. Members, please take your seats. This is not the way to behave.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, we want a response from the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, I cannot compel the hon. Minister to respond. If he wants, he can respond but I cannot compel him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : All hon. Members are interested in getting a response from the Government...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (BETTIAH) : I would also like to associate myself with this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have not given notice in this regard.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have called Shri Adhir Chowdhary. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhary, you will have to confine to the subject of your notice; do not cross the limit.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Sir, this issue is not related to me, it relates to entire country...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, I have given you enough time. I cannot compel him to respond to you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : This issue relates to the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This issue may be related to the country and all Members, but no response is coming from the Government. I cannot compel the Government for giving reply.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : M.Ps. are ignored...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, you should not disturb the House. There are a number of hon. Members who have given notices.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI) : This is a serious matter that Members are ignored. The involvement of Members should be there...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Delkar, please take your seat. Shri Pappu Yadav has already placed the matter. If the hon. Minister wants to respond, he can. If he does not want to respond, I cannot compel him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister had also made it clear that the opinion of M.Ps. will be sought in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : This is a very serious issue. The involvement of MPs should be there... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, you have to allow other hon. Members to speak. Do not disturb like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : The funds provided by Government of India under various schemes are being misappropriated in Bihar. There on finalisation of the tenders contracts are being given to the contractors. After floating tenders, the State Government of Bihar are giving contracts to its own men...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL) : Sir, may I draw the attention of this House to a very serious issue?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, hon. Members of Parliament have to be consulted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, this is Zero Hour and during Zero Hour you can raise issues towards which you want to draw the attention of the Government. This you have already done. Now there are other hon'ble Members also who want to raise issues. I have also called them to raise their issues. Now let them speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Due to this, the significance of Zero Hour will be lost. Entire time will be lost this way.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the scheme envisages that M.Ps. should be consulted. This is not only in Bihar but in other States also...*(Interruptions)* Some of the States are doing it...*(Interruptions)* It is true that some of the officers of the State Government are not taking it seriously. Some of the Government employees who are concerned with this, especially the Block Development Officers and DRDOs should be consulted...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you are our guardian. You tell the Government...*(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, please help me in conducting the proceedings of the House. Other Members have also given notice.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Is this not the right of M.P...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, I will communicate the feelings of the hon. Members to the hon. Minister of Rural Development.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhary to speak now. Shri Chowdhary, it is a very delicate issue. Please confine to your subject and do not transgress.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Yes, Sir.

A baby is in question, even before he is born. When the baby is in embryonic stage, he got embroiled in controversy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Govindan, please take your seat.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, the baby in question is nobody less than the proposed Chief of Defence Staff of India. The Government is supposed to instal the structure within a short period. But before that coronation is held, a controversy has been cropped up challenging the very foundation of the structure of CDS. The Chief of Air Staff has already started airing his disapproval to the proposal of CDS. In view of massive military infrastructure and its growing vulnerability, there should be no ambiguity to the CDS structure and it is imperative also. In the wake of the Kargil conflict the issue had been contemplated over and a Group of Ministers has already recommended for it. But it is reported that the views of the other wings of the Armed Forces have not been taken cognizance of.

Therefore, may I know from the Government whether all the wings of the Armed Forces have been taken into

confidence before the structure of CDS is going to be installed. Thank you...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there has been murder of leader of Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please allow me. It is a State matter and it has been ruled out.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not disturb. Please allow me to deal with it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will not allow you. It is a State matter and it has already been decided by the hon. Speaker. I cannot allow you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : This is very serious question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sir, it would have been serious question, it has already been decided here that it is matter concerning with the State Government.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramji Lal Suman, every time I am giving the floor to you. Now, it is a matter connected to the State. How can I allow you? It is already decided by the hon. Speaker. I am no one to decide. I am no one to review it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav.

(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Since it was decided by the hon. Speaker I will not allow you to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not disturb like this. I have always given the floor to you. The matter is already decided. How can I take a decision again? Why do you not cooperate with me? It is a matter concerning the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (SAHARSA) : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the subject related to facilities provided to Members of Parliament. All the Members of Parliament have been given coupons from the Central School Organisation for nomination of two students especially to these M.Ps. constituency. The schools must be situated in the Constituency. Even I had got the coupon in which it has been mentioned that recommendation for the nomination of two students is to be sent by 20.7.2001. I sent the names of Neha Kumari for class IVth and Ashish Kumar for Class IIIrd on 18.7.2001. I received their answer on 23rd July 2001 that a letter has been written to the Principal of Central School, Saharsa for the nomination of recommended students by you, even I had been given that copy.

But I was informed that the letter had been received there on 31 July 2001 and the Principal mentioned that today was the last day for nomination, so we will not take nomination...(Interruptions) The student who was in this hope that my name will be in the list of Central School because the nomination in all schools has already been done, what will happen to his future. So, Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want protection from you that privilege has been given to MP that they can recommend the nomination of two students and we recommended within the stipulated period but now their nomination has not been done...(Interruptions) So we want that instructions should be issued to the Government that officials of Central School Organisation who are following wrong policy, Government should take note of it and as we have recommended the nomination of these students, their nomination should be done, this type of system we want...(Interruptions)

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Even I have also recommended for nomination and get the reply that the nomination of your candidate had not been done...(Interruptions) Even the

nomination of our two candidates had not been done...*(Interruptions)* I have got the reply that the admission is not possible now...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Government should give the information...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR) : Government should give the information because this is not the case of only one MP...*(Interruptions)* All the MPs have complaint in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Minister may take note of this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is not appropriate for the right of MP...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

It is a very serious matter.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pappu Ji, please listen sometime.

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) : This issue had been raised even few days ago. I would like to bring the problems of honourable Members in the knowledge of honourable Minister and get it solved...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a large number of small-scale units of West Bengal had suffered immensely due to the devastating floods which took place last year. The total number of small-scale units affected is 25,696. The Government of West Bengal had already written to the Government of India for extending the same benefit, which was announced in case of such small-scale units which were affected because of the earthquake in Gujarat, to these units of West Bengal. The tax holiday scheme which was

allowed in case of Gujarat was not extended in case of the small-scale units which are adversely affected due to the devastating floods in the State of West Bengal. This is rather a discrimination. There is a demand to extend the same facility for the small-scale units of West Bengal which were affected due to the floods.

I would urge upon the Government for help in this regard. A large number of small-scale units where a large number of employees are involved are there. The Government of India should consider the request of the Government of West Bengal for extending the same facilities to them also which were announced for similar units in Gujarat. Thank you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to convey to the Government a very serious matter which has been increasing for the last two years in the northern part of Bengal which I represent in this august House. Only one month before a serious explosion took place in a passenger bus running between Hilli and Kumarganj in Dakshin Dinajpur district. Last year two serious explosions took place in New Jalpaiguri railway station followed by explosions in Cooch Bihar and Siliguri. North Bengal is located in a unique location. It has five districts bordering Bangladesh and two districts bordering Nepal and Bhutan. It is the gateway to the North-East States. The terrorists from various parts of India are finding a very safe refuge and shelter in Siliguri and northern parts of Bengal.

In a few cases, they have been apprehended. Sir, abundant fake currency of five hundred-rupee notes and one hundred-rupee notes is in the *mandis* and the innocent people, especially the farmers and the villagers, who go to the *mandis* are being penalised and victimised because they could not ascertain which is genuine currency and which is fake currency.

Sir, during my tour in my constituency, I found that several incidents are increasing umpteen number of times. Therefore, I plead before you that it is the time for the Home Minister of India to consult the Chief Minister of West Bengal to plan for a common vigilance, and to gather intelligence and to keep vigilance in such a manner that each point of Bangladesh border—in Dakshin Dinajpur with the hilly region, in Uttar Dinajpur, in Vishnupur, in Coochbehar and right at the border, in Rongpore district—is covered. On the other side, in Malda, Rajshahi district

borders with Bangladesh and Phunshling in Alipurduars borders with Bhutan and Darjeeling district borders with Nepal in Viratnagar. These are the areas from where a huge number of people, who are of shady character, the terrorists, who may be linked with ULFA or ISI, are coming and almost destroying the peace in the North Bengal. Though at present, the State Government has posted DIG and IG rank officials there, still I consider that it is not enough. At each border point, BSF vigilance, along with the State and Union Government, is to be strengthened to meet the challenge. Even, I do not know whether Ghaisal railway accident was a result of man-made failure or a terrorist activity.

Sir, the situation is really very bad. Only twenty kilometres from my house, a bus was exploded. It is really a situation where I desire that the Union Government should take note of it. From the border areas of Kishanganj and Purnea, people are coming, taking shelter and doing activities here. Therefore, it is time to ensure the safety of the North-Eastern States and the North Bengal which is its gateway. For the safety of the Northern States and northern part of Bengal, the Union Government must immediately take cognizance of it and talk to the Chief Minister of West Bengal, without any partisan angle, to have a common unified command vigilance in the entire North Bengal to save the State from the influx of the terrorists and insurgent activities.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, it is a matter of great importance and concern that the Ministry of Defence has been robbed to the extent of Rs. 4.33 crore in a land scam in Visakhapatnam, in my constituency. Sir, land measuring 7.27 acre is acquired for base visualising yard. This is a waste land. This land has been acquired, but the money has not ultimately reached the beneficiaries. The money has been pocketed by the officials concerned and the middlemen. If the money had reached the beneficiaries, it would have been better, but that has not happened. At the same time, the amount of Rs. 4.33 crore has been pocketed by middlemen and officials. This is a matter of grave concern. The culprits are to be booked immediately, otherwise, the evidence will be tampered with. They have to be booked and punished immediately so that the evidence may not be tampered with and the money amounting to Rs. 4.33 crore may be recovered by the Defence Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, you can speak on your first item, that is, alleged politicising of school syllabus because the second item has already been replied to by the Home Minister.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Sir, an important issue has been raised by my colleague, Shri Murthi. I am also supporting it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I allow you to associate.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (CHANDNI CHOWK) : Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is too much hue and cry about school syllabus in the country that NCERT or Ministry of Education has done the saffronisation of education. I would like to say that some people because of their political...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI) : This is absolutely true, it is happening like this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, you are going to get your chance now and he will be there to disturb you.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Some people due to their vested interest in politics are raising this issue because they do not want that the culture of the country, nationalism of the country, is to be told to children. I would like to say only this, when National curriculum came into picture, before its draft had been sent to Minister of Education and Chief Minister of each State.

13.00 hrs.

The suggestion which is given by the Minister of Education West Bengal's Government was to be included in this. I am asking to our opponents the people who are opposing it, I would like to ask them that whether love to the country and to teach ethics education is saffronisation as defined by you? Whether it is saffronisation to tell about great people of India and about the culture of the country? They quote atleast one example of this, as they feel that proper education has not been given.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, why the Council has not been constituted about which we are discussing. It has not been

constituted since 1994 till date. I would like to tell these people who are only politically opposing it that the report of NCERT, the set-up of working group on value based education, where Chairman was Shri Shenkar Rao Chauhan. I am quoting whatever is mentioned in that report.

[English]

"Truth, righteous conduct, peace, love and non-violence are the core universal values that can become the foundation for building value-based education programmes as per the recommendations of the S.B. Chavan Committee Report submitted to the Indian Parliament in February 1999.

Eighty-first Report on 'Value-based Education' presented to Rajya Sabha on 26th February, 1999, Item No. 8.

What is required today, Sir, is not religious education, but education about religions, their basics. The Chavan Committee of 1999 strongly urges education about religions as an instrument of social and religious harmony. All religions, therefore, have to be treated with equal respect, *sarva dharma samabhava*, and there has to be no discrimination on the ground of any religion."

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Tell us what the Indian Government has to do.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the curriculum made for NCERT is in the interest of the country. If you think beyond politics then you will find that before its set up, there was consultation at large scale with educational bodies of all the states. Indian Government should continue it, I want this and for that Indian Government should make more and more curriculum...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA) : On this issue, I have given the notice.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Lakshman Seth has given the notice.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : My notice is there on this subject. I am giving the notice for the last four or five days.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you have given the notice, you are allowed to associate yourself with him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : The House is being misled. What are they doing? They are changing the education policy. The *saffronites* are destroying the education policy of 1986. They are communalising the education system of our country. Nine State Education Ministers had already protested against it...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has given the notice on this.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : For the last five days, I am giving the notice. It is a very dangerous situation. This Government is working clandestinely and changing the basic understanding of this country. They are including astrology in the syllabus. This is the most heinous conspiracy. They are trying to substitute astronomy with astrology. They are trying to substitute science with yoga...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If it is unparliamentary, then I will remove it.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : They are including occult sciences and *karmakanda*. What is this? They are utilising the two institutions, that is, NCERT and UGC, and they are trying to change the entire education policy.

The scientific temper would be destroyed. We are going back to the 5th Century. We are going back to the barbaric age. They have captured all the educational and research institutes of the country by putting their RSS men in those organisations...(Interruptions) The Education policies of 1986 and 1992 have been tampered with...(Interruptions) Sir, through you, I would like to submit that this subject should be listed for discussion in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, if there is anything unparliamentary I will expunge it and I will ask him to withdraw.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, this subject is in the Concurrent List. The Central Government cannot unilaterally change the basic structure of education in this country. They cannot trample the secular foundations and the multifarious cultural ethos of this country...(Interruptions) Sir, they are trying to communalise it. They are trying to destroy the unity of this country...(Interruptions) Sir, I demand a full-fledged discussion on this subject in this House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, UP) : Rajiv Pratap Rudyji, the people of your supporting party are also demanding for this.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in the larger interest of the country—I am not supporting this party or that party—I would like to submit that this subject should be discussed on the floor of the House. This subject is in the Concurrent List. The subject Shri Vijay Goel has raised should be discussed in the House. Different political parties would give different opinions on the matter and then we could come to a conclusion on this...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Deputy-Speakerji, I associate myself with the views of Shri Yerrannaidu.

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Sir, I, on behalf of my party, also associate with his views...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : From the Chair all that I would like to say is that this is an important subject. Now, if you take it up in the BAC and all parties decide about it, then it can come for a discussion. I have no objection to it.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I would raise it there...(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Sir, Shri Goel has just quoted it from a report...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Pandeya, this is 'Zero Hour'. He has mentioned this. Two other Members also have given notices on the subject and now I am giving the floor to Shri Francis.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If all the parties are wanting to discuss it and the House also can discuss all subjects of national importance, then you could give notice and it can come up for a discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (CHHAPRA) : Sir, even our National Flag also has a saffron colour in it, do we need to discuss that?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rudy, he is asking for a discussion on the Education Policy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (IDUKKI) : Sir, our country is going through a phase of re-orientation of our education system...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let there be a peaceful discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Sir, there is a UGC circular on indigenous system of knowledge. But this Government is trying to introduce courses like *Vedic astrology* and *Pourahitya* at the University level. This is being done without consulting the States.

Sir, it is mandatory on the part of the Central Government that if it intends to make any changes in the education policy of the country, then the Government would have to consult all the States and the Education Ministers of the State Governments. There is also an apex body, called the Central Advisory Body on Education, for consultation in these matters. This body consists of all the Education Ministers of States. But this has not been done. The Central Government is trying to impose this unilaterally on all the States.

Sir, there is no doubt that eminent educationists have commented on this. They all are of the opinion that this would lower the quality of education in the schools and apart from that such a thing, instead of helping to imbibe the secular values would inculcate a sense of sectarian and obscurantism in the younger minds...(Interruptions)

Sir, This is a very serious matter. I would like to urge upon the Central Government to call a meeting of all the Education Ministers and eminent educationists and dis-

cuss this matter threadbare and then only a decision should be taken...*(Interruptions)*

I request the Union Government to consider this point very seriously.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, expansion of medical education in the country is the need of the hour. There is a huge shortage of doctors in the country. Doctors are reluctant to go and serve in villages. Villagers are suffering because of lack of medical facilities. The Government should give a thrust to medical field by expanding medical education.

Private parties are coming forward to set up medical colleges. However, the guidelines for setting up of medical colleges are very stringent. The guidelines say that a medical college should have at least 25 acres of land in its possession, it should set up a 300 bedded hospital, and that it should provide a bank guarantee for an amount of Rs. 3 crore. These guidelines need to be amended. I would suggest that the amount of bank guarantee be reduced to Rs. 1 crore, the number of beds in the hospital be reduced to 100, and that the new medical colleges be exempted from setting up a hospital for the first two years.

Sir, since the hon. Minister of Health is sitting here, I would request him to please respond to this.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) : Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the law and order situation in Tripura is getting disturbed because of separatist action of Christian Missionary and terrorist activities. The innocent people are being murdered there. More than 1500 people are kidnapped in the last three to four years from labourer to businessmen, contractor and soldiers of security forces are among them. None of them is non-Hindu. All those people got free by paying ransom. It is surprising that Christians have full authority to run institutions in Hindu Majority areas but Hindu's are kidnapped if they run their institutions in North Eastern States. The 400 devoted workers of Rashtriya Swyam Sevak Sangh who were in the service of the country for the long time and they devoted their whole life, they had been kidnapped near Agartala in South Tripura. After many years the State Government reported that they have been murdered. A ransom of two crore rupees was demanded for their release. We had requested the State Government to locate them early and rescue them from the

terrorists. But the Tripura Government conspired and kept them in the captivity of Christian missionaries which resulted in their death. I demand that the Tripura Government should be dismissed. The Tripura Government has failed to check the terrorists and subversive activities in the state. I urge upon the Government that the responsible persons for these murders be identified and given stringent punishment.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR, H.P.) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir India faces natural calamities each year. This results in loss of life and property worth crores of rupees. But due to lack of effective arrangements to meet these calamities in a coordinated manner at the district level, people have to face immense difficulties. It is my humble request to the Agriculture Minister to make arrangements and provide equipments in all the districts to overcome natural calamities. Arrangements should be made at each and every district centre to deal with the natural calamities effectively. Lot of such incidents occur each year. In view of the above this is very essential. Loss of life and property can be avoided by making effective arrangements at District centres.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it is very unfortunate and highly condemnable that a church was attacked and a priest was manhandled in Thane in Maharashtra. There is considerable resentment over this incident. There is call for a *bandh* of Christian schools in Mumbai on Monday.

Sir, in Ujjain, a nun was shot at and injured. In the recent times, particularly in Maharashtra, there have been several instances of attacks on Christians and Christian institutions.

I have only to urge upon the Government to come forward with proper policy and have adequate measures for the protection of this defenceless minority.

Sir, the minority question must receive due attention by the Government. The atmosphere is often vitiated by baseless and wild allegations, as a result of which we have such heinous crimes and violence. So, I urge upon the Government to formulate proper measures, to take everyone into confidence and to see to it that there is due protection of life, property and honour of the minorities.

Sir, here, in this particular case, the Christian leaders will have to be taken into confidence and assured of the

necessary protection of their religious institutions and their religious personalities. Similarly, the entire question of minorities requires attention. In various States, we are having a situation, which is anti-minority in character, being indulged into by several institutions.

The Government must take a serious note of all this and take due and adequate measures.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri T. Govindan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, it is a very serious issue...
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Thomas, please take your seat. If you want to associate with him, I can allow you. But if you want to speak on it, I cannot allow you. There are other Members also to raise their issues. I have to accommodate them also.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri E. Ahamed, please take your seat. Whatever your subject was there, that has already been raised.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, it is very important. It is about 'minorities'...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you want, I will allow both of you to associate with him. You have not given prior notice on it. How can I allow you? Now, please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA (NOMINATED) : Sir, I also associate myself with what he has said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right. Now, Shri T. Govindan.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri P.C. Thomas, I have called Shri T. Govindan. Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, he has raised a very important issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is the reason I had given him the floor. You can also associate with him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

*SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD) : I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Commerce Minister to the miserable plight of the arecanut farmers in Kerala due to the drastic fall in its prices. A good number of small farmers in my constituency Kasargod, depend solely on arecanut cultivation as a means of subsistence. But, to their dismay, it is fetching the lowest of prices it ever had. Arecanut is fetching them a meagre Rs. 38/- Kg. this year whereas it was Rs. 75/- kg. last year and two years back it was priced at Rs. 160/- kg. Now, the price has crashed to a historically low level.

Sir, the farmers are not in a position to employ agricultural labourers in their farms or to use fertilizers as such activities are not found cost effective. Even the preventive medicinal doses for the major disease of arecanut 'Mahali' have become unaffordable to the farmers. Many of them are forced to commit suicide. The Mangalore based co-operative agency 'CAMPCO', meant to procure arecanut from farmers, too is in a crisis due to stockpiling. The private traders' lobby, while trying to fish in troubled waters, cater to further depreciation in the market. Their aim is to scuttle the future of CAMPCO. Adding to all these is the import and smuggling of arecanut into the country. Hence, I urge upon the Government to effectively curb these illegal activities to protect the interest of the farmers and to ensure fair price for their produce.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ahamed, I have allowed you to associate with him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (BULANDSHAHAH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, four Benches of High Court are in existence since the British time. One such Bench is in

*English translation of speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

Allahabad. Uttar Pradesh is the largest State in the country in terms of the area and population. Lawyers and people of 20 districts of western Uttar Pradesh have been demanding a High Court since 1980. The work in the courts have come to standstill for the past 15 days in Western Uttar Pradesh.

A large number of innocent people remain in jail for want of balls. There is no one to appear on their behalf for bail. During the tenure of various Governments the demand for a High Court Bench have been raised here time and again, but it bore no fruits so far. Jaswant Singh Commission had recommended the setting up of a High Court Bench either at Meerut or at Agra. But the Government did not accept the recommendation of the Commission. I urge upon the Government to give an assurance for setting up a High Court Bench in western Uttar Pradesh at the earliest so that the agitating lawyers withdraw their agitation.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VADODARA) : Sir, thank you for permitting me to raise the issue, which is about exemption of custom duty for import of TG sets. The proposal for import duty exemption of Turbo Generating Sets for the River Bed Power House of Sardar Sarovar Project or Narmada Project was submitted to the Union Government by the Government of Gujarat in 1999. This Inter-State Hydel Power Plant fulfils criteria for duty exemption as well as it is eligible for exemption of custom duty.

I therefore, urge the Government to accord exemption of custom duty for the import of TG Sets at the earliest.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House a very important issue. There is a recent landmark judgement given by the Supreme Court, making a distinction between conviction and sentence, in a criminal court judgement. Speaking on behalf of the Division Bench, Justice K.T. Thomas had made it clear that even a suspension of sentence is not sufficient for persons to hold a public office, but there must be a complete exoneration by the Appellate Court. There must be suspension of not only the sentence, but also suspension of conviction. If there is no suspension of conviction, the accused person is not eligible to hold public office. I would therefore like to know from the Central Government whether they had examined this particular

dictum now enunciated by the Supreme Court. It is a landmark judgement. Many people who are convicted are holding public office in India. The Supreme Court's judgement is crystal clear and it says that such persons are not eligible to hold office...(Interruptions)

Before concluding I must say one more word. Recently it was reported in papers that the Additional DGP of Punjab was convicted in a murder case. The suspension was revoked and he continued to be in service till the last day of the sentence. On that day, he was convicted to life imprisonment. That particular officer was allowed to hold office; and that is the situation.

Now, the Supreme Court had made it crystal clear that there is a distinction between sentence and conviction. Without suspension of conviction, nobody is allowed to hold any public office in India. I request the Central Government to look into the matter so that the decision of the Court is implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways towards a serious issue. There is neither a rail road nor a railway crossing at Tehsil Yewla, near Kusmadi village, Nagarsotha station, Section Ankal on the South central Railway's Manmad-Sikandarabad rail route. This is in Nasik district of Maharashtra. There are 10-12 big villages near Kusmadi village. In support of the above demand, several processions and Morcha have been taken out and demonstrations like fast unto death and 'rail roko' have also been staged a number of time. The Sikandarabad Railway administration had assured to construct a level crossing there but this has not been constructed so far. Therefore, it is my humble request that a railway crossing and a railway bridge be constructed at the above site at the earliest.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (ARRAH) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Petroleum towards the Bottling plant set up by Hindustan Petroleum, Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum in village Giddha, Bhojpur district, in my Parliamentary constituency where gas is stored and distributed. People of Giddha village had given their hundreds of acres of land for setting up of the plant. At that time the Department had assured the people to give

employment to those who gave their land. But it is very much regrettable that though the plant is working satisfactorily, yet the given promise is not being fulfilled. Instead, when people ask for employment, cases are slapped against them. Therefore, I demand from the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who is sitting here, to direct Bharat Petroleum, Indian Oil and Hindustan Petroleum to give employment as per their promise to the poor farmers—the owner of one or two bighas of land—who gave hundreds of acres of land and who are now on the verge of starvation and are agitated. Not only this, outsiders are appointed and the people who gave their lands are not employed. Therefore I demand that the Ministers of Petroleum and Natural Gas should give employment to them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (JODHPUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Environment and Forests and the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs to the Wild Life Protection Act enacted 100-125 years ago. At that time the provision for punishment were very mild and there was provision of trial by Magistrate. Today, the wildlife is vanishing gradually in the country. Wild life is almost extinct in many areas and if this situation continues, one day the wild life will become extinct and the human life will meet the same fate. Hence, there is a need to make this law more and more stringent. A provision of trial by the sessions Judge also a provision for life imprisonment should be made so that the wild life can be safe on this earth. The number of smugglers is also increasing in our country. Animal hides are being smuggled. Stringent law should be made to stop this illegal trade. Therefore, I request the Government to frame stringent laws against them a provision of death sentence should also be made to save the wild life. Today, wild life is left only at few places in Rajasthan. On the 12th August last, one person lost his life in saving the wild life...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, other castes and classes in general categories be provided age relaxation in the Indian Civil Services examinations as is being provided to the scheduled castes and scheduled Tribes because they are also willing to appear in the said examinations. Therefore, they should also be provided such relaxations. Apart from it I fully associate myself with the Hon'ble Member, Shri Rasa Singh Rawat.

[English]

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMI GOWDA (HASSAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Indian Air Force aircraft were used by former Prime Ministers for several purposes like medical check-up, foreign tours conducted with their family members and relatives, election campaign, visit to their home towns, etc. The payment which is to be made to the Indian Air Force, on this account, runs into several crores from each one of them. Now all of them are former Prime Ministers. It is reliably learnt that notices have gone to all the former Prime Ministers who are due to pay huge arrears to the IAF. Unfortunately, till today, no positive step has been taken by these persons regarding payment of dues even though several years have passed after issuing the notices.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Defence to look into this matter very seriously and collect all the dues from these persons with interest, without any further delay.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (MUVATTUPUZHA) : Sir, it is a sad plight that whenever the lands of farmers are acquired, often possession of the land is taken in advance. But they are not paid the compensation in time. With the result, they cannot put forward the next year's cultivation and they cannot do any work in their farms. They are put to great loss which cannot be compensated by way of additional compensation or by way of simple interest.

Therefore, I would suggest that some policy should be made in this regard. Sir, I have seen that the farmers in Delhi had to vacate their land for the purpose of accommodating industries which were to be shifted from the main areas of Delhi to the sub-urban areas. But they were not paid compensation for three years. I know in my Constituency in Kerala, the Indian Oil Corporation has taken some land like this. But they have not paid compensation for quite long. They say that they are going to fight the case up to the Supreme Court. But these poor farmers cannot fight it up to the Supreme Court. So, there should be a policy. The Government of India should formulate a policy. I would suggest that all the State Governments should also do something in this regard and give the farmers their due at the earliest. If they have to go to court, at least, the admitted amount should be given in advance.

Sir, as regards farmers in Delhi, I would submit that an immediate action should be taken because 2000 of them were on hunger strike for quite some time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to bring to the notice of the Government that a world conference on "Racism" is being held under the auspices of the United Nations from 31st August to 7th September in Durban, South Africa. Our Government have decided to send a representative in the conference and have also decided that no reference of casteism, prevalent in our country, would be made there. This is not in the interest of our country, because there is a four fold system and casteism in our country. Since the adoption of the constitution, efforts are being made to end this evil. But till today, we have not been able to do away with this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request Hon. Prime Minister that the issue of casteism in our country needs to be included in the agenda of this conference for discussion. If it is not so, it will be great injustice to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes of our country. If we present the role of our country on the issue of labour and women then issue of casteism should also be discussed in this conference held on castes and apartheid. To separate casteism of our country from the agenda is not a good thing. So I would like to request that this issue should be raised by our country in the conference. With these words, I conclude.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (MANDSAUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to attract the attention of this House towards an important issue. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had disbanded the State Administrative Tribunal. The Government has disbanded the SAT dictatorially without giving any information to Central Government of this tribunal. 230 employees have rendered jobless and reached on the verge of starvation. The State Government have decided to transfer all the 30 thousand pending cases in the tribunal to the High Court. This will increase the burden of cases on those courts which are already overburdened and it will delay the decisions. Therefore, through you, I request that Madhya Pradesh Government may revive this SAT. In this regard the Central Government may give instructions and make

arrangements to run the tribunal as earlier in order to give justice to people. The State Government may not act against the interest of the employees. I would like to request the Central Government to issue necessary instructions to State Government in this regard.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (DHANDHUKA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, injustice is being done to SC and ST employees of ONGC in respect of their promotion in Gujarat. Therefore, I met former Speaker, Shri Vohara and requested him and he assured that it would be reviewed but no review was done so far. Those who have got promotion in other categories are going to be promoted further but injustice has been meted out to SC and ST employees. Through you, I request the Government to do justice to them.

[English]

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (BHATINDA) Sir, Bhatinda district has recently become a very important district in Punjab. The on-going project for oil refinery is nearing its completion. Besides this, there is a fertilizer workshop alongwith the Army Cantonment.

Apart from all these, the district has emerged as an important business centre involving a lot of people coming over Bhatinda daily. But these people who visit Bhatinda find it difficult to stay there as there is no good place to stay for a short duration.

Therefore, I would like to request the Tourism Department to look into the matter so that, under ITDC, there could be a place to stay for the people who come over Bhatinda for a short period.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Saran district is one of the hundred selected districts which are most backward. This is most backward in the field of health. The main hospital of the district is lacking of operation theatre, operation theatre table, operation facility, blood bank, X-ray machines and generators. Even basic health facilities are not available in the health centre of Headquarter of the Commissioner. Hon. Minister is present in the House. I would like to request that the Government of India should formulate a scheme to provide health facilities through the well equipped hospital by the centre in one hundred backward districts of the country.

[English]

Sir, the Hon. Minister wants to respond.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No he has noted your point. If he does not want to respond, I cannot do anything.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Rita Devi, the Block Pramukh and her husband Surendra Dauralla, former Block Pramukh of Daurala Block under the civil line police station in Meerut district have been shot dead last night at 8 PM by the criminals. The criminals came in police uniform with AK-47 rifles and forcefully entered their house. They sought security from UP Government but the UP Government had denied protection of functionaries of Samajwadi Party and now the UP Government is getting murdered one by one. Earlier in 1991 also Bhopal Singh an, MLA from Samajwadi Party and brother of Surendra Singh, was murdered.

Through you, I demand from the Government that a joint committee may be constituted to enquire into the matter of murder of workers of Samajwadi Party by criminal gangs with AK-47 rifles and terror created by them to harass the party.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kaliappan.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Kaliappan is saying.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN (GOBICHETTIPALAYAM) : Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the problems created by the Nagar Palika Act under the Panchayati Raj system. There must be direct election to the post of Chairman in a Panchayat Union. I would like to bring to your notice the problems faced by the rural people of Tamil Nadu in particular. About 650 town panchayats and even some panchayat unions have been brought under the ambit of

the Nagar Palika Act. This affects the life of underprivileged people like Adi Dravidas living in town panchayat areas. They could not get the benefits of schemes like Housing that comes from the Rural Development Ministry. Earlier, the town panchayats were included in panchayat unions. Now that 3 tier system is there in Panchayati Raj System, town panchayats that include even small villages are taken off from the purview of Rural Development Ministry. Hence I want to impress upon the Union Government to make it a 2 tier system so that the affected villages get the benefit of all developmental schemes. There are several lacunae in the system. Considering the plight of village folks especially the down trodden living in that come under town panchayats who are deprived of the measures of Rural Development Ministry, two tier system must be introduced replacing the three tier system. Our beloved leader and Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has also taken up with the Union Government this cause. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to pay heed to the right plea made by our leader on behalf of Tamil Nadu. Suitable amendments must be made in the existing Panchayat Raj System. Town Panchayats must be taken off from the ambit of the Nagar Palika Act. People living in the typical rural areas must not lose the benefits of rural development schemes. I would like to cite the instances that are there in my constituency. Sellipalayam and Kaliyur are in my constituency. But it comes under Kempanaicken Palayam Town Panchayat. Kondappanaicken Palayam and Anna Nagar are all villages there. Arakkan Kottai Panchayat and the housing schemes for Adidravidas needs to be pointed out here. While carrying out projects in some villages, many other villages are ignored and it happens all over India. Inclusion of villages in town panchayats (Nagar Palikas) must not affect progress and development. This is bound to be a problem faced by all the Hon. Members of this august House. These problems faced in our constituencies must be collectively attended to. I hope all the MPs would join me. The Union Government must address to this problem and remove the anomaly at the earliest.

Adi Dravidas, the underprivileged members of the society must get the benefits of housing schemes funded by Rural Development Ministry.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Kaliappan, make a specific demand. What exactly you want from the Union Government.

*Not recorded.

**English translation of speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Translation]

SHRI K.K. KALIAPPAN : All villages that were under Panchayat Unions must be brought under the ambit of Rural Development Ministry. So they should not be put under Town Panchayats. Hence there must be a 2 tier system instead of 3 tier system. There must be direct elections to the post of Chairman in a Panchayat Union. Suitable amendments must be made in the Panchayat Raj System. There are several slips in the implementation of schemes meant for rural poor. This august House is the House of the people. Hence I would like to reiterate here that suitable legislation exercise must be initiated.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.45 p.m.

13.43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty-Five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at 14.47 hrs. after the lunch.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET Alva in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) **Need for construction of bridges on rivers in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana.**

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (BALAGHAT) : Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh stand first in respect of irrigation and forest. On one hand important rivers like Sone, Banjar Boun Thari, Venganga flow there on the other this district is Naxalite infested. In rainy season traffic is disrupted due to lack of culverts on rivers and drains. So there is a need to construct bridges on these rivers and hilly drains on the priority basis for establishing constant contact in accordance with the basic spirit of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna. Ministry of Rural Development may implement Balaghat Action Plan so that people of this district get justice.

*...*English translation of speech originally delivered in Tamil.

- (ii) **Need to provide halt of Vaishali or Gorakhpur Express at Jarwal railway station in Bahraich district, UP.**

SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY (BAHRAICH) : Gorakhpur 2225 up and 2226 down express train has been introduced from Gorakhpur to Delhi recently. This train reaches Delhi via Basti, Gonda, Lucknow, Onnaw and Kanpur. This train does not halt at the Jarwal road, which is situated on this line. Consequently, the passengers going to Delhi have to go Gonda or Lucknow to board the train and have to suffer lots of difficulties. No express train halts at Jarwal station which is situated between Bahraich and Kasharganj parliamentary constituency.

Therefore, I request you, at least one of the two trains, 2553 UP and 2554 Down Vaishali Express or Gorakhpur Express must halt at Jarwal station so that the difficulties of passengers boarding from here can be removed.

- (iii) **Need to effectively implement Malaria Eradication Programme in Lohardaga Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.**

PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT (LOHARDAGA) : I like to attract the attention of House towards the menace of mosquitoes and the spreading of them in my parliamentary constituency, Lohardaga. No DDT has been sprinkled here over the years due to which average of four people are dying of Malaria every year in each village. The medicines bringing from market by the people are also ineffective. Their genuineness is under doubt. Last year also hundreds of people died of this malaria because this falls under tribal region and press reporters' hardly have a glance over them. Medicines have not been sprinkled in the wells for several years.

Through the House, I request to the Central Government to conduct an enquiry into the matter. Whether the people are getting the medicines which are provided to them. If not, then strict actions may be taken against guilty officers.

- (iv) **Need to review Crop Insurance Scheme particularly in Maharashtra.**

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL (YAVATMAL) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the shortcomings under the 'Crop Insurance Scheme'. The Government does

recover instalment of insurance from the farmers but the benefit thereof does not accrue to the farmers.

Today, the Maharashtra Government has declared drought in the State and all kind of help is being given to the farmers, however the same farmers and villages are not able to take any benefit under the insurance scheme. The reason is that the assessment system to provide benefit to the farming community is faulty.

Therefore, this scheme should be made optional instead of mandatory and the assessment system be amended so as to enable the farmers to get benefit under this scheme.

[English]

(v) Need to accord approval to Rural Poverty Reduction Project of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI. K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had forwarded a proposal titled Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project to the Department of Economic Affairs for forwarding the same to the World Bank. On the advice of Department of Economic Affairs, the project proposal was sent to the Ministry of Rural Development and the Planning Commission to obtain 'in principle' clearance. After obtaining the clearance, the project has again been sent to the Department of Economic Affairs. This project is of considerable importance to the State because it not only aims to alleviate rural poverty but also focuses on the most backward areas.

I, therefore, request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly expedite the processing of the project proposal by the Department of Economic Affairs and to forward it to the World Bank at the earliest.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to develop a Commercial Complex on surplus land at Mau Railway Junction, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN (GHOSI) : Sir, I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government to the surplus railway land of Mau Junction under my Parliamentary constituency of Ghosi. The Premises of Mau Junction under the Eastern Railway is quite huge. The loco-shed and yard meant for steam engines occupying a very huge area is lying unutilized.

This premises being situated in the centre of Mau city is of significant commercial use. There has been a very popular demand of young entrepreneurs and unemployed youth to make commercial use of that surplus land.

I, therefore, demand that a commercial complex be developed at the premises of Mau Junction under the Eastern Railways.

(vii) Need to re-route Hate-Bajare Express via Barauni in Bihar.

SHRIMAT RENU KUMARI (KHAGARIA) : Mr. Chariman, Sir, the Eastern Railways has started the Hate-Bajare train running from Saldah to Katihar from Barauni a year back, fulfilling the long pending demand of the passengers and traders of the backward areas of Khagaria, Begusarai and Naugachia in Bihar, however this train has again been slated to start from Katihar from July 1 disregarding the demand of thousands of passengers. This has enraged the people of this area and they are out to launch a movement.

Therefore, I request the hon. Railway Minister to start the Hate-Bajare train again from Barauni in the larger public interest.

[English]

(viii) Need for early commissioning of T.V. Relay Centre at Basanti (Sundarban) South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR) : Sir, way back in 1996, the Government decided to start a TV Relay Centre at Basanti (Sundarban) in the district of South 24 Parganas. Subsequently, a house was taken on rent and a *chowkidar* was appointed. But till date the TV Relay Centre has not started functioning. The visibility of TV programmes in the Sundarban region is very poor. People of this area are unable to see the programmes transmitted from Kolkata and Delhi. It was felt that a Relay Centre should be set up at Basanti to cater to the local needs. Moreover, as Bangladesh is nearer to the Sundarban region, its TV programmes have a clear visibility and people are forced to watch the Bangladesh TV programmes.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to start the TV Relay Centre at Basanti (Sundarban) South 24 Parganas, without any further delay.

(ix) Need to expedite the work for construction of National Highway between Gopalpur-on-sea in Orissa and Raipur in Chhattisgarh

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA) : Sir, Government of India has already announced construction of a National Highway from Gopalpur-on-sea in Orissa to Raipur in Chhattisgarh. The construction of the highway will make it possible to connect the inaccessible and tribal areas of Ganjam, Kondhmal, Kalahandi and Nuapura districts of Orissa. Communication will facilitate transport of forest produce and other agricultural products to the minor port of Gopalpur-on-sea and to larger markets on the coastal areas.

However, Government of India have not started the work of land acquisition, drawing up of the plan and other preliminary work to construct the highway in the near future.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways may take immediate steps in the matter.

(x) Need for all-round development of North Bengal

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, I request the Minister of Planning to consider to include in the Tenth Plan the important issues of North Bengal for its extreme economic imbalances comprising Malda, South Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar. The aspirations of the Rajbanshis, tribals, erstwhile East Pakistani refugees are also extremely important. It is the most underdeveloped region in road connectivity and health infrastructure development. During Tenth Plan, a Medical College at Raiganj within Uttar Dinajpur District and Engineering College at Chanchal within North Malda must find place. North Bengal Industrial Development Corporation at Raiganj is extremely important. The Uttar Banga Unnayan Parishad of North Bengal must get a statutory status with a corpus of Rs. 750 crore from Plan allocation for flood management and infrastructural development. If Planning Commission takes note of it for an appropriate provision in Tenth Plan document, North Bengal would be a prosperous zone of the State of West Bengal to provide enough support to the State of Sikkim and the entire North-East since this is the gateway to the North-East.

15.00 Hrs.

[English]

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL
 OF LIVE-STOCK IMPORTATION (AMENDMENT)
 ORDINANCE**

AND

LIVE-STOCK IMPORTATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up the Legislative Business. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves of the Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 (No. 5 of 2001) promulgated by the President on 5 July, 2001."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : Madam, on behalf of my colleague, Shri Ajit Singh, Minister of Agriculture, I beg to move :

"That the Live-Stock Importation Amendment Bill, 2001 be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted is one hour. Therefore, maybe we can pass it by four o'clock. Now, I call upon Shri Radhakrishnan to speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Madam, our Parliament is primarily a body entrusted with law-making process. All laws would originate in this House. But there are two exceptions. One of them is, whenever there is an emergent situation, article 123(2) provides an extraordinary power to the Executive not to use it always but only sparingly. An Ordinance can be issued to meet a particular emergent situation.

I would like to bring to the Speaker's notice also the casual way in which the present Government is dealing with the power of issuing Ordinances.

Now, I may point out that this Ordinance was issued on 5th July, 2001. We all knew that there would be Monsoon Session of the House. We met on 23rd July, 2001. That is, the Ordinance was issued about 15 days prior to the meeting of this House. If I put it more precisely,

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

the Ordinance was issued at the time of the issuance of notice of summons to the Members for the Monsoon Session. The issuance of such a notice is very pertinent. Therefore, issuance of the Ordinance cannot be justified on any ground because the Government could have waited till the Monsoon Session which was a definite thing. More particularly when the issuance of summons by the President is done, why should there be an Ordinance on 5th July, 2001? Is it an emergent situation? We will have to take that also into consideration.

In the first place, we all know that in 1995, the Government of India removed all restrictions with regard to import of articles into this country as per the agreement entered into with the WTO. So, it is pending there for over six years. This contingency was there. Anybody could import here any food article, like milk and milk products. Then, other articles of food can be imported without any restriction. That restriction was there prior to the removal of restrictions. So, the Government is fully aware that the articles will be imported into India. Moreover, it is very certain that diseased and contaminated articles of food will be imported and new diseases will spread in India. That is a matter known to everybody. In that respect, I may point out that recently in the United Kingdom, there was spreading a disease called 'mad cows'.

The economy of the country was also adversely affected. Not only that, even European countries were affected by this new disease due to the unrestricted import of food materials from abroad.

So, this contingency was there for a long time, at least for four-five years. During this period, the Government would have brought in a Bill to the House without pursuing the extraordinary process of issuing ordinance. The Government was fully aware of it. But they did not utilise the opportunity. They did not care to bring the Bill to the House before issuing an ordinance because in the natural course of events, there was sufficient time for the Government to bring in the Bill to prevent such spread of new diseases in India. That they did not do. They slept over it for a long time. The disease that got spread in the UK is well known. It has been reported in many international newspapers. Even, they had introduced a provision that no cows would be imported in the UK. That is what we read in the newspapers at that time. The authorities in the Government of India were also aware of the fact, but they did not bring in this legislation to prevent the spread of this disease.

With reference to this particular case, I may point out another thing. Today, the hon. Minister of External Affairs sought the permission of the House to withdraw a Bill. This is a glaring example of how casually this Government is taking the extraordinary powers of issuance of ordinances. In that case, I refer to the ordinance issued by the Government of India in respect of Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2000. That Bill was introduced in this House with a view to replacing ordinance No. 3 of 2000.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That can be discussed separately, Shri Radhakrishnan.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : He is giving an example.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Then again, I would like to point out that re-issuance of an ordinance is strictly prohibited by the apex court. In the Wadhwa case, it was finally decided that the Executive has no power to reissue an ordinance on the same plea on which an ordinance has already been issued. What some of the clever Governments do is that they change the title, and change some sections to make it appear as a new ordinance. But here, in this case of Council of World Affairs Bill, the same thing was repeated thrice. First, ordinance No. 3 of 2000, then No. 1 of 2001 and then No. 31 of 2001 were issued. All these have lapsed. Even after getting it passed by the Lok Sabha, the ordinance got lapsed as it could not be passed in Rajya Sabha. Now, they have come before this House for permission or for the assent of the House for the withdrawal of the Bill.

Why I pointed out all these things? This is how the present Government is dealing with the power of issuing ordinance. They are doing it in a casual way. The ordinance is a committed legislation. It is not an original legislation. Why do we prefer an original legislation in the House? Because the Members can express freely the merits and demerits of a particular section and that chance is given. Now the Members of the Ruling Party are committed to replace the Ordinance because the Government has taken some steps under the provisions of the Ordinance. Now the Ruling Party Members will not get an opportunity to express their viewpoints freely in the matter of legislation. That is why, I used the word committed legislation, because the Members have committed themselves to follow the footsteps of the Executive.

That is the position. That is the danger inherent in an Ordinance. Why we prefer an original Bill in the House is because when an original Bill is introduced in the House, Members irrespective of party affiliation can take part in the discussion and they can express freely their views. That power is denied at least to the section of the Ruling Party. Thus, the law will be a committed legislation. That is why, I am against issuance of Ordinance. The Supreme Court also came to the conclusion that no Ordinance can be reissued. The Ordinance on the Indian Council of World Affairs was issued thrice against the decision of the Supreme Court in Wadhwa case. The Apex Court clearly said the re-issuance of an Ordinance on the same matter is illegal. In utter disregard to the decision of the Supreme Court, the present Government had issued the Ordinance on the Indian Council of World Affairs thrice. It got lapsed two times and now for the third time they have brought a Bill. The difficulty is that in the Rajya Sabha, the Government is in a minority and they could not replace the Ordinance there. So, that is the present position.

Why I emphasise all these points is to bring to your notice the casual way in which the Government is issuing these Ordinances. As a matter of fact, the founding fathers never expected such a situation. During Pandit Nehru's time, he was very particular that no Ordinance should be issued to the extent possible and only in exceptional cases Ordinances were issued. That was the order of that day. Now, issuing of Ordinances in utter disregard to the powers of the House is the order of the day. The Executive is usurping the powers of the Legislature and making the Legislature a rubber stamp, which could not be appreciated and which should not be allowed.

Of course, the Speaker is bound to conduct the business of the House, not to conduct illegal business. This is an illegal business...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Madam, the hon. Member is casting an aspersion on the Chair...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am listening it very carefully.

Shri Radhakrishnan, you have made the point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is an illegal business in the sense that the Supreme Court made it crystal clear that re-issuance of Ordinance is not permissible.

Another thing is that this is a self-made evil. We were all definite and we had all advised the Government that the WTO agreement should not be entered into without sufficient safeguards. Now, they have given a blank cheque to the World Trade Organisation. As a result of this, we are bound to import to India anything that is contaminated outside. It started in 1985. Who is at fault? The Government is at fault. They ought to have taken sufficient protection as a precautionary measure to see that contaminated foodstuffs are not imported. Such a protection was not provided. As per the provisions of the previous Act, nobody could import anything and that was amended. To make the course easier, all restrictions were done away with. Previously there were restrictions and those restrictions helped the prevention of diseases in India. New diseases are coming into India. The provision, which was there earlier, was taken away to suit the authorities of the World Trade Organisation. All the restrictions were removed and we have free trade and free import. So, mad cow disease and such other international diseases came to India and now we are thinking of bringing in the old provision. Who is at fault? It is not the fault of the Legislature. It is the fault of the Executive. They ought to have taken precautions and care to see that diseases do not come to India. In all these matters, the Government has failed. Now, instead of all these things, they have resorted to this emergency provision of issuing an Ordinance at our expense.

This cannot be allowed. So, I strongly appeal to the Members of the House that my Resolution for the disapproval of the Ordinance may kindly be accepted and make it a lesson for the Executive not to bring in such Ordinances twice or thrice before this House. With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you forgot the most important point that the live-stock can come. Only live-stock products cannot come. So, Mad Cows can still come.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Mad Cow can also come.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only Mad Cow products cannot come.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Mad cow can come but Mad Cow disease cannot come.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is another question.

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN : Madam, the QRs on several animal products were removed only on 31st March, 2001. The reasons for promulgating the Ordinance have already been given in the statement under rule 71(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Meat products in particular, on which the QRs were removed only recently, are liable to bring diseases like Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as Mad Cow and Foot and Mouth diseases. Some diseases which are not seen in India can come through the meat or meat products or milk or milk products. That is why, this promulgation of the Ordinance was required. We have to seek the permission of the House. So, I appeal before the House to consider the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 (No. 5 of 2001) promulgated by the President on 5 July, 2001.

That the Bill further to amend the Live-Stock Importation Act, 1898, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL) : Madam Chairman, I rise to deliver my opinion on the Bill under the nomenclature of Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Bill, 2001, which has been introduced by Shri Ajit Singh, the hon. Minister.

The Bill is set to replace the Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Ordinance 2001. I am very much associated with the feeling of hon. Member, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan. I do not find any substantial merit for invoking the promulgation of Ordinance by the President because the House was scheduled to be commenced on the 23rd July. It is being found that this Government is becoming prone to promulgation of Ordinance. However, I do not oppose the Bill in principle as the Bill is related to food safety and sanitary measures. In the Statement, it has been observed that an emergent need was felt to have a suitable mechanism for regulating imports and for monitoring food safety. So, as far as the health of animal and human being is concerned, we cannot compromise with the food safety and sanitary measures.

In the same vein, I must say that the Bill has failed to evince any holistic view considering the wide spectrum of our environment and health hazards.

This Bill has been introduced in a most amateurish way ignoring all possible ominous dimensions. We know that on the 1st April, 2001, the last vestige of quantitative restrictions has been removed. As per the commitment given by India to the world community, India had agreed to lift the ban by 2003. The world community including the European Union, Australia and Canada had supported our commitment. We do not know what extraneous reasons compelled this Government to lift the ban on the 1st April, 2001 in pursuance of a secret deal made between India and the USA on the 28th December, 1999.

It is widely believed that India was so desperate to mend the fences with U.S. Govt. in the wake of sanctions imposed by the USA. After the Pokharan-II explosions, we know that the US Government had imposed sanctions on India. So, India decided to dance to the tune of the USA and all quantitative restrictions have been removed in an unusual hurry.

Everybody knows that since Independence, we have accomplished three revolutions. One is called the 'Green Revolution'. We had become self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains. However, in recent years, the growth of agriculture has dropped to 0.9 percent from the average of 3.9 percent in the 1980s and 3.3 percent in the 1990s. Our production of foodgrains has suffered a shortfall from 3.54 percent to 1.8 percent. A total of 65 percent of our workforce is involved in the agriculture sector. It continues to contribute to the tune of 26.8 percent of our GDP.

The second revolution that we accomplished is called the 'White Revolution'. It is related to milk production. We have become self-sufficient in the production of milk. At present, ours is the largest milk production country in the world...*(Interruptions)* Third in Blue revolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have only 12 minutes, Comrade. You have to finish quickly.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : This Bill particularly deals with the livestock sector, which affords employment to 18.4 million people of our country and contributes 28 percent of our total agricultural output.

Therefore, you can easily conceive the dimension of this particular legislation. As far as SPS, that is Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary, is concerned, I think you just extract one component from SPS. Here, you are specifically dealing with sanitary measures, that is food safety mea-

tures. But this total piece of legislation smacks of frustration and shortcoming. Do you know that now in the European countries, a trade war is being waged against the U.S. because of genetic engineering food? It is not only the European countries but also the American people are demanding a label for the genetic engineering-originated, transgenic food and DNA-recombinant food which will be available in India if this Bill is passed.

I do not know whether this food will have any detrimental effect on health or not. But I would like to ask from this Government whether any safety measures have been taken by you as far as the genetically modified food is concerned. You are well aware that there is a bug namely e-coli-0157 and the animals can carry that bug without suffering ill-health. The clinical signs of e-coli-0157 are not usually identified in the animals which are ill. If the e-coli-0157 bug could come through the meat contamination, what will be your safeguard? Will you have adequate infrastructure to protect from the lethal dose of food additives, preservatives, chemicals and pesticides? How will you deal with such unforeseen dangers? Do you have the infrastructure to protect the people? You yourself are dismantling the existing laws which may prevent this adulteration.

Therefore, you should further look into the SPS issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chowdhary, please cooperate. We have to complete this Bill by 4 o'clock.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Yes Madam. I have one last point. I will just refer to a few lines from the Journal called "New Issues". I quote :

"However, even though the SPS Agreement lays considerable emphasis on countries using international standards in their SPS regulations, curiously enough, the SPS Agreement does not define in precise terms when a standard should be considered as an international standard. The criteria adopted for determining an international standard is rather general and broad-based. All standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by an international standardising body or system are required to be treated as an international standard and a standardising body has been simply defined to be international if its membership is open to at least all Members of WTO. It is, therefore, clear that in the absence of a precise definition of an international

standard, a standard adopted by the standardising bodies is deemed to be an international standard even if only a limited number of countries may have participated in the technical work on developing the standard, and even if it may have been adopted, not by consensus, but by a slender majority vote.

It needs no emphasis that 89% of the countries of the world fall in the category of developing/least developed countries. In spite of this, various committees or expert groups, based on a majority decision of the countries attending the meetings of these bodies, adopt international standards. In the absence of most developing countries, these meetings are naturally steered by developed countries and very often and safety limits which are decided by these bodies are those which are felt to be appropriate by the developed countries, without necessarily taking into consideration the conditions prevailing in the developing countries. Consequently, the developing and least developed countries find it difficult to comply with sanitary measures that are based on such standards, particularly since the safety limits in many cases are prescribed without conducting any clinical study in the developing countries with regard to contaminants, pesticides, animal disease etc."

These are to be specially clarified. With these words I conclude.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPORE, ORISSA) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Bill. The imperative need of the day has been to regulate, to monitor and to prevent import of live-stock, which are not conducive to the health, morale and other factors of Indian society. Madam, I call it an imperative need because from 1993 to 2001, from the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff, GATT to the WTO Agreement and removal of the quantitative restrictions on 1429 items relating to imports, it has become absolutely necessary to have certain preventive measures, particularly relating to live-stock.

Madam Chairperson, you had just mentioned about import of mad cows. May I, with your permission, refer to the Act which was passed in the year 1898 which prevented import of contagious and infectious animals? But it has not prevented import of any raw materials, processed food or any other matter relating to live-stock. That is why, this amendment has been proposed today.

[Shri Anandi Sahu]

As I said, it was an imperative necessity to issue an ordinance also. I think, the apprehension of hon. Member Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan could be belied in the sense that when there is an urgency, there is necessity of an ordinance, and when we are thinking of the well-being of the society at large, an ordinance is absolutely necessary. And the ordinance is followed by the Bill which has been brought in.

Now, I dwell upon the imperative necessities which are required to have certain prohibitory measures. Madam Chairperson, you are quite aware that the quantitative restrictions also have certain safeguards for us and the GATT Agreement also. I invite attention to article 20 of GATT Agreement wherein four measures have been mentioned. In the Agreement on Agriculture, which is called AOA, there are four basic matters which need to be deliberated upon here itself. They are domestic support, market access, export subsidies, agreement on sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues. Some people were talking about subsidies earlier also. Export subsidies, which are WTO compatible, can be given so as to see that when we are sending articles outside, we can give subsidies. But when we are bringing in articles from outside, there are many factors which have to be taken into account as per article 20 of the GATT. Article 20 says that the Agreement shall not be construed to prevent the adoption of certain measures. This includes public health.

I would give the example of chicken. There have been some apprehensions that chicken could come to India at a very cheap price. It is known that in the USA and other countries, which produce chicken, people do not like leg-pieces; they like breast-pieces or neck-pieces. In the USA, breast-pieces and neck-pieces of chicken are available in the range of three dollars to three and a half dollars whereas the leg-pieces are available for 45 cents a kg, and that would be equivalent to about Rs. 22 in India.

So far as the price is concerned, even if the leg pieces come to India, it will not create any problem for us. On the other hand, if the neck pieces and breast pieces are sent outside, it can fetch good foreign exchange. That is why, in the Agreement itself, so many factors, have been indicated to see that on the WTO Agreement we are not disadvantaged vis-a-vis developed countries and for that matter these sanitary measures have been incorporated in the Livestock Importation (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

Certain things have to be taken into account when the Bill is passed. The Government has to take into account the fact that the animal products have to be of such type that it would not affect human or animal health. As Shri Chowdhary had slightly indicated, animal health is also quite important. If we import some finished product in which certain antibiotics are there or certain things on which the animals have been fed—for example, the elephant grass which is grown in the USA using insecticides and pesticides, which is eaten either by a cow or any other animal, and if it is brought to India—it would come under the purview of this Act. I am giving one or two instances wherein a number of restrictions could be imposed to ensure that we in India are not disadvantaged because of import of certain finished products or raw products or certain articles which are related to animal products.

That is why, it has been thought that this legislation should be brought forward in an Ordinance form and later on the Bill should be passed by the Parliament itself in order to regulate, restrict and prohibit these things. These are the three things which are most important—to regulate, restrict and prohibit. Prohibition is most important. Whenever we find that certain articles which are coming into India are not to our liking, there is a certain provision in the Agreement. If it is not to our liking, it can be prevented from being brought into India. Section 3 (a), which is being amended now, is very important for us because that is the Section which will give us more powers to prevent any sort of import of any article and to ensure that we get the best of food articles. We can prevent the entry of articles which are disease-borne. Mad cow disease, foot-and-mouth disease and all other things can be covered within this Act itself.

I think the time constraint is there. I am reminded of a novel which I had read long back 'The Hawaii' where it was said that Leprosy went to Hawaii because the white people went to that area. The Hawaiians were not having leprosy. Similarly, if we import certain articles from the white people, it is most likely that we may get diseases and to prevent the import of those articles from the European Community or from the USA, there is a necessity of keeping these provisions to prevent such occurrence that took place in Hawaii. That is why, many such measures have been indicated, but the most important will be, after the Bill has been passed, a regulatory mechanism has to be set up, laboratories have to be set up and comprehen-

sive rules have to be framed to ensure that there is no loophole in our system itself, and we should be able to see that diseased articles of animal origin do not come to India. That is why, this is a very good piece of legislation and I support it.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (KATWA) : Madam Chairperson, this amendment Bill is very apt but the more important aspect is how it will be implemented. You must be aware that all international viruses are outsiders and internal ones are nine in count and few more are developing. I am afraid that if this Bill is not implemented then it would remain merely on paper. Where are the veterinary experts? There are around 32-34 thousand veterinary experts and they have not been mobilised to get control over it. We have a very long border. Necessary equipments have been installed at all the four airports for checking but the same have not been installed at other airports and those airports where such equipments have been installed, do not have laboratory facility. The Agriculture Commission had stated that 1900-2000 special veterinaries should be there to properly handle them. Today, the situation is that 600-800 people are retiring each year if this has to be done.

[English]

We have to wait for 30 years.

[Translation]

Today, see the situation the mad cow disease is horrible.

[English]

I wrote a letter to the Minister in Great Britain asking about the disease of mad cow.

[Translation]

Mr. Michel Jack had written to me about B.A.Cs. and inflying litis, this is that. This is very dangerous. This will kill both cattle and human being simultaneously. What has happened in Great Britain, Germany and France is that 50 lakh cattle have been shot down dead and burnt. It is stated that if the virus of mad cow disease are buried beneath earth then the soil gets poisonous and the virus can infect human beings. This Bill has been introduced

under the pressure of the World Trade Organisation but we must understand as to what we have to do about it. My elder, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is present here in this House.

[English]

He was a Minister for Animal Husbandary.

[Translation]

The thing is

[English]

Consecutively for four years, the standing Committee on Agriculture

[Translation]

we have been raising issues collectively as to what the Government should do.

We have been repeatedly saying to the Government to increase the man power and to undertake periodic checkings of the material so as to bringing about improvement in this regard in the country.

[English]

Viable research and development work can be done by establishing an all India institute exclusively devoted to veterinary research and education under a separate Ministry with cabinet rank, Ministry of Animal Husbandry.

[Translation]

This is quite strange that five ministers have gone off and each of them had stated to do this work, but this is regrettable that none of them did it,

[English]

Rs. 550 crore is coming from animal husbandry

[Translation]

This is a source of income also.

If you pay attention towards it, it would fetch a lot of money to the Government exchequer. We have often repeated this fact that ICVR should be improved and it should not be kept under the ICAR. We have stated that veterinary colleges and laboratory be opened but it is

[Shri Mahboob Zahedi]

regrettable that you have not done anything in this direction. I am afraid that your legislation may remain on paper only. Checkposts should be erected at places. We are fully aware as to what are your weaknesses and the pressures under which you work. Your Government is under pressure of the W.T.O. There should be separate ministry for ICVR. Every State Government has a separate ministry for it.

[English]

Fisheries is looked after by one Ministry, animal husbandry is looked after by one Ministry, and agriculture is looked by one Ministry.

[Translation]

This is a strange fact that single ministry looks after all such works. Animal Husbandry can generate a lot of profit. The income will be more in proportion to its expansion. The Government should have an open mind about it. Shri Ajit Singh is not present here. It was his name included in Agenda paper as the mover of this Bill but he is not present here in this House. It would have been better if he had been present here in this House. Israel has done the pioneering work in the field of animal husbandry.

The leg piece of Chicken is not eaten up in America. But it is preferred in our country. The leg piece is fed to the dogs there. These items are being imported after lifting of quantitative restrictions.

When borders are opened, their items are imported.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude. I am calling the next speaker.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Madam, through you, I want to request the Government that they should think of having an ICVR where universities, colleges will be there.

With these few words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

Before you start, let me tell you that the time allotted for your party is very limited. It is just three minutes. But I will give you five minutes. Kindly confine your speech to five minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (TRICHUR) : Madam, he is from the largest supporting party to the Government...(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (TENALI) : Madam, I will take the time in proportion to the time taken by my predecessor as against his allotted quota.

Madam Chairperson, the present Bill—Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Bill, 2001—which is in replacement of the Ordinance promulgated on the 5th July, 2001 to regulate the importation of live-stock and its products, is a timely Bill. I support this Bill on behalf of my party.

Madam, to me, it appears that even bringing of this piece of legislation is a delayed one simply for the reason that the quantitative restrictions were lifted as a part of the Agreement by WTO on 31st March, 2001. There was a long gap between 1st April, 2001 and 5th July, 2001. There was no regulatory mechanism during this particular period.

Earlier to that, till 31st March, 2001, there was a Bill regulating the total importation of live-stock and also its products under the Live-Stock Regulatory Bill, 1898. That Bill was there for almost 103 years. The total regulatory mechanism was functioning. It was well-known that the quantitative restrictions were going to be lifted by 31st March, 2001. So, this could have been conceived in advance and the Government could have brought forward this particular Bill to make it effective right from 1st April, 2001 so that it could have the continuity of the regulation.

Now, there has been a break-down during this period. We do not know the reason. The hon. Minister has to apprise this House as to how many animals or animal products have been imported without any regulation during this particular period, from 1st April, 2001 till the time of promulgation of the Ordinance. I do not know how this particular aspect has been neglected. It could have been well conceived earlier. That is the reason why I said that it is a delayed attempt. This gap could have been avoided.

However, we must congratulate the hon. Minister for having got the Ordinance promulgated. Now, that Ordinance is being replaced by the Bill. It is a fact that all the animal products are highly perishable commodities.

It is also a fact—historical events are there—that several products were rejected at the Ports, when they are not up to the sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures. They were not allowed. Here, names of certain diseases have

been mentioned. One of our colleagues has mentioned about foot and mouth disease. It has more or less devastated several areas. Now, we have a new virus, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), which is causing mad cow disease. It is a dangerous disease. We do not know whether during that period of gap, those products had been imported along with other products.

So, Importation is one area, which is to be well taken care of. At least, this particular regulatory mechanism which is going to be brought in, through this legislation, will certainly take care of such issues.

Germplasm and genetic material such as semen, ova, embryos, etc. are highly vulnerable issues. It is not merely animals or some of the animal products that will be eaten, but some products are going to be utilised for improvement of animals, through germplasm and genetic materials. This is one of the areas where a lot of care is to be taken. Even earlier, we have allowed for exportation of some of the products. Even Brazil has exported Ongole cows and in Brazil, Ongole cow has got multiplied like anything and now Brazil has got more or less 15 million such cows, whereas in India it is almost extinct. Similarly, even when we import embryos from other countries for upgradation of our own stuff, we have to take care of several aspects, particularly sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures. This will not only speak of the health and progeny, but also on the health of human beings.

As such, the Bill that is now being brought forward by the hon. Minister is a welcome Bill. I congratulate him for that and I support this Bill. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Very good. Thank you very much.

I just want to announce that the hon. Speaker has asked that we take 15 more minutes and complete this Bill, before we go on to the next item. So, I am just trying to finish this. We have two or three speakers on this. Please take not more than three minutes.

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER : Mr. Chairman, Sir, next subject has to be taken up at 16 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will be completed in 10-15 minutes. The hon. Speaker has asked to complete this subject.

[English]

SHRI P. KUMARASAMY (PALANI) : Thank you, Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to present my views on the Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Bill.

First of all, I wish to record my disapproval of the Government's attitude of promulgating Ordinances. This Bill seeks to replace the Ordinance that was promulgated on the 5th July 2001, barely 19 days before the beginning of this Monsoon Session.

This Bill seeks to empower the Union Government to regulate, restrict or prohibit the import of animal products into our country. We have to see why this situation arose. It is because from the 1st of April 2001, the Government dropped import curbs on 715 items. Animal products are also among this list. It is strange that the Government thought it fit to bring in this legislation only in July this year. The Government had made a commitment before the WTO to remove import curbs on or before 1st of April 2001. Therefore, it should have studied the pros and cons of dropping of import curbs, well in advance. Accordingly, necessary legislation should have been thought of in advance.

This amendment aims at regulating the import of animal products such as meat and milk products, since there is a fear that diseases could be brought into India through import of these items. In countries like U.K., already there are diseases such as mad cow disease, unknown in India. Such diseases could spread here also. It is also possible that cheap quality animal products are dumped here, endangering the health of the people.

So, it is necessary to have a strict vigil at all the import points.

16.00 hrs.

In India, we already have phyto-sanitary check in respect of certain items exported from India. Huge quantities of agricultural products are rejected by phyto-sanitary department causing huge loss to farmers. There are reports of arrival of terminator seeds in India. We should have a proper monitoring agency to prevent bad stuff and diseases from entering the country.

There are lakhs of people in the country engaged in the traditional animal product industries. For example, there are nearly 20 lakh poultry farmers and about 1 crore

[Shri P. Kumarasamy]

people depend on poultry for their livelihood. Many of them have already lost their job due to free import of chicken and meat. Rest of the people in this industry are also under constant threat. So, I request the hon. Minister to make use of this amendment and minimise the import of animal products and save the domestic industry and workers.

There are a lot of dairy farmers and poultry farms in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Namakkal, Dindigul, Periyar, Salem, Coimbatore and Tehni Districts. These farms provide employment at the village level, preventing migration of rural labour to the already over crowded cities. The Government of Tamil Nadu under the able leadership of my leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi is doing its best to protect and develop dairy and poultry farms through cooperation and by providing the necessary assistance and expertise. I take this opportunity to invite the attention of the hon. Agriculture Minister to a demand made by Tamil Nadu Government.

A proposal has been sent by Tamil Nadu for sanction of the centrally sponsored scheme of National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding at a cost of Rs. 100.20 crore. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly sanction the above amount without delay. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had already taken the initiative to implement a plan based on recommendations of experts for improving the population mix of our milk cattle. A special plan is being prepared for encouraging farmers to run hybrid sheep farms, aquaculture farms and poultry farms as additional avocations for generating supplementary income. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to sanction the above-mentioned project, submitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, immediately.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Arun Kumar, your party will get less time.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : Every party has its allotted time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What I mean to say is to complete it soon.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (JAHANABAD) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious matter particularly in the context of the interest of the country. India is an agricultural country and 80 percent of its population lives in villages and depends on agriculture. Livestock is very important from

economic and social point of view. The Bill introduced by the Government is Okay but it is a belated one. The hybrid products being imported to serve the commercial interests are a breeding ground for various types of viruses so, this Bill definitely provides protection to indigenous breeds. The fact remains that breeds of our livestock have the capacity to fight against virus.

I would like to say that there should be a provision to protect our varieties. Several diseases are hitting the cattle in foreign countries. The other aspect of the matter is that the cattle are complementary to human lives. Our environment, natural and geographic conditions do provide the capacity to fight against the virus. Our domestic conditions can fight out even the imported virus. There is also a need of scientific analysis and research in regard to all these points and other aspects. There is one more point which should be borne in mind and that is if scientific analysis in this regard is not undertaken then it may have an adverse impact. Our traditional livestock are being ruined due to imported hybrid varieties because our cattle have the capacity to fight against the germs of disease while other breeds do not have that capacity. Therefore, there should be a proper arrangement for their protection, with these words I conclude and support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (CUDDALORE) : Madam, Chairperson, on behalf of DMK Party, I support the five-Stock Importation (Amendment) Bill, 2001 introduced by the hon. Minister.

Madam, there is a need to take immediate action to protect the health of human and animal population of the country. Therefore, there is a very urgent need to pass this Bill unanimously.

Here I want to say that the Central Government must take immediate action to regulate, restrict, and prohibit the import of animal products into India. Then only we would be safeguarded from various diseases.

I would like to say that the Government must take action to protect human and animal health through adoption of food safety by way of regulatory measures based on import risk analysis.

Madam, after the removal of import restrictions, the Central Government should take extra care. This year, a

number of animal products are introduced. Many scientists believe that maximum diseases are spread by animals eating infected tissue from other animals in the form of meat and bone meat or other products. The human form of the disease is believed to be contacted by eating contaminated beef.

Madam, here I would like to congratulate our Minister of Commerce, Thiru Murasoli Maran, as he announced that all the agricultural product imports would have to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary norms and would require clearance from the Ministry of Agriculture.

I would like to say that the Importers should obtain permit from the Department of Animal Husbandry. Then only, contaminated products can be restricted for import. It is a welcome step taken by our Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture.

Sir, most of the farmers are suffering and their livelihood is at risk. A number of people in Southern States like Tamil Nadu, depend on poultry for livelihood. The farmers are already under the clutches of traders, since the farmers own very small units. If cheap imported chicken is allowed, the burden on these farmers will increase. If cheap imported chicken is introduced, definitely our domestic industry will be destroyed. The poultry industry gives more employment at the village level. As India is having large population, we cannot mechanise everything and cut off their source of income. We must safeguard this employment generating industry and provide them basic food security. This point must be taken into account. Already, there is not enough demand. Vast quantity of imported chicken would be entering the market but the traders are not having cold storage facilities.

The earning of the farmers are very low. In Tamil Nadu, it is difficult to establish a market for chicken and chicken meat is sold for as low as Rs. 30 per kilogram. And, mostly, it is consumed by the middle class people.

Here, I would like to say that the previous Government of Tamil Nadu headed by our eminent leader Dr. Karunanidhi announced, introduced and implemented a scheme for animal health care known as "Kalinadai Padukappu Thittam" by which nearly ten lakh domestic animals have been safeguarded.

Sir, to protect the human and animal population of our country and to safeguard them from various diseases

caused due to contaminated animal meat, I strongly support this Bill.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have strong objection. The hon. Speaker had said that there would be party-wise discussion. You should kindly tell us as to how every party will get a chance when all of us are present here?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should kindly listen to me. As per the chart showing the time schedule your party has been allotted one minute, but I am giving you three minutes. You may please conclude soon because the hon. Speaker has asked to complete the discussion on this subject by 4.15 O'clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE) : Will you allot time only to the shouting lot? He tries to speak on every subject...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Restrictions in regard to 714 items in 2000, 715 items in 2001 and total of 1429 items have been lifted ever since they were covered under WTO agreement...*(Interruptions)* This is worrying the poultry farmers as well as the farmers engaged in doing business...*(Interruptions)*. Now everything including milk, curd, egg will be coming from abroad. This is a cause of concern for the poultry farmers and the farmers engaged in the dairy business. I challenge that the laws being framed in this regard by the Government are not going to protect the interests of the farmers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is meant to protect them

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Injustice has been done to the farmers and you are saying that the gates have been opened...*(Interruptions)*. The gates have been opened for foreign goods...*(Interruptions)*. This is a clear injustice to the farmers of India and this will not serve the interests of the farmers...*(Interruptions)*. He said that this will be reduced by raising the import duty. But they cannot reduce this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no question of import duty.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will they send milk powder from outside free of cost?...*(Interruptions)*. Will agricultural and milk products be imported to India?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister shall reply. You may please take your seat. Raghuvansh ji, you should please address the Chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The poultry farmers and the farmers engaged in the milk production are calling for mercy...*(Interruptions)* The Government claims that they will check the diseases and allow the goods to flow in from foreign countries. Zahedi Sahed said...*(Interruptions)* Foreign products will flow into the country and our farmers engaged in animal husbandry and our live stock will be the sufferers as a result thereof. Farmers of entire India...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (MOTIHARI) : 27th is the date of hearing in the fodder scam case...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : ...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are holding discussion on Live Stock Importation (Amendment) Bill, 2001. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and our other colleagues were absolutely right to say that wrong precedents are being created. The ordinance was promulgated on the 5th July 2001 when the Government knew it well that the session of the Parliament was to commence from 23rd July. I fail to understand as to what were the special circumstances which led to the promulgation of the ordinance. This is nothing new, the Government has been doing this frequently. It is correct that several items are being imported in the country including

the items like meat, milk etc. which concern the farmers. The very livelihood of the farmers and their day to day lives are affected. I would like to say that the Government had imposed a ban on imports four months back without knowing the repercussions thereof. We are talking of imposing immediate ban on imports. The Government was pursuing free trade policy during Nineties and there was a proposal to impose a ban on imports. There is a clear contradiction between the policy of the Government and imposing of the ban. Therefore, the Government must consider this matter. I would also like the Government to be cautious that the corruption is not encouraged in the name of control. The most important thing is to determine the mechanism, the administrative system to be used for imposing ban. In my opinion there must be a penalty clause besides having a provision for imposing the ban. Unless there is a penalty clause the whole exercise of putting a restriction on the import of such products which may be the cause of spreading diseases resulting into the death of people will be meaningless.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are importing those items which are avoidable in our country and efforts are being made to bring down the prices of those items which I think will yield positive results. Those who keep cows and buffaloes in our country sell their milk at the rate of Rs. 6 to 8 per litre but the consumers buy the same milk at the rate of Rs. 20. This means the middleman is earning the profit and the common consumers have to suffer.

If we support those items which are available in the country then that will yield positive results. However, the Government should seriously consider the point that redtapism is not allowed in the name of imposing a ban.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (MALEGAON) : Sir, the farmers and labourers of India have contributed a lot in enhancing the prestige of the country, even then why is it so that they are still in a poor condition. I think that the Government of India had considered this point and then promulgated the ordinance. The hon. Minister sent the ordinance to the President who approved the same and thereafter it has been introduced here. This is not good. This is really important and aims to serve the interest of the country and the farmers. As a matter of fact, a Bill should have been introduced in place of the ordinance. This rakhi has been imported from China and that chicken leg has come from America—the present ordinance has been promulgated to put a ban on all these things. However in

my opinion a Bill should have been introduced for this purpose.

[English]

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN : Madam, at the outset, I would like to say that with the removal of quantitative restrictions, some items need not require any permit. So, there is an emergent need to evolve a suitable mechanism for regulating imports of these items to our country.

It is a question of the health of human and animal life. Some doubts were raised by the hon. Member Shri Chowdhary regarding genetically modified food as well as the e-coli problem. We are bringing forward this Bill for the purpose of monitoring, regulating and restricting these. Meanwhile, another hon. Member told that some virus bacteria and e-coli are cause of important diseases, in order to examine these things, he wanted to know whether we have sufficient mechanisms or not.

We should know that Bhopal laboratory is one of the ten best laboratories in the world. We have sufficient equipment and mechanism to monitor...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (RAJGARH) : I do not agree with this...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb.

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN : We are trying to expand our facilities and develop the infrastructure to examine the produce which are imported to India. There are some doubts about the domestic producers. If we restrict the imports, it would help the domestic producers. I hope that we should not worry that the domestic producers will be affected by it. We cannot allow products which would cause Mad Cow Disease, Foot and Mouth Disease, etc. The diseases which are not found in India and which we have to examine are Foot and Mouth Disease of South African origin, namely, SAT-1, SAT-2, and SAT-3; Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Virulent Newcastle Disease of Poultry, African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza (Hongkong Avian Influenza) and Nipha Virus (Swine Disease).

These diseases are not found in India. With these restrictions, we can stop these diseases entering into India. I am thankful to the hon. Member, Shri Anadi Sahu, who has supported this Bill...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : The Minister is talking at variance with the stand taken by his Government...(Interruptions) His Government has expressed concern in the WTO but here the Minister is talking that everything is all right...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the agriculture sector of India is in danger. The reply of the hon. Minister reflects that he is not serious about the cause of farmers...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH) : You have ruled in the centre for 50 years...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your Minister is replying. Why are you interrupting?

[English]

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN : In this regard, it was mentioned that red-tapism would hamper the progress. We would take care of red-tapism...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Adhir Chowdhary, I have not allowed you to speak.

(Interruptions)

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN : So, I would appeal the House to pass this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL) : The response of the Minister is not convincing. He has not explained the circumstances under which the Ordinance has been issued.

Firstly, the danger was there for years. But the same has not been properly explained by the Minister as to what prompted him to by-pass the legislation by issuing the Ordinance.

There was sufficient time, there was sufficient warning and circumstances were such that the Government could have brought the Bill before the House and got it passed. But without doing that, the Minister took the short cut route of bypassing the Legislature, which is highly

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

precarious and cannot be justified. So, I still stick to my Resolution disapproving the Ordinance, because the Minister could not convince me as to what prompted the Government to come out with such a course of action. With these words, I again press for the Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Madam Chairperson, through you I would like to ask one question from the hon. Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You oppose it.

[English]

You were not here for the whole debate and now, at the end of the debate, you want to ask a question.

[Translation]

You have not heard anything. This is not fair. You have not even heard the debate held on this subject. So, what question can you raise?

[English]

I will now put the Resolution moved by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That this House disapproves of the Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 (No. 5 of 2001) promulgated by the President on 5 July, 2001."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will now put the motion for consideration of the Bill to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Live-Stock Importation Act, 1898, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5 Insertion of new section 3A

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are three amendments to be moved by Shri Mahboob Zahedi to Clause 5.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (KATWA) : I beg to move :

Page 2, line 20—

after "affect"

insert "directly or indirectly" (1)

Page 2, line 19—

after "of any" insert "livestock or" (2)

Page 2, line 20,—

after "health" insert "and normalcy" (3)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the amendments to vote.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.34 hrs.

[English]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-third Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : I beg to present the Twenty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

16.35 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Loss of Life and Property due to flood, draught and other natural calamities in various parts of the country

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up discussion regarding loss of life and property due to floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country. Now Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to participate in the discussion being held under rule 193 on flood, drought and natural calamity. The country is celebrating 54th anniversary of Independence, but even after 54 years of independence our farmers are forced to live in the traditional natural way depending upon nature in view of rain, floods and drought. This certainly puts a question mark on our democratic system. All the Members of the House will have to think over it seriously and will have to decide whether our responsibility can be over by allowing such a vast populace of farmers to depend on nature. The extent of relief experienced by the flood affected people of the country following the measures taken ever since independence to combat the menace of floods can well be assessed by the incidents of flood hitting Orissa, Karala, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar over the last several years. I would like to submit that as per the data of the Government the total flood

affected area in the country is 335.16 lakh hectares and out of that 73.36 lakh hectare of flood affected area falls in Uttar Pradesh alone. The second largest affected area falls in Bihar which amounts to 42.6 lakh hectares of land. The third largest affected area constitutes 31.5 lakh hectare of land falling under Assam. The calamity relief funds provided by the Government is like a drop in the ocean.

Last year, i.e. during 2000-2001 34.79 lakh hectare of crop area was affected by rain and floods. The hon. Minister of Agriculture—you had replied to my question. According to the report of the Central Water Commission, Rs. 5032.13 crore has already been spent on flood management works during the Eighth Five Year Plan and a sum of Rs. 8236.22 crore is likely to be spent till March, 2001. During 2000-2001 a total amount of Rs. 798.76 crore was allocated for the drought affected States. When we analyse the data provided by the Government we find that Uttar Pradesh which is the largest State—there more than 1/5 of the population are affected by flood. The Central Government had allocated only Rs. 39.18 crore to Uttar Pradesh during 2000-2001 whereas no funds were allocated for Bihar during this period. During the present financial year a sum of Rs. 135.21 crore has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh and even this year no funds have been allocated for Bihar. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the two big States of the country. The amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh under the calamity relief funds is like a drop in the ocean whereas the Government has definitely played with the lives of the people of Bihar denying their share. I would like to submit that the flood relief amount being provided by the Government to states cannot enable the States to meet the expenses to tackle with the flood situation.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Water Resources to send a central team to all the flood affected states to assess the loss of life and property in the affected areas and thereafter formulate a concrete action plan to provide safety against floods. At present, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa and Kerala are facing the fury of flood. There is a devastation in those states.

The present situation of flood in orissa has moved every individual of the country. How Bihar is facing the devastation of flood and how the people who had gone to collect relief materials have been gunned down by the police have all appeared in the newspapers. This is

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

certainly something inhuman. The country has to be dragged out of this situation. Through you I would like to say today that the Government will have to formulate a concrete action plan to protect ourselves from the flood here in the rivers originating from Nepal. A few days back a discussion on the subject of flood was held in this House and the hon. Minister of Water Resources and the then hon. Minister of Agriculture had assured that a joint group of India and Nepal which has been set up will conduct a study of the areas falling under both the countries and thereafter it will submit its report. And on the basis of that report a concrete action plan would be formulated to protect against flood. But I am sorry to say that last year when I visited the flood affected areas of Himachal Pradesh and when we were at Kullu Manali in Kinnour district accompanied by Maheshwar Singh ji who is present here at the moment, I got the news that my constituency had been severely hit by flood. Consequently, I cancelled my ongoing tour and rushed back to my constituency. Even last year the flood witnessed in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was caused by the rivers originating from Nepal and so is the case with the present day flood situation in eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Ghaghra, Saryu, Rapti, Rohini, Mahaw, Jharhi, Pyas, Gandak and Kosi rivers originating from Nepal are now causing devastation in the eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar due to flood and people are worst affected. Through you, I would like to remind the House that last year when we were discussing on the severe flood situation in the eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the assurances given by the Government at that time in the House to provide protection from the flood was not fulfilled. This House is to represent the aspirations of the people of the country and when what is assured in the House is not fulfilled people will lose faith in the very democratic values of the country. Thereafter, I would like to say that merely holding of discussion in the House followed by a reply by the Minister will not protect the people from the devastation of flood.

If a Joint Parliamentary Committee is set up to examine the funds provided for flood relief and the expenditure incurred against that purpose, then I can claim without hesitation that you will find that only 35-40 percent of the allocated amount is actually spent for the purpose it is meant. There is a large scale looting of the said fund. What is required is to monitor whether the funds allocated for this purpose is actually being utilised or not in a proper manner and whether it is delivering the food or not. I do not

know about other states, but I can give you the example of Uttar Pradesh. There is one Mahaw river in my constituency which originates from Nepal and flows into Indian territory. During 1989-90 and 1990-91 a sum of Rs. 20 lakh was spent on that river under the million-wells-scheme and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had released Rs. 1.32 crore for the repairing of embankments. As per my information, out of 1.32 crore rupees more than half has been spent and the last week's flood has damaged that embankment at three places.

Last year's devastating flood caused by the Rapti river had created a havoc in Sidharth Nagar, Balrampur Gorakhpur and Maharajganj areas. Earlier also during the year 1998 this whole area of eastern Uttar Pradesh was severely swamped by floods caused by the Rapti, Sarau, Ghaghara and Rohini rivers. Hon. Shri Vajpayee ji had visited the area as the Prime Minister of India. He had given an assurance that the eastern Uttar Pradesh will be saved from the devastating floods. However, thereafter three years have elapsed but no effective plan has been worked out to save this area from the havoc of floods, not to speak of allocation of funds for this purpose.

16.46 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

If you intend to save eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar from devastating floods then you will have to make an assessment of waters from the originating place to the place of confluence of rivers flowing into India from Nepal. The mountain glaciers are now melting and flowing down due to fluctuation in temperature causing the rivers overflowing and quantity of water is beyond any estimation. The water level in the rivers has gone up due to piling up of silt in these rivers. The dams constructed in the eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are not able to save these areas from floods. The nature of those dams and rivers is changing. You will have to study it and the anti erosion measures are to be strengthened to save eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar from devastating floods.

After Orissa was hit by flood, the Prime Minister gave Rs. 100 crores from the Prime Minister Relief Fund. The Chief Minister of Orissa Shri Naveen Patnayak had sought an assistance of Rs. 481 crores. When this much of money is given from the Calamity relief fund for checking flood but this money is used for rehabilitation and relief purposes. The Government does not provide even a part of the loss

that is caused by such calamities. If the same amount is given prior to flood to check flood then these losses could be avoided.

We are achieving record production of foodgrains in the country. If floods are contained then we can produce more foodgrains and can booster our foodgrain stocks. Today, the Government admits that foodgrains are rotting in the godowns. I, through you, demand that the surplus foodgrains should be used for launching "food for work" scheme in the flood hit areas for construction of new embankments. On one hand, the Government cries for resource crunch while on the other, the foodgrains are rotting in the godowns. We exhort the Agriculture Minister and the Water Resources Minister to formulate an action plan to save 336 lakh hectares of land from floods in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to mention one more thing here. The Government should ask the Indo-Nepal Joint group constituted regarding the rivers entering in India from Nepal to submit the report immediately and should also formulate a concrete action plan to save the entire area from flooding rivers. It will not be proper if the Union Government says that it is the duty of the State Governments to save the people from floods. I would also like to make a suggestion here regarding floods, then the Government should directly allocate funds to the State Government for projects relating to floods. Besides, a group should also be constituted for monitoring it. If efforts are made in this direction then, the devastating floods would be controlled.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (MANDI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh has initiated the discussion on the issue of flood affecting various parts of the country. This discussion has been raised under the rule 193. I have also risen to participate in this discussion.

This is known fact when the session of this august House is on, several issues are discussed. Some how this has become rather customary that the issue of drought and natural calamities are invariably discussed in all the sessions and over the period these subjects have become integral part of the important business in the House.

As far as flood and drought are concerned, the issues relating to natural calamities are discussed in the House in the normal course but now the issues relating to earthquake, cloud burst and cyclone are also being

discussed more frequently in every session. Whenever the issue of flood is discussed in the House then Bihar, Orissa, Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are definitely mentioned but now Himachal Pradesh also invariably figures in such discussions in the House which is a cause of concern. Just two days before, on 6th August, the Minister of Water Resources, Shri Arjun Sethi Ji was making his statement on flood management in the country, and he also mentioned the devastating floods in these states and also gave the details of the measures being taken by the national flood commission. I congratulate the Government for doing the good job in this field. Last year, huge damage was caused to Gujarat due to earthquake. The manner in which the State Government rose to the challenge with help from the Union Government, is commendable. All the people of the country and foreign countries contributed generously and the Government should be appreciated for the good work in this field.

Whenever, any natural calamity hits the country, people contribute generously in cash and kind. Truck loads of relief material is dispatched to the affected areas of the State. Earlier we used to talk about rabi and kharif crops and now we talk about relief more and wherever relief is provided, allegations and counter-allegations are levelled. Therefore, I would earnestly request the Government to set up a National Disaster Management Commission on the lines of Election Commission. This commission should have emergent powers like that of Election Commission because whenever any disaster strikes any state this commission should have emergent powers to tackle the situation. Sometimes allegations of party based politics and neglect of a state are levelled. These measures would prevent such allegations and commission would be able to help them independently. As I have said that flood and drought have not been isolated to few states, rather the name of Himachal Pradesh has also been added to it. You may remember that last year also Himachal Pradesh faced similar kind of flood in the night of 31st July which was unprecedented and at that time there were no clouds in Himachal. There were no clouds in the hills of Tibet and all of a sudden the water level of Satluj river rose from its mark and started flowing 40-50 feet high in the mid night. People were fast asleep and in the morning almost 200 km. area of both sides of river bank of Satluj, whether it was remote tribal areas of Kinnour or the areas of Shimla district, whether it was areas of Kullu district or Mandi district, everywhere devastation was to be seen. I had said one

[Shri Maheshwar Singh]

thing at that time too that similar flood had occurred in Laddakh also. If I am not wrong, then there was a flood in Arunachal Pradesh also on the same day. I had said to the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture through you that our Government should ask the reasons for floods from China because that day there were no clouds in Himachal Pradesh. There were no clouds in the hills of Tibet which is adjacent to our area. It seemed that some breach had occurred in Mansarovar. It was blessing of God that water did not rush to one place, it was diverted in three directions. Had the water gone only in one direction, then you could well imagine the damage that would have been caused. In a small State like Himachal Pradesh, 200 people had died. Our various power projects like—Napha Jhakari Project, Bhawanagar Project and Ganavi Project—have suffered a total loss of more than Rs. 2000 crore. At that point of time also I had made a demand through you to the Government that Himachal Pradesh is going through a period of crisis. Therefore the state should be given maximum assistance. I express my gratitude towards the Government for an immediate relief of Rs. 100 crore which has been given. But half of the amount that is Rs. 50 crore has been given to us from our normal plan as an advance and rupees 50 crore have been given from our dues of ways and means fund. We have not got money as relief in real sense. I want to congratulate heartily the Government of Himachal Pradesh that despite their limited resources they have spent more than Rs. 144 crore and have repaired all the roads in record time which were devastated during the floods in bordering area of Kinnaur which is adjacent to China. Even today money is required to complete this work. We have got Rs. 25 crore only as relief. You are aware that it was apple season at that time, apple growers had to face great loss due to this incident. Government of Himachal Pradesh procured apples from those growers under the market intervention scheme. It was flood affected area and 52 thousand tonnes of apples were procured under this scheme. The share of Government of India out of it was Rs. 739.49 lakhs. I am grateful to the hon'ble Minister of Food who is present in the House and belongs to our State, we had requested him and the Minister of Agriculture and finally we got first cheque of Rs. 3.28 crore at the instance of Minister of Agriculture and the Prime Minister. I also convey my gratitude to the Minister of Agriculture who have found 44 thousand tonnes of apples to be OK out of the total apples procured by the Government. Therefore I would request him to release the remaining amount due to our State as soon as possible for

which approval has been given and the Ministry of Finance has also given its sanction so that the same could be given to the local apple growers. As you all know that apple season is approaching again. Therefore my request is to send the money at the earliest.

Sir, during last few days Government of Himachal Pradesh had hardly come to terms with this problem, when it again faced not only flood but drought as well.

17.00 hrs.

The loss suffered by this small State due to drought has been estimated to be Rs. 457.97 crore. The Government asked for Rs. 143.56 crore as relief but we have not received even a penny so far. As far as flood is concerned, Binwa block of Kangra district which is under the constituency of hon'ble Shanta Kumar ji, has been hit by devastating flood in which twelve persons have lost their lives. About 22 big and small bridges have been washed away in Himachal Pradesh. The loss suffered there has been estimated to Rs. 18.27 crore. Similarly, in other parts of the State including my home district, Kullu, the loss suffered is Rs. 486.57 crore due to the damage caused by flood and cloud burst. Overall we have suffered a loss of Rs. 2500 crore. Therefore my request is to give money to the state liberally.

Sir, the Government of Himachal have limited resources and with limited resources it cannot deal with such a calamity. Despite its limited resources the State Government is making efforts to undertake maximum relief work. As far as damaged bridges are concerned, all the rural areas have been cut off today. The construction of these bridges is essential. I know that funds can not be given to state for construction and repair of bridges but it is also true that if these bridges are not repaired, then those areas which have been cut off cannot be connected. The Government are facing the problem of sending relief there. Whenever such natural calamity hits a small State, then the damage is estimated on the basis of the number of deaths. It is for sure that if the State is smaller, then the death toll would be less. Apart from the number of casualties there should be some criteria for declaring calamity as a national calamity. I shall give an example that a father having five sons feels, the same amount of sorrow over the death of one of his sons as is felt by a father who loses his only son. Therefore, if Himachal is a small state, then on this pretext it is not justified to say that the loss is not that much. Some criteria should be laid down in this regard.

I would conclude my speech by making one last point. I request the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that he should consider about Himachal Pradesh because when there is a flood in the plains, then there are apparent traces of damage caused but when there is a cloud burst in the hills and if a team visits there in the morning, then there is no water left or submerged houses there. Infact no house could be found standing there. Therefore these things should be considered.

Sir, our present relief manual has disparities which should be removed and there is a need to bring uniformity in it. If a person dies in one State, an amount of Rs. 25,000 is given as compensation whereas in another State this amount is Rs. 10,000. So far as farmer is concerned, no compensation is given to him in the event of damage of crop or if he is on the verge of starvation. There should be uniform code of relief that the affected people all over the country get uniform compensation for such type of loss. I have referred to you the case of Himachal. I hope that you will generously provide funds for the State because Himachal Pradesh is dependent on the Centre. Our resources are limited. With these words I express my gratitude to all the hon. Members who have listened to my speech attentively.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (MAVELIKARA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate to note that every year we are discussing about the flood and drought situation in our country. At the time of the reply, the hon. Minister, whoever maybe incharge of it, will enlighten this House with the long-term and short-term measures which are taken by the Government. But it is heartening to note that these long-term and short-term measures were not really taking place in different States.

Sir, the Natural Calamity Fund, which is earmarked for different States is very meagre, and the amount earmarked is not at all satisfactory. I would like to know what is the criteria for deciding allocations to different States from Natural Calamity Fund. The Central Government, the State Government and different Departments are not able to properly monitor the long-term and short-term measures which are implemented by different agencies.

This South-West monsoon has played havoc in several parts of our country. Because of the heavy rainfall, the normal life has been disrupted, more lives have been

lost and the communication network has been disrupted. Due to landslide and heavy flash floods, certain States are affected and cut off very badly.

Sir, I come from a State in which the recent flood played havoc in all the districts. Kerala is a State which is affected very badly by the recent South-West monsoon. Unprecedented flood has caused immense damage to the State. We have lost hundreds of human lives and extensive damage has been caused to the crops, houses, canals and trees. Thousands of trees have been uprooted and also certain areas were totally washed away. Heavy loss of crops has been reported from all the 14 districts.

17.07 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the chair*]

Heavy loss of crops has been reported from Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Malappuram, Ernakulam, Kannur, Palakkad, Kasargod and Kozhikode districts.

Sir, the paddy fields were washed away and rubber plantations were completely destroyed. The banana plantations and other crops were at the receiving end of the natural fury. The entire Kuttanad region, which is called the rice bowl of Kerala, has been affected and completely damaged by the recent floods. Sir, over 1,50,000 people have been evacuated and more than 1,000 relief camps were opened in different districts. Many of the people were drowned, and canals and dikes were seriously damaged.

Sir, as per the report of the Director, Indian Meteorological Department, the South-West monsoon reached Kerala in May this year about one week in advance and moderate to heavy rains continued since then. Sir, unprecedented and continuous heavy to very heavy rains in this year from 4th to 10th June, 2001 played havoc and caused a lot of damages, especially in the South-Central districts of Idukki, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta.

Sir, the State Government has submitted a report to the Central Government that 120 human lives were lost, 94 people were injured and 1,533 houses were destroyed. The Agriculture Department of Kerala has estimated a loss of Rs. 158 crore due to damage to crops.

It includes paddy, rubber and other crops. Thousands of families were evacuated. The State Government had sanctioned one crore rupees each to the district collectors. People who were evacuated from these areas were shifted

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

to the relief camps. The State Government provided assistance to these people even though it has been facing a lot of financial crunch.

The point I would like to make is that when there was unprecedented natural calamity, the attitude of the Government was very, very negative. When the floods occurred, the State Government immediately informed the Central Government. When the then hon. Minister of Agriculture visited Kerala, all the Members of Parliament from Kerala discussed this matter with him. The State Government also showed a film on the damage caused by these floods. The Minister assured that the Central Government would be undertaking some immediate relief measures.

It is very unfortunate to note that the Central Government has not given any kind of help to the people of Kerala. The attitude of the Central Government is highly deplorable and discriminatory. I do not understand why the Government is showing a totally negative attitude towards the people of Kerala. It is a fact that all the 29 Members of Parliament are opposed to the B.J.P. or the NDA. Not a single Member from Kerala is supporting the NDA and that may be the reason.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, even to your State, that is, Bihar – I was reading the reports given by the Library Section – not a single penny has been given. Not a single penny has been given to the State of Chhattisgarh, and no amount was given to those States that politically oppose the Central Government. At the same time, if you go through the record, we can see what kind of financial assistance was given to Orissa. The hon. Prime Minister announced on 18th July, 2001 an initial amount of Rs. 100 crore for relief and rescue operations. During his visit, the Prime Minister announced an additional relief of Rs. 435 crore by way of additional three lakh tonnes of rice – estimated to cost Rs. 210 crore – under the Food for Work Programme, and one lakh additional Indira Awas Yojana Units – estimated to cost of Rs. 125 crore – for rebuilding the houses for people who are below the poverty line. Secondly, the entire Central share from the Calamity Relief Fund for 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 86.21 crore was released by May 2001. In addition, an assistance of Rs. 49.62 crore was approved from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. This is the financial assistance, financial package, announced by the Central Government for the State of Orissa. The Prime Minister himself had gone to Bhubaneswar and had undertaken an aerial survey.

Although the flood situation in Kerala was very grave, now a single Minister visited our State. Nobody has taken notice of these drastic events and not a single penny has been given to the State of Kerala. When the Members of Parliament from Kerala met the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh, he told us that 'let the Central Team go to Kerala, let them have an assessment of the whole situation, and let them give the report. After studying the report, we will sanction some relief to your State.'

Sir, even before sending a Central team to the State of Orissa a substantial sum of money was announced for the State of Orissa by the Central Government and the hon. Prime Minister himself. But, why was it not done in case of the State of Kerala?

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR) : Sir, that is not correct. A Central team had gone there...
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I am not against the State of Orissa. I have full sympathy towards them. They should get more than they have been getting. I am not against the people of Orissa. My point is that like the people of Orissa, the people of Kerala are also suffering because of this natural calamity. But the Central Government is not opening their eyes to their distress. The Central Government has not been kind enough to come forward with a helping hand at this hour of their distress. That is my point.

Sir, the hon. Member from Orissa was telling me that when the super cyclone had struck the State of Orissa, the Central Government had delayed in sending in assistance to the State because of political considerations. We should not play politics in hours of natural calamity. It is very unfortunate that this discrimination is so visible at this hour. It is really unfortunate.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI) : Sir, he is misleading the House.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I am not misleading the House.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, the then Congress Government of Orissa had mis-utilised the funds. There are cases registered against various Departments of the Government with the CBI. The Vigilance Department is looking into corruption of the then Congress Government. They did not manage the funds properly.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, my point is that a tragedy is a tragedy and we have to extend our fullest co-operation to help the people who are suffering. We should not play politics in this. Unfortunately, we can see political considerations are playing a role in the allocation of funds to the States that are affected by natural calamity.

Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Kerala is here in Delhi. A Central team visited Kerala and they have already submitted a report. I think, the hon. Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri A. K. Antony has met the hon. Minister of Agriculture personally. In his reply to this debate, the hon. Minister of Agriculture should at least assure the people of Kerala by announcing an interim relief of Rs. 100 crore. The process of rehabilitation is now going on. People cannot go back to their houses because these houses are in a dilapidated condition. To complete this rehabilitation process, an interim relief to the tune of Rs. 100 crore would be very much needed.

Sir, some parts of Kerala are experiencing a peculiar phenomenon. Wells are disappearing. The water levels in the wells are coming down. Multi-coloured rain in this part of the country is being noticed. The people are in panic. A Central team should be sent to the State of Kerala to find out if there had been any geological changes taking place there or not. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to send a Central team to find out if any geological changes are taking place in some parts of the State.

Sir, Once again, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who has always been sympathetic towards the people of our State, to announce an interim relief of Rs. 100 crore to help the people of Kerala, and Rs. 500 crores as relief to the State.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (KOTTAYAM) : Sir, the magnitude of the tragedy has already been described by my esteemed colleagues. Some parts of our country are facing devastating flood conditions. At the same time, some other States are facing drought conditions. Various parts of the States of Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala are also facing flood conditions.

Orissa needs the sympathy of the whole country. Orissa suffered from the devastating cyclone last year, this year it is the devastating floods and in between there were droughts. Despite the much-talked about disaster preparedness in Orissa after the cyclone, the recent floods

once again proved that the State, and the whole country as such, is not at all prepared to face this type of a situation. Other parts of the country are also in a similar situation, though not of this magnitude.

My friend Ramesh has mentioned just a little while ago as to what the flood situation in Kerala is like. This flood is the biggest in Kerala in a span of thirty years. In total 107 people were killed. As you know, prominent photographer Victor George was killed while he was trying to photograph a landslide. Twenty thousand families were rendered homeless and thirty-five thousand relief camps were organised all over the State. Even perennial agricultural crops like rubber and coconut were damaged. Kerala Government has estimated that the loss to the State is to the tune of Rs. 552 crore.

Apart from this flood-related problems, Kerala has a long seashore of some 560 kilometres. Earlier, Central funds were allotted for building seawalls. That fund is not there now. Seawalls built earlier with the help of the Central fund are already damaged. People living in the whole coastal belt are badly affected by this. In the earlier situation Kerala could depend on the Central fund for building these long seawalls. That fund should again be given to the State.

The Central Government should not view politically the aid given to States for flood relief work. I do not dispute the quantum of aid given to Orissa. It is less when compared to the damage suffered by Orissa. However, take the situation in Kerala. The Central team came only after two-three weeks. The fund allotted till now is a mere Rs. 26 crore, and that money is already due to the State. That is from the Calamity Relief Fund, which would have been given to the State during the month of December any way. They released it much earlier, that is all. So, not a single pie has been given till now. I do not know whether the Central team which visited Kerala has submitted its report.

Sir, the people of the State should not be punished for the laxity of the State Government. The hon. Chief Minister, while he was the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, could come all the way from Kerala even before the then Chief Minister for meeting the hon. Prime Minister and submitting him the memorandum on floods. But now, he is not finding time to submit the memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister even three to four weeks after the floods. My point is that why the people of Kerala be punished for the laxity of the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : He has submitted it. A copy of the memorandum is with me. This is the memorandum...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : He might have submitted it today. Now, the floods have receded. Floods occurred there three to four weeks earlier. People of Kerala should not be punished for any laxity on the part of the State Government...(Interruptions)

Sir, last year when the floods occurred in West Bengal, the Chief Minister and the MLAs of that State came to New Delhi and sat on *dharna* for demand of aid. But they were not given any aid. That is why I say that the Central Government should not favour one State and punish other States. The Centre should not show any discrimination in giving floods relief to the affected States.

We in India have a federal set up. So, here, the Central Government should set up some independent mechanism, maybe a Committee or a Board, to study the types of situations like floods and droughts. And that Committee or Board should decide what should be the to be given to the concerned State. Otherwise, there will be perennial complaints from the States that the Central Government is showing favouritism to some States and discriminating other States.

So, my submission is that taking into consideration the seriousness of the situation in our State, Rs. 552 crore, which is the damage assessed by the State Government, should be immediately released to Kerala.

Sir, in Kerala, mostly all roads have been damaged and all crops have been damaged. Thousands of people have been rendered homeless due to this natural calamity. Moreover, apart from the natural calamities, even some unnatural calamity has occurred in our State recently. My esteemed colleague Shri Ramesh Chennithala also mentioned about them as to how some wells are suddenly disappearing, how new wells are caving in without anybody digging it and how a multicolour rain occurred there in Kerala.

So, my request is that a special team should be deputed by the Central Government to study all these geological phenomena occurring in Kerala.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (ANANTAPUR) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion. I would request you to kindly allow me to speak in Telugu.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

[Translation]

*SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Thank you Chairman Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion. Please allow me to speak in Telugu.

Sir, floods on one hand and the droughts on the other have totally disrupted and dislocated the life of the people of this country. While Hon. Members have spoken at length about the fury of floods in Kerala and Orissa, I concentrate on speaking about the unprecedented drought which affected my State, Andhra Pradesh. The rainfall in my State had been nil this year and as a result the State had been subjected to an unprecedented drought. The people especially the farmers are under tremendous pressure as they could not grow crops this year. Normally the cropped area in the State during Khariff is 83.23 lakhs but due to prolonged dry spells the area has been reduced this year to 26.32 lakh hectares only. Last year the Khariff crop coverage was 45.86 lakh hectares. As there were no timely rains, the farmers could not even sow the seeds even in half of the area. This is the position in the dry land area. The situation in the command area is no different. As there was no water available in major projects like Nagarjun Sagar and Srisailem, farmers could not go for sowing and transplanting of paddy. This year paddy crop coverage in the State is only 3.54 lakh hectares as against normal coverage of 27.71 lakh hectares. I request the Central Government to kindly note that the area under cultivation this year is 87% less than the normal coverage.

Growing groundnut is the main livelihood for the people living in dry land areas in the State especially Rayalaseema. Growing groundnut is their main job. In the absence of rains this year the ground nut crop coverage in the State has plummeted to 1.91 lakh hectares as against the normal coverage of 16.24 lakh hectares. The State experienced severe drought last year also. In 2001, 142 mandals spread over 7 districts were declared by the State Government as drought affected. But most unfortunately, right from the start of this season there were absolutely no rains in many larger parts of the State. 911 out of the total 1099 mandals are already reeling under acute drought this year. Barring Hyderabad, all the remaining 22 districts have already been declared as drought affected by the State Government. Because of the drought this year the

*English translation of speech originally delivered in Telugu.

people, especially farmers and agricultural labourers are subjected to sufferings which are beyond any description. The farmers are not in a position to grow crops. The agricultural labourers have no employment and thus are starving to death. Approximately 1775 man days were lost and the estimated loss as wage earnings by agricultural labourers is about Rs. 887 crore. Needless to say that during the drought period there will be a shortage of fodder. This year the fodder problem is quite acute. The estimated deficiency of fodder is 122 lakh metric tonnes and the estimated loss is about Rs. 629 crore.

Sir, there is an acute shortage of drinking water in the State now. The State Government has been trying its best to meet the situation. But it is well beyond the means of State Government to meet the situation. In thousands of villages the bore wells have already dried up. Lakhs of people are facing the shortage of drinking water. Sir, I have the privilege of representing Anantapur district which happens to be one of the most awkward areas, not only in the State but also in the country. Anantpur receives lowest rainfall after Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. The average rainfall in the district is 540 mm. By June, this district has received only 36 mm as against the average rainfall of 131mm for the month. Groundnut is grown in 8 lakh hectares in the district. But this year the crop has been restricted to just 36 thousand hectares only. Even in areas where the crop is planted, the growth has been severely affected due to irregular and scanty rainfall. Andhra Pradesh has been singularly unfortunate as it has been continuously reeling under one natural calamity or the other. One year there will be floods which wash off everything and the other year it is drought which knocks off the very bottom of agricultural activity. When everything is alright, the crops get destroyed by the pests. This has been the story of the State for the past 5 years. The country is well aware of the fact how the cotton growers in the State have suffered in the recent days. I am bringing the plight of farmers to the kind notice of the Central Government with the fond hope that something would be done, at least at this late stage, to mitigate their suffering. The State is reeling under an unprecedented situation. The State Government under the able leadership of Chandrababu Naidu has already initiated several measures to rescue the farmers on a war footing. The State Government has already released Rs. 176 crores for the purpose. The amount is being spent for providing drinking water, fodder and for preventing farmers and agriculture labourers from migrating to other parts of

the country in search of their livelihood. The State Government is in constant touch with the Union Government in this regard. Apart from our beloved Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu, the Members of his cabinet and top bureaucrats of the State Administration are appraising the Central Government of the grave situation arising out of the prevailing drought in the State.

The Andhra Pradesh Government have already submitted a memorandum to the Central Government for the immediate release of Rs. 849 crore required to meet the drought situation on war footing. In addition the State has also requested the Centre to release 6 lakh metric tonnes of rice under food for work programme. I take this opportunity to thank the Union Civil Supplies Minister for issuing orders to release 3 lakh tonnes immediately. Sir, we, the Members of Parliament and Ministers from our State, have already met Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Agriculture Minister and appraised them of the grave situation arising out of this unprecedented drought. I am happy to say that the response was quite positive. A Central Team has already been deputed to the State to study the situation and report back. The Central Team has been studying the situation prevailing in various districts. I hope that the Central team would submit its Report very soon to the Central Government. There were some rains in the State for the past few days. But it makes little difference. The agriculture season is already over. Had the rains been before June 15th, the situation would have been different as there was a possibility of growing groundnut. But it is of no use now. Even if the seeds are sown now, there is no possibility of good crops at this stage. The returns will not be sufficient to meet even the expenditure. As I submitted earlier Sir, the paddy cultivation could not take off the ground this season.

Sir, it is high time for the Central Government to chalk out a long term programme to fight the recurring droughts. Anantpur is a drought prone district. Unless long-term measures are implemented in the district to fight the drought situation, the people living in the district continue to suffer. The State Government has very limited resources. It is well beyond the means of the State Government to take up relief measures on its own. It is the duty of Central Government to extend a helping hand to the State in times of crisis. The Central Government should have long term measures to combat such situation. Such measures should be implemented at once in districts like Anantpur. Otherwise the people will continue to suffer. Drip irrigation facilities have to be provided to the farmers on subsidy rates. Dairy

[Shri Kalava Srinivasulu]

development programmes in the form of packages have to be implemented in such drought prone areas. Watershed programmes should also be taken up on a large scale to help the farmers. Special grants have to be provided for an integrated development of these areas.

Sir, before I conclude, I appeal to the Central Government, through you, to release the grants as sought by the State Government immediately. I also appeal to the Union Government to release 6 lakh metric tonnes of rice under food for work programme to meet the drought situation in the State.

I conclude, Sir, thanking you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very important issue is being discussed in the House today. On the one hand, some parts of the country are affected by drought and some parts of the country are affected by floods on the other. Initiating debate on the issue, Hon. Shri Akhilesh Singh discussed about the situation in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Sir, I belong to Bihar, a very large part of Bihar is affected by floods every year. Bihar is affected by floods every year by the rivers originating from Nepal and Tibet. This year too people of Bihar are facing the fury of floods. 13 districts have been affected by floods and water is surging ahead as a result of which some more Districts are also likely to come in the grip of floods. About 5 cusecs of water has been released from Nepal following which the Eastern Uttar Pradesh and a large part of Bihar have been facing the floods. I represent Gopalganj area. Public life has been disrupted in the above area due to floods. At seven places in Gopalganj the situation has become so grim that the help of army is being taken. About hundred villages have been inundated by flood water. The army boats, air force helicopters were pressed into service to save the life of people for five-six days. This is a basic issue and so long as the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Water Resources do not enter into any effective agreement with Nepal, till then Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh will continue to suffer such losses. You all know, a very large area has been affected by the flood and it is not within the capacity of Bihar to address to the problem of flood all alone and carry out rescue operations. Not the present Government of Bihar but all the previous

Governments of the State demanded with one voice Special assistance to cope with this problem but no special assistance has been provided so far. The assistance which is normally given that has also been reduced. There has been large scale devastation in Orissa State and the House has been requested that the State should be provided assistance. Earlier the devastation was caused there by the cyclone and now it is the turn of floods. Other states have suffered losses too. Sir, there may be difference of opinion with the Bihar Government but what is the fault of people of Bihar. How can we play with the life of people of Bihar. I take this opportunity to draw your attention towards a letter received from the 11th Finance Commission and it has been mentioned in it that States will be provided assistance in the ratio of loss suffered and expenditure incurred by them. The State of Bihar is bifurcated and a separate Jharkhand State has been carved out of it. But 70 percent population of erstwhile Bihar is still with it. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture knows it. Jharkhand is least affected by floods. But the Finance Commission has divided the amount of assistance equally between Bihar and Jharkhand.

If the assistance as recommended by the 11th Finance Commission is distributed in this manner, discrimination is meted out to Bihar, it can never progress and the people of Bihar cannot get rid of floods. Members of Cabinet are sitting here, however, the Finance Minister is not present here. The Bihar government has sent a proposal. I would like to give thanks to the Minister of Agriculture as he has sent his Minister of State to assess the situation. The Bihar Government has sent a memorandum in this regard. 13 districts have been affected by the floods. The southern part of Bihar is affected by drought. He has received all the memoranda. I would like to request you to consider over the prevailing situation there. There should be no discrimination against Bihar. It should get its 95 percent share. Bihar should get its share in proportion to loss suffered by it. The amount of assistance should not be divided on the basis of area of land because our State will be a loser in that case.

There are 13 districts affected by flood. The number of blocks affected by flood is 62, 376 panchayats, 882 villages, a population of 16.534 lakh people and an area of 0.934 lakh hectares of land have been affected by flood. Crops have been damaged in an area of 0.683 hectares of land. The estimated loss suffered on this count is of valued at Rs. 4169.91, total number of dwelling units

damaged is 30901, 15 persons and 99 animals lost their life due to floods. These are the details of loss suffered by Bihar—road construction department suffered a loss of Rs. 6.23 crore. National highways Rs. 14.67 crore, water resources department Rs. 157.67 crore, Energy Deptt Rs. 6.387 crore Small Irrigation Department Rs. 11.52 crore, Rural Engineering Organisation Rs. 15.00 crore, Revenue and Land Reforms Department Rs. 25.00 crore, Rural Development Department Rs. 15.00 crore and damage to crops worth Rs. 41.70 crore. The Government of India, particularly the Minister of Agriculture has old and good relations with Bihar. Therefore, he should pay attention to this issue. Bihar has been affected by floods every year since several decades. The Bihar Government asks for grants from the Government of India every year. Whichever Government comes to power in Bihar, cannot do any thing because the Bihar Government does not have any power to hold negotiations with Nepal in connection with the rivers originating from Nepal and wrecking havoc in Bihar. So, it is for the Union Government to find a way out to this problem. Only the Government of India can hold talks with Nepal. You have constituted a committee...*(Interruptions)* Ever since the embankments were constructed, the level of the river has risen by six feet. Disilting is required. All the embankments require strengthening. The places where embankments have developed cracks require repairing. Otherwise whenever there will be rain in the catchment area, the rain water again inundate the entire area. The embankments should be constructed on priority basis wherever these have been broken. And special assistance should be provided to Bihar. The difficulties faced by the people there should be removed. And talks should be held with Nepal to find a permanent solution to this problem. There is a vast potential for generating electricity in Bihar. Electricity can be generated at cheaper rates. India and Nepal can jointly generate electricity which can be distributed in other parts of the country. And I hope that the Government of India will consider over it.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR) :

Sir, I stand up to draw the attention of the House towards the ravages and devastation brought by the ensuing floods in Bihar. Fifteen districts of the State are badly affected along with a population of ten lakh people. What is even more tragic is that these devastation are crippling life and infrastructure, year after year.

The State of Bihar is the most flood affected State in the country, accounting for 17 percent of the flood prone area of the country. Post bifurcation, Bihar now supports a population of 64.25 million within a geographical area of 93.81 lakh hectares. Out of that, 68.80 lakh hectares are flood prone and ten lakh hectares perpetually water logged. Due to cyclical and climatological factors, the problem of floods are confined not only to the plains of North Bihar, but cover large tracts of Central Bihar also, which includes my constituency, Aurangabad. Presently, 30 out of 37 districts of the State are flood prone. In the report of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog (1980), the figures given of the flood prone area stands at 42 lakh hectares. Due to changes in the river regime, now 68.80 lakh hectares are flood prone according to the Master Plan, Vol. I, prepared by the Ganga Flood Control Commission. The wide spread and pervasive nature of the problem is evident from the following chart which I shall lay on the Table of the House.

Nobody in this House has pointed out the reasons and the factors which are responsible for the devastation which the flood causes every year. We only talk about the situation, we talk about natural disasters, we talk about natural calamities and we only react to it. There is only a re-action after that. The remedial measures and the solutions to the problems, I think, need a deep thinking. The hon. Minister for Water Resources is here. I presume and I expect that he would note down the table that I shall lay in order to get on to the bottom of the problem and to see that a solution is brought forth in the future.

The main rivers and their basins draining in Bihar are, the Ganga—which on its left bank is joined by the Ghaghra—the Gandak, the Bagmati, the Kamla-Balan, the Kosi and the Mahananda all of which originate from the Himalayas. The major tributaries which join the right bank of the Ganga in Bihar are the Karmanasa, the Sone, the Punpun, the Kiul-Harohan, the Badua, the Chandan and the Gumani. The Karmanasa originates from the Kaimur range of hills in the Kaimur district of Bihar and the Sone originates from Maikala regions of MP, while the Punpun and the Kiul-Harohar both originate from the hills of the Chhattisgarh.

I am saying this because these are the various rivers which are flowing across the various States. Now, I will come to the causes for the floods in North Bihar. All the rivers, excluding the Burhi Gantak joining the Ganga on its left bank in Bihar, flow through a considerable length in

[Shrimati Shyama Singh]

Nepal. A large part of their catchment area falls in the glacial regions of the great Himalayas. These rivers are snow-fed and hence perennial. Thus, in spite of protection measures carried out in the State with investments totalling around Rs. 1040.63 crore on flood management works, only a small portion of the State has been covered.

By constructing embankments, reasonable degree of protection has been provided in these river belts, thereby providing the infrastructure for development of irrigation, for roads, railways, industries and settled habitation. It is a well documented fact that before the construction of the Kosi embankment, in between 1736 and 1936, the Kosi had migrated 120 kms. westward of Purnia.

I would like to lay this on the Table of the House for the hon. Minister to understand the situation. I think he may not understand the gravity of the situation in Bihar. But the people who are suffering must also know that their problems have been taken into account. It is just very easy to say that there are floods in Bihar. What is the fund this Government is giving us? Mr. Minister, you may give us funds. I think, as it is, in the case of Bihar I find that you have not allocated any funds because they do not happen to be part of the National Democratic Alliance. But, apart from that, there are other basic factors which you must take into account, that is, humanity, welfare of the poor people and those who are devastated by the floods. I have toured those areas. I can say with authenticity that the way people are dying is horrible. Five lakh people have been rendered homeless in 13 districts in Bihar. What is the Government of the day doing? We are just talking about it in this august House and forgetting about it the moment we go out because Bihar is Bihar. I find this very sad reflection on the part of the Government of the day.

I would now like to bring in six major solutions. I draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture and hon. Minister of Water Resources. I would table these six points because if I start reading them, the hon. Members will be impatient and they will not like to hear the basis issues that are ailing this country because they rather treat it very peripherally and feel that all is well and all is honey and rose. You can go home after making a lengthy lecture. You would say that so and so has given a good lecture and you go home. Apart from all these things, I would like this august House to apply its mind to hear the six points in a nutshell. I would like to project before the hon. Minister the six important solutions to the problems that are causing floods in Bihar.

First, I would submit that all the major rivers in Bihar are inter-State or international river systems. This seriously limits the extent of action that can be taken by the State on its own, and does not even allow a partial or semi-permanent solution to the problem. Bihar's flood problem requires intensive morphological studies to be undertaken along the entire middle reaches of the river. For any meaningful solution, the behavioural pattern of the rivers must be known. At least, in the case of the Ganga, the Kosi, the Gandak, the Bagmati and the Kamla Balan, the Government of India should mount, without further delay, river morphological studies, drawn from satellite imageries listing the changes in the rivers behavioural pattern due to formation of shoals and sand deposits and flag the looping/meandering points of the river along these reaches.

The second point is this. Experience over several years clearly suggests that in several reaches of the rivers, shoal formation has forced the river to meander and change its course from bank to bank. To tide over this problem in the short and medium term, dredging operations need to be undertaken in select reaches and small length of these river systems.

The third point is that you have to construct embankments on remaining length of river and protect these embankments from erosion by constructing spurs and other suitable anti-erosion works.

Fourthly, embankments are to be provided with all-weather roads over which flood protection vehicles could ply smoothly.

Fifthly, the problem of aggradation demands progressive raising of embankments which are now quite old. The existing embankments need to be raised and strengthened, and provided with flood escapes as over the years the river-beds have risen due to the constant deposit of silt and debris.

Sixthly, you have to increase the waterway of railways, national highways and state bridges in view of the rise in river beds. This would relieve stress on embankments caused by additional influx. This point is very important.

Lastly, the performance of some of the existing embankments also needs to be evaluated. Deprivation of silt and its fertilising properties within low lying areas are exposing the ill effects of such constraints on the river regime and the geographic depression in the country side.

Before concluding, I would, therefore, urge upon you, Sir, and the hon. Minister as well as this august House to pass a resolution for early action by the Government of India for construction of the Sapt Kosi high dam at Brahmkshetra in Nepal and complement the efforts of the State Government financially and organisationally to implement the flood protection works urgently.

With these words, I conclude.

18.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

Mr. CHAIRMAN : If the House agrees, the proceedings of the House can be extended. Since the list of Speakers is long, we, therefore, extend the time of House by an hour.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (MOTIHARI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue being discussed in the House, is very important. This issue relates to the lives of lakhs of people who have been starving and rendered homeless. I don't think that we should speak or visualise on the issue politically. Today, lakhs of people are in dire straits and they are looking towards their representatives whom they have elected with much expectations and who have promised to serve them. What solutions have they found for the betterment of these people?

Mr. Chairman Sir, when the entire country has suffered losses due to flood and drought, it is but natural that the attention of the people is drawn towards the fact as to what concrete solution have we found in these last 53 years to get the people rid of frequent floods and drought. It is an historical fact that the entire North India is affected by floods every year by the river originating from Nepal and Tibet in the Himalayas. A colossal loss has been caused right from Himachal Pradesh to Arunachal Pradesh.

18.02 hrs.

[SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I belong to North Bihar and this area is adjoining with the Terai area of Nepal. New agriculture schemes have been launched in Nepal during the past few years following which the rivers are being diverted. The water level at the Saran and Champaran embankments has crossed the highest danger mark due to excessive release of water from the Balmiki Nagar barrage due to recent floods.

This caused havoc in Champaran and Gopalganj and hundreds of colonies were inundated. Thousands of victims are living in the open for want of tents. Even drinking water was not available to them. The dam on Gandak in Nakhaha and Sakhava has breached that caused devastation in the nearby villages. I myself visited there. Last year 65 lakh rupees were given for repair work of embankments but due to administrative slackness this job was not done properly. Dekaha, Magharia, Dumarea, Pucharla, Misranlia, Dargaha, Kathawa, Nakhah, Siktia, Jzura, Navanda Mulatic embankments can breach anytime. We have spent lakhs of rupees on Nakhaha ring dam. When I enquired from the Chief Engineer, he stated that he did not have funds to purchase sand bags. If this ring dam bursts then, whole Champaran will be swamped by severe flood. Scores of cattle have died and vulchers and scavengers are eating their corpses which may cause an epidemic.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, last year some money was given for the repair work of embankments. I have come back after visiting that area. This embankment starts from Balmiki Nagar and stretches upto the area to which Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh belongs. This embankment has not been repaired for the last 10-11 years. The Government did allocate funds but these funds were never spent owing to widespread corruption as a result of which this embankments have developed breaches at several places.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, leakage from the breaches in Nadava embankment were continuing for several days, however, the Irrigation Department did not pay any heed. So much of water was discharged in the Gandak down stream for the very first time since 1952. Shri Jha Saheb was stating that it was for the first time that as much as 4 lakh 10 thousand cusecs of water was released from the barrage since 1978 and next day 5 lakh cusecs of water was released as a result of which one lakh population of Champaran was badly swamped. The Sikrana river has developed cracks at several places and it is continuing. Thousands of people from Bardaha, Koral, Pakadidayal, Manpurva, Domaghat and Lahladpur villages have taken shelter at the dam. Bagmati river, notorious for its devastating floods caused a severe flood breaking link between Sitamarhi and Sheohar. The National highway No. 77 remained blocked and Darbhanga Raxsaul rail section was closed for 24 hours.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I stated earlier such matter should

[Shri Radha Mohan Singh]

not be viewed from party politics angle. I am citing a news report that appeared in Patna edition of the Hindustan on 4.8.2001 and I, through you, would like to invite the attention of the entire House to it. The title of the news story is – "Rabri ke grah jila ko ek crore mila" Gopalganj was also affected however, Sitamarhi was the worst hit...*(Interruptions)* The state Government released an amount of 2 crore and 25 lakhs on 3rd August for flood hit area out of which one crore rupee was provided to the home district of Smt. Rabri Devi i.e. Gopalganj alone. The Indian Army has provided a helicopter to the State Government which will be dropping relief packets in Gopalganj from tomorrow morning onwards. The relief commissioner, Shri Shankar informed the journalists that Gopalganj and Sitamarhi are the worst hit of the flood. On receiving SOS message from the district administration of Sitamarhi, the Government released 50 lakhs of rupees. Gopalganj received one crore of rupees, that is good. Shri Prabhunath Singh ji was asking me to speak as he believes that Shri Jha Saheb has had close and cordial relations with Smt. Rabri Devi and keeping that in mind, one crore rupees were given. I also believe that that area has been devastated. That is home district of Smt. Rabri Devi, it is O.K. if money has been provided for that area...*(Interruptions)* The SOS message was also received from Sitamarhi and Sheohar district which have been hit hard by the flood. You may verify from records since 1952 that Sitamarhi and Sheohar in Bihar are hit every year by devastating floods of Bagmati river. However, this kind of discrimination is unjust and uncalled for.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hardly any year passed in Bihar where there are no floods. This year too, people are suffering from floods. Kamla, Bhuthibalan, Gangan, Punpun Kosi, Mahananda, Badhi Gandak and Advara group of rivers have caused havoc in this area. Hon'ble Member Smt. Shyama Singh was speaking while mentioning the names of river. Aurangabad also experiences floods but Central Bihar funds drought. You might not have visited the area, you may be right however, I was saying something else.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : This is a natural calamity. At places it is flood, at other it is drought.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : I have got confused after listening to your speech. Smt. Shyama Singh was stating that 15 districts have been affected badly and 17 districts have been hit by floods. Embankments should be

built there so as to stop the erosion. After listening to all this, a little confusion has been created...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : My revered father would always be remembered for the great work he has done in this area...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pappu Yadav, please sit down.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Sir, entire north Bihar is badly affected by floods. Central Bihar is affected by drought and the flood in north Bihar has come after the drought. Therefore, I would like to say that in fact, it is like rubbing salt to the wound, same way, people of north Bihar have been treated. This really hurts. There is fear of floods every year. However, no preparations are made in advance to tackle the problem. It is not that the flood has come all of a sudden in 1995 or 2001. It is rather an annual feature. Strange enough, no advance arrangements are made to tackle the problem of flood nor is there any proposal to formulate a long term plan to control floods. It is right that natural disasters cannot be predicted, however, north Bihar experiences flood every year caused by the rivers flowing from Nepal, however, it is very unfortunate that this issue has not been considered seriously even after 53 years of independence. We must talk to the Government of Nepal for controlling floods and I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister for talking to the Prime Minister of Nepal for the first time and thereafter his Advisor visited Nepal followed by Secretary level talks in which the water resources Secretary of Bihar was also included. Sir, we must have more round of talks with Nepal. Shri Akhileshji was also stating the same thing...*(Interruptions)* This is true that officers have expert knowledge on the subject but the representatives of these areas should also be included in the talks whenever they take place.

Sir, the economic condition of Bihar has worsened after its division, Sir, you as well the entire House is well aware of the level of corruption in Bihar. Shooting incident involving the flood victims is also linked with corruption. I would like to bring it to the notice of the House. When the people of Orai area in Muzaffarpur went to take ration, they were given less ration and were lathicharged on protesting against it and next day they were subjected to bullets when they went to lodge their complaints. This issue is to be pondered over and even the Government is admitting it. I am not saying it on my own I would like to cite a news report appearing in today's 'Danik Jagaran' and I read it out :

"The incident of police firing in Oral block occurred due to administrative negligence. As many as six people were killed and more than four dozens injured."

However, only four dead bodies have been recovered. The State Government has ordered an inquiry into the incident. The intelligence department has in its special report sent to the Government, stated that there was a dispute between the administrative officers and the flood affected people in regard to the irregularities in distribution of flood relief materials just one day before the incident."

Sir, Raghuvansh Babu has also accepted that corruption is at its peak in Bihar irrespective of any developmental work to be carried out there. It will be surprising for the House to know that Bihar is such a State where the ruling party members take commission even from the pension funds meant for the handicapped persons and they are taking commission from relief funds also. 8 k.g. of wheat as against 10 k.g. is being provided as relief. When there are cases of natural calamities, it should not be an issue of the Centre and the State. It is the fundamental duty and constitutional obligation of the State Governments to provide relief and the centre has the right to help them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now Akhilesh Prasad Singh was telling that no help has been provided to Bihar. I am just talking about this House itself. Last time when the discussion on flood was being held here, Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji said that the share of the Central Relief Fund was not released, but he did not say as to why it was not released. Even after repeated requests the Government of Bihar did not open a separate account. The then hon. Minister of Agriculture Nitish Kumarji had highlighted this fact in the House as to why the C.R.F. was not released on frequent requests made by Nitish Kumarji to the Government of Bihar, the account was ultimately opened. And since the account was opened belatedly, the fund was also released belatedly. This is not the issue concerning the centre or the State, rather this is the issue of humanity and the issue of complacency on the part of the Government of Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last 11 years the Central Government has been helping a lot to the Government of Bihar no repair work in Bihar was done rather the money meant for it has gone to the pockets of leaders. Through you I would like to request that there should be an inquiry

in this regard and a central team should be sent to the State to investigate the matter. A separate assistance should be provided to Bihar for flood relief.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a big region of the country is in the grip of natural calamities and which cannot be tackled with casual efforts. Therefore, some concrete decision ought to be taken. I would like to request that there should be no slackness in regard to this issue either on the part of State Governments or the Central Government. This matter should not be neglected otherwise it may have a dangerous consequences.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is something unfortunate for Bihar. This is because Bihar was recently hit by drought followed by flood. The problem is further compounded when the Members sitting on that side... they do not give voice to the suffering of the people. This amount adding to the adversities. You can well imagine the severity of the situation prevailing in Bihar and being faced by the people. The natural calamity is there but the attitude of these people is also callous...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir... whether this is not unparliamentary?...(Interruptions)

[English]

Mr. CHAIRMAN : The parliamentary express may be expunged.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this House we want to apprise the country of the problems of the people. People know it and also sympathise, but these Members interrupt to add to the problem...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Members have said and there is also a report in this regard according to which out of the total damage caused due to flood in the entire country 40 percent it is in Bihar alone. Why is it so?...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, those Members do not get a chance to speak and that is why they are assigned the task of interrupting me during the speech...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly speak about flood situation and nothing else.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the severity of the problem being faced by the people of Bihar is reflected in the restlessness of those people. The elected public representatives...* they do not raise the problems of the people in this Supreme House which is meant for that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my first allegation against the hon. Prime Minister is that he has behaved with Bihar in an indifferent manner...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The discussion is on flood situation.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly address the Chair.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Can the hon. Prime Minister get a separate account opened?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down and let him speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Bihar Legislature is bicameral. Both of the Houses there passed a unanimous resolution and an all party delegation wanted to meet the Prime Minister. Two letters were written to the Prime Minister. The hon. Chief Minister of Bihar requested the Prime Minister on the behest of the hon. Members of the Bihar legislative that an all party delegation of Bihar legislative...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You speak your turn.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The Members of the Bihar Legislature wanted to meet the Prime Minister to discuss about the damage being caused every year due to flood. These are two authenticated letters which I lay on the table of the House**. The hon. Prime Minister did not

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**As the Speaker subsequently did not accord the necessary permission the Papers were not treated as Laid on the Table.

have time to hear the problems of the people of Bihar. This is my allegation number one...(Interruptions)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : The Government of Bihar has not made any demand. Giving appointment is a separate thing...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : No report has come from there so far...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you speaking for him? You please sit down.

(interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : You belong to the ruling party. You should act...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will be verified.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should only pay attention to us...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Allegation number two—there was also flood in Orissa. Last year, Uttar Pradesh witnessed flood. The hon. Prime Minister had made an aerial survey of Orissa but he made no such survey of Bihar last year and even this year...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Definitely he will be short. Do not give him any leverage.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Allegation number 3—when there was flood in Orissa a sum of rupees one hundred crore was initially provided and later on a sum of rupees three hundred crore was provided and there was an instruction to release the amount quickly without obtaining any report...(Interruptions) Let Orissa get more but the fact remains that there has been discrimination against Orissa at the time when it was hit by cyclone.

Allegation number four is that the attitude of Central Government is discriminatory and indifferent towards the non-N.D.A. ruled State Governments...(Interruptions)

Allegation number five...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : This is a major allegation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (JAMSHEDPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he can present his view point but cannot levy allegations. This is unfair...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can refute the allegation. You please sit, down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will also speak when you get your turn.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The allegation number six...*(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : Where is allegation No.5?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Devastation is caused in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh by international rivers, for which the Government of India is responsible. The Government has not given any funds for flood control so far...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you disturbing him? Let him speak.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, no money has been given by them for flood control. Now an agreement is being signed between India and Nepal. International rivers cause havoc in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Is it within the jurisdiction and capacity of the State Government to prevent floods and sign an agreement. Not a single penny has been given this year as relief by them. This is my claim that the amount of relief distributed in Bihar alone is more than the amount of relief distributed all over India and this relief is distributed by the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should not speak while sitting.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Those who do politics in the name of relief are sitting there.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : This country is in dire straits under your Government.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (BIJNOR) : What have you done in 45 years? The Congressmen should not speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (GOPALGANJ) : Shyamaji is in advantageous position from both sides.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is drought, it is said in India, that farming is like gambling, if monsoon is O.K. then crops will be all right, if it is not then the Government would be exposed of inadequate irrigation facilities. There was no arrangement for irrigation therefore drought has occurred. There was no arrangement for flood control therefore flood has struck. But flood and drought both cause devastation and people suffer there from. Flood devastates standing crop of farmers. Farmers do not get two square meals a day and they carry out agricultural operations, they do all the labour but their crops get damaged or washed away due to flood. Secondly the houses of the poor get washed away or get submerged. The poor shifts to roads or elevated places with children or gets drowned. In such a situation his concern is fodder for cattle, there is a lack of boats for transportation. Roads get damaged and Government property is destroyed. Roads remain damaged for rest of the year. All these problems crop up after flood. Now the affect of flood is less as there is flood in the river Gandak only. It will be followed by floods in the river Ganga. Every year floods affect 26-27 districts. 40 per cent of the population of India is affected due to floods. In Bihar alone, crores of people are affected by floods. These are the problems but you people have not been able to convey the sufferings of people. We have learnt from Dr. Lohia, Late Karpuri Thakur and Chaudhari Charan Singh who were our leaders, that whatever for it may be, whichever kind of persons may be there, we must give voice to the concern of crores of people. The politics of farmers come to the centre stage with these leaders. When Dr. Lohia was ill and admitted in the hospital, he had said that we should look for a person who can give voice to the crores of people who are poor, living in villages and who are suffering. This is the supreme House, their concerns should be raised here. People are suffering there and when the question was raised here then the Minister of State visited there. In the case of Orissa announcement regarding relief was made without a visit and here a team will go for assess-

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

ment. Every year team visits there, recent, hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has been changed. During the drought Nitish Kumar had visited there.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : Sir, I have a point of order.

[Translation]

Just now, the hon'ble Member has said that no body has visited Orissa, it is not correct. In Orissa, the State Government have a flood and Agriculture department and they have assessed the situation. We have received a report from them which was later presented to the Prime Minister. Thereafter the Prime Minister visited there personally and gave Rs. 100 crore. Therefore to say that nobody visited Orissa is not correct. The hon. Member should equip him with full facts before speaking...
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL) : In the memorandum, the Chief Minister of Orissa has himself admitted that it is eye estimation. They are going to send a detailed memorandum after the water recedes...
(Interruptions)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, he is misleading the House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR) : Is Orissa not a part of India...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your turn has not come yet. You should speak when you are given a chance.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Orissa should get Rs. 1000 crore in place of Rs. 400 crore, but the Government of India should give assistance in similar proportion on the basis of damage in non-NDA ruled states also and no discrimination should be committed. A policy should be framed and appropriate action should be taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over. Please conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, I am going to conclude but before that I would like to make a last point. I suggest that there should be an agreement between India and Nepal and some concrete action should be taken to control floods. The Government of India should make arrangements to check floods because the rivers originating in Nepal and flowing towards India are causing devastation in Bihar. Sometime back the inter-state Water Disputes Bill was introduced in the House. A similar Bill should also be brought forward to solve international water disputes and accordingly India and Nepal should sign an agreement and the expenditure in this regard should be borne by India. The Union Government should render full assistance to the State Government in providing relief to the victims of floods. The share of Bihar in the relief fund should be released immediately. In addition to this, the Union Government should also ensure that the State is not affected by drought. Proper arrangements for irrigation should also be made in the state.

The people of Bihar are fed up with the Union Government due to discrimination done against the State. The Chief Minister of Bihar has written a letter to the Union Finance Minister to release immediately the share of funds allocated by the Eleventh Finance Commission to the State. The allocated amount of fund has been divided between Bihar and Jharkhand. The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended that for floods amount would be provided from the Natural calamity Fund and division would be made on the basis of loss suffered during the last ten years and expenditure incurred during the said period. But the Finance Minister has not done justice to Bihar. There fourth population of undivided Bihar has remained in Bihar and one fourth of that has gone to Jharkhand whereas the area of both the States is almost equal. Therefore, criteria of allocation should be population instead of area. The amount of funds allocated out of the Natural calamity fund should be divided accordingly. I have raised this issue with the hon'ble Prime Minister as well as with the hon'ble Finance Minister. I authenticate the three letters written by the Chief Minister of Bihar to the hon'ble Finance Minister and lay them on the Table of the House*. This should be deliberated upon and the share of Bihar should not be reduced. The people sitting on that side of the House want that Bihar be left on its fate because they intend to do politics over it...(Interruptions) But the people

*As the Speaker subsequently did not accord necessary permission, the paper were not treated as Laid on the Table.

of Bihar know how to fight for their rights. Democracy took its in Bihar first. The political developments in Bihar will have repercussions in Delhi...(Interruptions) We will uproot this anti people government at any cost.

With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a submission to make...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji has said that these people have no base at the grassroot level in Bihar. In this regard I would like to say that I have won elections three times as an independent candidate despite Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav's sustained canvassing against me. He lived in a camp for seventeen days to defeat me...(Interruptions) He is not aware of it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (JAGATSINGHPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this distressing condition of different States which have been affected by flood and drought. Orissa deserves a special dispensation; but I shall come to it later. I request the hon. Members of the House, on both the sides, through you, to kindly consider this aspect as to why and how Orissa deserves a special dispensation from the Centre.

I fully agree with my friends Shri Ramesh Chennithala and Shri Suresh Kurup that the new meteorological and hydrological developments in Kerala should be investigated and they should be scientifically studied. But they should not join issue with Orissa and Orissa's plight. Orissa is abundantly rich in natural resources but it is unfortunately a land with natural calamities and neglect.

Today I am not taking you back to 1866 of *Naanka Durviksha* which had taken away about one-third of its population. I am only telling you and giving you the history, the picture and the facts of the last five years, including the

killer super cyclone of 1999. In 1997 the western part of Orissa was completely affected by serious drought. In 1998 Orissa was affected by heat wave causing death of more than 1,500 people in the entire State of Orissa. In 1999 the killer super cyclone came and deluded everything. Sixteen of 30 districts were affected very badly and very seriously in 1999. Again in 2000 the western part of Orissa was affected by serious drought.

In this year, what happened in Orissa was not a flood but it was a deluge. Sir, I have been hearing with rapt attention the speeches of hon. Members here. I tell you that in Orissa the devastation is unprecedented. I am telling you as to how it has happened. If you look at the normal rainfall, in Sambhalpur the normal rainfall in the month of July is 469 millimetres. But do you know how much rain it received in the month of July this year? This year, in the month of July, it has received 1,063 millimetres of rain, that is 126 per cent more than the normal rainfall.

In Sonpur, it is 135 per cent more than the normal rainfall. Similarly, in Cuttack, it is more than 117 per cent and in Kalahandi, which is known for drought and is shown in the world map as drought prone area, the normal rainfall in the month of July should have been 343 mm against which it was 1010 mm i.e. 194 per cent more. It is a deluge; it is an extensive devastation; it is a catastrophe, it is not a flood. When my friends from Kerala and Bihar are joining issues with Orissa with regard to the relief operation there or grant from the Centre, I would request them not to do so at the plight of others. There may be floods here and there or there may be something else, but in Orissa, it is not like that.

Sir, in the super-cyclone which hit Orissa in 1999, 14 districts were affected and this year's deluge has seriously affected 24 out of 30 districts. Eighty-five lakh people have been affected. Out of 307 blocks, 199 blocks are affected. Out of 2,429 Gram Panchayats, 16,000 villages are affected. Eighty-four out of 102 urban local bodies are seriously affected. Crops standing on seventeen lakh hectares of land have been totally damaged. Houses and cattle of more than three lakh families belonging to marginal farmers and agricultural labourers have either been washed away or razed to the ground. More than 100 people have died and more than 15,000 cattle and other domestic animals of economic importance are reported to have been lost. This is the position in Orissa so far as the devastation caused by flood is concerned.

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

My friend, Shri Chennithala was telling about the super-cyclone. We had told categorically here in this House in 1999 that Shri Giridhar Gamang was the Chief Minister and he was an honest man. Today also, I repeat that he is a good man and he is an honest man. But he was surrounded by a galaxy, by an army of corrupt people due to which the entire relief operation was mishandled at that time. I throw a challenge if any body can refute that it is not true. This has been investigated also. This has not only been investigated, but the C&AG has also given its report on that. The C&AG has given a report that all the things had been mishandled.

My point is let the facts be clear. The Cabinet Secretary had gone there on the request of the Chief Minister of Orissa. The Central Team had gone there. Then, on the basis of their reports, Rs. 100 crore were released. Then, the Prime Minister went. Anybody who would have seen Orissa on the 19th, 20th and 21st from the air, he would have seen Orissa as a part of the Indian Ocean, full of water. There was water everywhere. That was the position in Orissa at that time. Then, the Prime Minister went and gave some relief, but that was too meagre. Orissa deserves a special dispensation. I call upon Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh through you not to join issue with Orissa.

So far as Orissa's own revenue is concerned, 93 per cent of its own revenue goes back and is spent on debt clearance, both as interest payment and capital repayment. I request, through you, all the hon. Members of this House to tell me the name of a single State, other than the special category States, where so much of money, 93 per cent of its revenue, is spent on debt clearance. There is no such State.

Orissa does not have the finances for that reason. Therefore, Orissa deserves a special dispensation. They have enough natural resources, but year after year, Orissa is being affected by natural calamities. That adversely affects the economy of Orissa. Otherwise, Orissa would not have depended upon the Centre.

I want to give some suggestions to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India. Let us be very frank. Last time, we were telling in this House that Lord Jagannath comes first for the people of Orissa and next to Lord Jagannath, we were praying to Chandrababu Naidu. Yes, we were doing this at the time

of super-cyclone. However, let me tell you, Sir, this time the relief operations were handled in such a manner that even the Opposition friends have confided to me that it was marvellously handled. The only reason for that, is one hundred per cent honesty. Shri Giridhar Gamang is a honest man, but he was surrounded by such a group of people that the relief operations were not done properly. Thanks go to Naveen Patnaik and his Council of Ministers.

Sir, I have a few suggestions to make. Let me tell all those Members who were saying that some partiality was shown towards Orissa that it was not at all correct...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU : He is talking about facts and not gimmicks.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly suggest whatever you want to suggest. Please stick to the point.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, you were not disturbing the other speakers. Kindly bear with me for two or three minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your suggestions are valuable. Let them go on record. Therefore, give your suggestions.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Firstly, Rs. 1,000 crore should be granted for the restoration and reconstruction work. Do you know that 742 breaches in river embankments have occurred? Therefore, we are requesting for release of Rs. 1,000 crore for reconstruction and restoration work. The reconstruction work of super cyclone has not yet been completed because of certain facts. At that time, some units under the Indira Awas Yojana were granted, and 25 per cent of the cost was to be borne by Orissa. But Orissa was not in a position to give that 25 per cent share. That is the financial position of Orissa. Therefore, I request the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Agriculture, without insisting for any share from the State Government, at least, three lakh houses should be granted to Orissa so that the mud houses could be rebuilt. The cattle population form the lifeline of poor marginal farmers and agricultural labourers. For that reason, I say that cattle-sheds should be reconstructed and money should be made available for that.

My second point is that there should be a moratorium on debt clearance for a period of three years so that Orissa

can stand on its own legs and will not have to beg the Centre further.

Sir, there should be re-scheduling of repayments both the Central Government as well as of the open market loans so that the debt clearance would not be more than 20 per cent of the State's own revenue. It would help to strengthen the public finance position of the State and it can help the people in their distress.

Sir, next I come to Plan assistance. I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister that Plan assistance from the Centre should be converted in a manner so that ten per cent is by way of loan, and 90 is by way of grant for a period of ten years, as it is done for special category States. For Orissa, we ask for such dispensation for ten years only.

Sir, the projects under 'Food for work' should be liberally assisted up to February till the harvest of next *Rabi* season. Added to that, the embankments that are weak should be re-constructed and strengthened in such a manner that in future there would not be any fear of floods havoc in the State.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, drought and flood situation in the country is the subject for discussion today. This is not for the first time that the entire country is witnessing this situation. Only about a year back we had the devastating experience of an earthquake in Gujarat and a super cyclone in the State of Orissa. We have been experiencing flood in Orissa, in Bihar and in other parts of the country. Simultaneously we also have been witnessing severe drought conditions in different parts of the country.

Sir, I think, the monitoring system that has been evolved for tackling such natural calamities is a system of distributing financial assistance from the Central Government from the Central Relief Fund. Take for example the case of Karnataka. The amount is hardly Rs. 27 to Rs. 29 crore. We cannot meet the situation that we are experiencing in the State with this meagre amount. We have been witnessing similar situations else where, like in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and other areas, in the country.

Sir, I would like to concentrate only to my State, Karnataka. Out of 175 *talukas* of Karnataka 146 *talukas*

have been very severely affected by drought. There had been very scanty rainfall in the region. Though we have experienced rain in certain areas, yet that was not sufficient at all. About 118 *Talukas* are reeling under a dry spell. Even the pre-monsoon rainfall recorded in the month of May, 2001 is the lowest in the recent past. If we compare the conditions of the past, drought situation experienced in the State in the years of 1972 and 1983, then we would see that the present situation is much worse than those. The situation has already assumed alarming proportions.

People have started leaving their villages. They are going to other places in search of work. In the midst of the monsoon, barring a small area that is under irrigation, there is hardly any part of the State which is not suffering. About two-thirds of the entire State is suffering. Small and marginal farmers are very much affected on account of this. Sown areas actually account for nearly a little more than one-third of the entire area in Karnataka.

As far as drinking water is concerned, out of 28,274 villages in the State about 9,000 villages have been affected by lack of drinking water. Out of 208 towns, about 83 towns have been completely affected by this problem. I do not know what would happen in future. This problem is going to acquire a bigger dimension in the near future resulting in a lot of worries not only for the people of the State but also for the people of the entire country. About seven lakh small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers are completely affected.

Recently a study team visited Karnataka. That team has either submitted its report today, or is going to submit its report to the Government today or tomorrow. An all-party delegation led by the Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri S.M. Krishna, which included the Members of Parliament from Karnataka cutting across party lines, met the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Agriculture Minister. The Prime Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation. He responded positively to our requests.

Providing moneys out of the Natural Calamity Fund in advance is not the answer for this problem. In addition to this what we actually want is an immediate release of Rs. 100 crore as the first instalment of relief. I request the Government to make an allocation to the State of one lakh tonnes of foodgrains free of cost under food for work programme. I also request the Government to make an allocation of two lakh tonnes of fodder for cattle. These are

[Shri S. Bangarappa]

the immediate needs of the State that are required to be attended to. There has been an acute fodder shortage in the State. To provide employment opportunities to the people in the affected areas also requires a lot of money. We have just started experiencing the effects of a dry spell now. I think that very bad days are ahead of us in the months of November-December. This will go into the next year also till there is a good rainfall during the course of the next year's rainy season.

I, therefore, would suggest to the Government of India to release an assistance of Rs.100 crore immediately and then make arrangements to release foodgrains under the food for work programme. Hon. Minister of Agriculture and the hon. Minister of Rural Development are sitting

here. I urge them and the other Ministers concerned to immediately take action and come to the aid of Karnataka and other parts of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The extended time is going to be over within one minute's time. What is the sense of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Let us take it up tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11A.M.

19.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 9, 2001/Sravana 18, 1923 (Saka).

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