

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 13, 2002/Phalguna 22, 1923 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (FIROZABAD) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a statement of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh has been published in the newspapers. It is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, the Governor should not have said like that. He is head of the constitutionally elected State on behalf of the Union Government. When the Prime Minister has made his stand clear, how can the Governor take a different stand? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please raise the issue in Zero Hour after the Question Hour. I will give you time then.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have received a threatening letter from Indore wherein threats of killing me has been made. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will allow you during Zero Hour.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Credit Guarantee Scheme

*141. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Credit Guarantee Scheme started in July, 2000 for Small and Tiny sector has brought some results;

(b) whether the said scheme was meant for setting up new units and upgradation of existing units; and

(c) if so, the State-wise amount sanctioned and disbursed specially to Bihar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries was launched in August, 2000 to provide guarantee cover for collateral free loans upto Rs.25 lakhs to the new and existing small scale industrial units. As on 28th February, 2002, 2824 small scale industrial units have been provided guarantee cover on loans amounting to Rs.2853.93 lakhs. These units employing 7416 persons are estimated to have production of Rs. 15800 lakhs and exports of Rs.259 lakhs.

(c) The details of loans guaranteed under the Scheme in the State/UT including Bihar are given in the Annexure enclosed.

Annexure

*State/UT-wise details of loan amount covered under
Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small
Industries since inception*

S.No.	State/UT	Loan amount guaranteed (Rs. in lakhs) (as on 8th February, 2002)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.98
2.	Andhra Pradesh	278.62
3.	Assam	106.38
4.	Bihar	46.52
5.	Chhattisgarh	46.01
6.	Delhi	8.45
7.	Goa	10.20
8.	Gujarat	60.22

1	2	3
9.	Haryana	54.33
10.	Himachal Pradesh	42.96
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	10.99
12.	Jharkhand	67.99
13.	Karnataka	352.72
14.	Kerala	175.38
15.	Madhya Pradesh	185.30
16.	Maharashtra	331.86
17.	Manipur	15.20
18.	Meghalaya	1.47
19.	Nagaland	0.15
20.	Orissa	22.96
21.	Punjab	95.97
22.	Rajasthan	59.95
23.	Sikkim	0.90
24.	Tamil Nadu	400.24
25.	Uttar Pradesh	424.88
26.	Uttaranchal	3.26
27.	West Bengal	49.04
Total		2853.93

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I congratulate hon. Minister for implementing a welfare scheme for small scale industries from the month of August, 2000. The concern of the Government for small scale industries is justified in view of the challenges being passed by global institutions and its adverse impact on our small scale industries. Government is making efforts in that direction. I would congratulate hon. Minister for launching a credit card scheme for small entrepreneurs. Besides, the enhancement of the corpus of the composite fund from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.20

lakh may also be lauded. But, through you, I want to ask the hon. Minister that the credit guarantee scheme, wherein the role of Banks is most important and the role of lending institutions be they banks, or financial institutions. ...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Paswan ji, please ask the question.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN : My first question relates to the fact that the participation of lending institutions has been made optional and not a mandatory. What I want to know is whether the Government have a proposal to make the participation of lending institutions including banks mandatory in view of the profits of the scheme especially for the society and the industry. This is my question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a long question. Answer it in brief.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : It is true that as far as small scale industries are concerned, we have had a problem overtime. As far as credit facilities were concerned, firstly, we did not get adequate credit facilities and secondly, they had to pay huge collateral even to access many of them. So, keeping in this in mind, on 30th August of last year, the Prime Minister announced a comprehensive policy package in which he announced a particular credit guarantee scheme which would be monitored by a Trust in which the Government of India and SIDBI would be members. That Trust would monitor the credit guarantee cover for banks making banks more comfortable to lend to the small industries. We began with a corpus of Rs.125 crore which has gone over to Rs.250 crore now. I believe that in the five years, we will have over Rs.1000 crore to lend out.

Sir, there were certain problems to begin with.

That was because there was a scheme for credit before also where the banks had some problems with the industry. But now we have a comprehensive Credit Scheme and in this Scheme we are providing the Credit Guarantee Cover which was not provided before. I think with that there would be a certain level of satisfaction as far as banks are concerned. We already have 26 banks and lending institutions which are now part of a Credit Guarantee Trust. To begin with, I would say, there were not more than seven or eight institutions. We had to create a lot of awareness to be able to get more banks to come on board. But as they came on board, we have been able to do more lending, we can see that from the figures, and we expect this lending rate will go up. More money will be taken and implementation will improve. The banks' mindsets have also changed, thanks to this Credit Guarantee

Scheme. I think this Scheme, which has already taken off well, will probably do well in times to come.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the interest shown by the banks during the last one and a half years is not encouraging. In Delhi, the national capital, only Rs.8 lakh as grants have been provided for five units. The progress made in one and a half years does not point to a bright future. For 39 schemes in Bihar, Rs.46 lakh have been provided. The attitude and the mindsets of the banks are not clear in this matter. The department of the hon. Minister is not directly concerned with the bank but whether that which is directly concerned, is doing something about it? The scheme is good and likely to result in advantages. Do you know that the small scale industry Ministry have control over banks? If, the schemes drawn by banks, fail then what will be the responsibility of the banks and what action will be taken against them? If their schemes relating to unemployment or the bail out of small scale industries fails, then whether her Ministry would have control over them? That I want to know from the hon. Minister.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, I have a Table here showing the State-wise and size-wise analyses of the proposals which were given for the guarantee cover. We can see that in the last seven or eight months, the loan range has gone from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 20,00,000 to Rs. 25,00,000. That is a large amount. Today, we have given loans to some 2,824 units. But then the units have to approach the banks and the banks, after they satisfy themselves, immediately approach the Credit Guarantee Trust. The Credit Guarantee Trust, after looking into the parameters, within a day or two extends or does not extend the credit guarantee cover to them.

As far as monitoring is concerned, there is a very major system in place. The progress of the Scheme is monitored by the Ministry and also by the Trust on a monthly basis. We also have the National Advisory Committee which reviews the implementation of this Scheme. It is headed by Chairman, SIDBI. It has the members from the RBI; it has Indian Banks' Association on Board; it has SSI Associations; and it has SSI entrepreneurs so that all necessary feedback comes to the SSI Ministry. The Indian Banks Review Forum also exists. This assists in the implementation of the Scheme through the coordination of the banking industry and the Trust. This interaction is very important and regular with the bank so that we can understand the difficulty and also improve the implementation. But apart from this we also have the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry which has

taken a great deal of interest in this and had already reviewed the credit flows to the SSI twice in the last year. The Finance Minister himself has taken meetings with the banks in the last four or five months to see that the mindsets have changed and to see that credit flow to SSIs is improved.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY : Sir, the industries in general and the small scale industries in particular are sinking and declining. We know that the country, far and wide, has got huge number of small scale industries, lakhs and lakhs of industries. While I appreciate the conceiving of this Scheme, I am very much afraid whether the Scheme has done anything substantial at all. From the Statement, I am able to see that they are able to assist only two thousand eight hundred and odd units as against lakhs and lakhs of Industries.

The amount involved is only Rs.28 crore and odd. When the country is filled with lakhs and lakhs of industries, they are able to touch upon on only a few thousand industries, I mean, two thousand and odd industries. The amount involved is also very meagre. According to me, whatever may be the concept, I am yet to see whether it has really taken off or not. In two long years, they are able to assist only a few industries involving an amount of Rs.28 crore only. In a country like this, ours, this being the position, do we mean to say that they have done anything substantial? Whatever may be given here, the facts go to show that they have assisted the industries only to the extent of 2800 and odd.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the scheme itself is defective or whether there is something basically wrong in the implementation of the scheme. This is the first question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can ask only one supplementary question.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : I have just explained to the hon. Member and I should do that again that this is a scheme which came into being only in the end of the year 2000 through the Special Policy Package for the SSI which the hon. Prime Minister announced in August, 2000. The Credit Guarantee Trust itself came into being in January, 2001. The banks started to come on board slowly after that. They also have their own procedural difficulties to join the Credit Guarantee Trust. They would have taken three or four months. In the beginning, we operated with only seven or eight banks. It is a very small number. The Credit Guarantee Trust has actually taken off only about four or five months ago. Now, we have 26 lending institutions along with the banks. The SBI has joined only in January, 2002. So, if you actually look at it, the working has been only in the last four or five months. There has been a slow and steady improvement. We are all very

hopeful of this. Because of the monitoring mechanism that we have put in place, we do believe that there is a lot of scope for the scheme. We have begun modestly. But we do feel that the scope is enormous. We will be able to cover that in times to come.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that under Cash Guarantee Scheme, only Rs.60.22 lakh as assistance have been provided to Gujarat. Madam, you are aware of the situation in Gujarat. A devastating earthquake occurred there during the last year and each year it is ravaged by one calamity or the other. Under the scheme, the assistance of Rs.2853.92 lakh has been provided to India as a whole and out of it Gujarat has been provided only Rs.60.22 lakh. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether she would instruct the banks to provide maximum assistance to small entrepreneurs as and when they come to set up small scale industries in Gujarat or whether she would make efforts to ensure that the small entrepreneurs of Gujarat get maximum assistance from banks?

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : As the hon. Member knows that Gujarat was going through its major earthquake problem, the Ministry of SSI was one of the Ministries that came forward to work out a package with the State Government. We offered them a package of Rs.350 crore which would be monitored at the State level by the Secretary, Industries himself. This was a very major calamity. We helped out in whatever way we could. But the fact is that this is not a scheme which is being handled by the Central Government or the State Governments but it is being handled by the Credit Guarantee Trust, of which the lending members are the banks and the institutions. The SSI entrepreneurs can borrow the money from the banks through the Credit Guarantee Trust. It has got nothing to do with the State Government. It has got nothing to do with the Centre except for the facilitation that we provided for them. If more people go there, we will be very much happy to be able to provide the facilitation and to provide them the loans through the Credit Guarantee Scheme provided they come within the parameters of that.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, through you, I would request the hon. Minister to do one thing. The facts revealed in the reply and the situation prevailing in the country are both deplorable. We have more than six lakh small scale industries in this country. For that matter, we have got no census and also we have made no survey. The Department of Small Scale Industries has not made a comprehensive survey of how many units are there in the small scale sector. The approximate estimate is about six lakhs.

Out of six lakh units, only 2,824 units have come under this scheme and the amount paid is only Rs.259 lakh. The credit guarantee comes into play only after the credit is given.

The hon. Minister says that the mindset of the bank is going to be changed. This has been happening for the last so many years but the mindset is still blocked. Banks are not coming forward and the estimate is that even less than 15 per cent of the small-scale industries are in the bankers' net. My question to the hon. Minister is this. Would the Government give a definite target to each and every branch of the banks to go out to help these small-scale industries? Would the Government fix a mandate to the effect that this much of money would have to be given to the small-scale industries and to bring in at least 50 per cent of the small-scale industries into the ambit of the banks? The amount given for over six lakh industries is Rs.2,853 lakh, that is, Rs.28 crore.

My humble question to the hon. Minister is this. Would the Government, instead of waiting for the mindset to change, give mandate and definite orders to the effect that this much of money has to be given by each bank to each industry?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : First of all, I would just like to say that number of units in the SSI sector is actually very large. It is not exactly six lakhs, it is 33 lakhs in the country today. I would also like to say that it is true that we do not keep figures within the Ministry of SSI, that is because the Ministry of SSI is a very young Ministry. It came into being only two years ago. So, we have to depend on figures which have been given to us by the RBI. I have to tell you that last year the figures which were given by the RBI was 3,04,000 sick units and this year it has dropped to 2,49,000 sick units. So, there has been an improvement. I believe that to some extent improvement is there because of the fact that the Credit Guarantee Scheme has begun to work.

I would have to say over here very clearly that because it is a new scheme, three major things have to be taken into account. Firstly, the acceptability of the scheme comes into the minds of people. Secondly, the spread of the scheme, and thirdly, the awareness of the scheme. To begin with, the awareness is very limited. The spread of the scheme, in terms of the number of banks, is very limited. Now, acceptability has grown. The number of banks that joined us has increased, and I believe that there is room for much more improvement.

As far as the Census is concerned, I would also agree with you completely that it is not a good idea to just depend on figures which are given to us. Of course, the figures of RBI are unimpeachable normally. But, I would like to tell you that the SSI Ministry has now undertaken a comprehensive Census which would take us one year to complete but in that Census

we would be covering a whole gamut of things, including as to how much sickness exist and as to how much closures actually were effected.

SHRI A.C. JOS : What about the instructions to be given to the banks in this regard, Mr. Minister?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : I would take care of that.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unemployment is increasing alarmingly in India. According to the statement of the hon. Minister, 33 lakh small-scale industries are there in India. This scheme is applicable to new industries as well as old industries. What are the guidelines issued by the Government of India? How much percentage has been earmarked for the small-scale industries? Are the banks following the directions issued by the Government of India for the last three years? If not, what are the reasons for not following the guidelines by the banks?

Even the Government of India is providing guarantee for the big industries like power. Even the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board is giving guarantee. The State Government and the Central Government are also giving guarantees for the banks to the tune of Rs.1,000 or Rs.2,000 crore.

Even they will provide employment to 100 people only with an investment of Rs. 2,000 crore. If you provide credit guarantee of Rs. 25 lakh to the service sector small scale industry, when that industry comes up, 50 persons will be employed in that. This is the scenario in the country now. Taking all these aspects into consideration, the Government of India, through the Ministry of Small Scale Industries, should provide the earmarked money to this sector to give a boost to the small scale industries through the Credit Guarantee Scheme.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, as far as the banks are concerned, within the priority sector lending of 40 per cent in which agriculture and small scale industry are also included, we find that normally the banks are lending to the tune of 15 per cent to 16 per cent to the SSI sector. Out of this amount, 60 per cent is reserved for the tiny sector. Now, these guidelines have been issued to the banks and, in any case, they work within those parameters that I have given to them.

As far as the second suggestion of the hon. Member is concerned, he is welcome to come and speak with us any time about it. We will try and see what we can do and we will certainly take a good look at it.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a growing sector and a concerned sector also. The small scale sector is one sector which has been challenged and in the era of globalisation it is facing very stiff competition. The hon. Minister has just said that only a few financial institutions have come forward for lending to this sector. If we see the functioning of these financial institutions which have come forward, the previous experience has been that they have not been coming forward to lend to the small scale and tiny sectors. Their targets have, always, been the big industrial houses.

I would like to mention here that the lending to the small scale sector has been more in those States where the cooperative banks are functioning and in the era of globalisation these banks are also facing competition. So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, would allow some sort of a tie-up between the cooperative banks and the Credit Guarantee Trust to help the small scale industries who are now setting up new units and also the rural industries which are coming up.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Sir, I would like to say that there are 26 institutions which lend to the SSI sector now, but it began with a very small number. I would also like to state here that of these 26 eligible lending institutions, 19 are public sector banks, two are private sector banks, three are regional rural banks, one is the National Small Industries Corporation and then there is the North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation. These institutions have registered to avail of the credit guarantee facilities, but it is not something that we can force anybody into. Those lending agencies which are keen to tie up would be welcome to come and speak with the Credit Guarantee Trust and also with the loanees.

As far as enhancing the competitiveness of the SSI is concerned, there are a lot of measures that have been taken over the last year and a half. I agree that this sector needs to get competitive in the era of globalisation and liberalisation. A lot of steps need to be taken and the Government is facilitating them for technology upgradation and also for availing credit guarantee facilities and credit availabilities. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is an important issue. Please allow half an hour discussion on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Seven Members have already asked supplementaries. Even then if the House wants to have a Half-an-Hour Discussion, we can have it.

Damage to National Highways due to Floods

*142. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the damage caused by floods to the National Highways during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and National Highway-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any initiative for repair and revival work of damaged National Highways;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, the assessment of damages is done State wise every year and not National Highway-wise. Based on the assessment of damages due to floods, estimates amounting to Rs. 89.52 crore and Rs. 109.65 crore were sanctioned during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 respectively. During the current year, estimates amounting to 74.59 crore have been sanctioned so far.

(c) and (d) Repairs of damaged sections of National Highways due to floods are undertaken on priority to keep the National Highways in traffic-worthy condition. The amount spent year-wise for the repair are as under :-

Sl.No.	Year	Amount Spent (Rs. in crore)
1	1999-2000	71.62
2	2000-2001	105.16
3	2001-2002	65.12 (So far)

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the onset of monsoon season, many rivers are flooded

and it causes a lot of damage to 12 states of the country, such as Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra. It also causes obstruction on NH-4, 6 and 17 (Mumbai-Agra). Thus both the roads and the traffic are obstructed during rains and floods. It is true that national highways facilitate traffic but it also results in the increase in number of vehicles causing traffic jams. Sometimes people have to wait for two-three days on this account. Something needs to be done about the damage of roads by floods. In the reply, hon. Minister has given the figures for the last three years. The amount spent for the purpose in the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 was Rs.71.62 crore, Rs.105.16 crore and Rs.65 crore (so far) respectively. Thus annual expenditure on this account is about Rs.100 crore. A way should be found which would not only solve the problem but also saves the expenditure. Concrete roads should be constructed in flood affected areas. It would also involve less expenditure. Apart from this, what other measures Government may take for the good maintenance of national and state highway?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the roads in our country are damaged by floods during monsoon. Hon. Member said that concrete roads do not get damaged in floods. But it is not true. They also get damaged. It is the responsibility of my Ministry to undertake the repair of roads damaged by floods. Whenever landslide occurs and the roads get damaged, we provide emergency ad-hoc assistance to States. For the current year, we have sanctioned Rs. 74 crore for the repair of flood damaged national highways out of which Rs.65 crore have already been spent. An emergency assistance of Rs.8.5 crore have been provided to three-four states. After monsoon season, an assessment is carried out throughout the country, figures are received from all the states, joint survey is carried out through the Ministry and only then funds are provided. Damages occur every year at different places, but no concrete mechanism is put in place. Construction of concrete roads is no solution of this problem. We have to keep monitoring the damages being caused constantly.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that even concrete roads suffer damage but they are less affected by floods. Efforts should be made to find out some permanent solution to it. Foreign Technology can also be used if the Government so wish. The work has started on the golden quadrilateral highway connecting Mumbai-Delhi, Delhi-Calcutta, Calcutta-Chennai and Chennai-Mumbai about which the hon. Prime Minister has made an announcement recently. I would like to know whether the Government will take precautions right from now on these places so that recurring expenditure any be avoided?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a good question. I would like to say that the golden quadrilateral road being constructed under the National Highway Development Project has been designed in such a way so as to avoid wastage of time. Under the new project, attention is being paid towards better water drainage management so that water logging on both the sides of the road could be avoided and water could easily flow into some nallah.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, whether it is a fact that the level of the height of the roads of National Highways are not being properly assessed measured by the Department of National Highways? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons for over-slipping of the water during the time of monsoon.

I will give you one specific example of National Highway 33-34 comprising of Murshidabad, Malda, Uttar Dinajpore and Dakshin Dinajpore in the State of West Bengal. What happens is that the level of the road, which was built 30-40 years before, is so low that if a minimum water-logging is there during monsoon and floods, of course, the entire road becomes a part of the river. Naturally, the damages caused thereby are so huge that whatever money they give, it is insufficient.

Therefore, my submission is this, will the hon. Minister specially enquire of such National Highways - as I mentioned about NH 33-34 of West Bengal - in all the States, where the road height itself requires to be increased from the present level? Then, I think, the investment will be worthwhile for their purpose and for the purpose of the States.

There is another thing that the money that they have already spent is not clearly spelt out here. Sir, I seek your protection in this regard. In the answer to the question it was stated as State-wise and Highway-wise break-up, but he has not provided that break-up to the House today, he has generalised it. I would like to know what is the break-up of Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, etc. If he could have given that, one could understand which State has got what kind of support from his Department in that regard. Will the hon. Minister spell out in this context what is the break-up of the State of West Bengal for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002? I am one of the worst victims along with possibly Barkat Da and Shri Adhir Choudhury. The National Highway 33-34 in these three districts cannot be operated even during light monsoon because the water level goes straightway into the road. Whenever we talk to authorities, they say that they are only to maintain the level as it stands now and nothing

beyond that. Therefore, the investment has no meaning there.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, the first part of the question pertains to the height of the roads. I agree with him that there are many roads which have quite a low level. We have about 58,112 kms. of National Highways today. A large number of roads had been declared as National Highway during the Ninth Plan. While declaring a National Highway various aspects are seen including whether the road is fit to become a National Highway. But for various reasons, sometimes roads have to be taken, which may not fulfil the criteria of a National Highway, all Members know about it.

But as regards the norms, normally, a National Highway should be one metre above the anticipated or known flood level in that area. Therefore, if the road is getting over-topped, it can be for two reasons. One is that the flood is of exceptional nature and it has broken all previous records. Therefore, the level is more than what the road has been constructed. The second could be that the road has not been constructed as per this norm. It is also possible that for the older road this may have happened.

He has given the second point whether we will take up the issue for raising it. We certainly would like to do that. We are aware of such Highways where the roads get submerged. As I said earlier, you can either make passages so that water gets drained out, but in many cases it is not even possible to have the water getting drained out. Therefore, it has to be raised. But the type of financial constraints that are required are very high on the roads now.

For maintenance portion I want to inform the House that we are getting only 40 per cent of what is required for maintenance. Therefore, we have limits. As he has mentioned about National Highway 33-34, I will look into it, and within the availability of resources we will try to improve and keep on doing that.

As regards his query regarding break-up, we thought the question was whether there is an assessment of the floods at the level of National Highways. What happens is whenever any National Highway gets damaged, the State reports to us. The National Highways, although under our charge, are being maintained through the States. We have no agency to do this directly. Therefore, whenever we get the information, an individual goes and looks into that. Then the assessment is made. As I said earlier, for normal damages, the assessment is done, information comes to us and then the funds are allotted.

Now, in the case of West Bengal, as he has asked, for

the last three years, I can give him the figures, for sanction of flood damage repair estimates these are available with me. For 1999-2000, it was Rs.1249.80 lakh for flood damages, for 2000-2001 it was Rs.2521.46 lakh and for this year so far it is Rs.1013.61 lakh.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reply of the Question is incomplete and the figures of the total losses suffered in the State have not been given. Bihar is affected by perennial floods each year and this year was no exception. Further floods occurred even in those areas which were not affected by it earlier. I would like to know whether he has made an assessment of the damaged roads in Bihar and if so, how much funds have been provided for their reconstruction and repairs? He said that he has given sanction. The House is being misinformed. I am talking of two specific routes on which it is different even to move. First is Chhapra to Gopalganj via Seewan and second is Chhapra via Baniyapur Mahmudpur N.H.-101. The Government has not provided grant of even a single paisa for it. The estimate of funds to be spent there has already been pending with the hon. Minister. I would like to know from him whether he propose to give clearance to the estimate to take up the repair work there? I would further like to know as to how much funds have been proposed to be provided for the flood prone areas in Bihar. Further, I would also like to know that in response to a public interest litigation filed in the Patna High Court, the Court had given the verdict that the Government of India takes the help of other agencies for road repair works on those states where these works are not properly undertaken. Have the Government made any assessment to ascertain whether the funds provided by the centre to the states have been utilised or not? I would like to know the total number of states where the funds have not been utilised properly alongwith the names thereof and also whether these states propose to undertake the help of other agencies or not for this work. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has told you State-wise details though you did not ask for state-wise details and had asked regarding national highways.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has asked two things firstly as to how much money was given to Bihar. I am giving the year wise figures of the funds provided to Bihar as Fund Relief during the last three years. Rs.1495 lakhs have been provided in the year 1999-2000. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, the reply to my question has not come. I had asked as to what is the estimate of the flood damaged roads in Bihar?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have first said as to what is the process of estimate. Whenever the damage caused by flood is sudden and on a large scale and falls in the category. If emergency case then separate funds are provided for it. The Government have given Rs. Two crore to Bihar this year itself under this head.

[English]

Ankalan is what is the assessment that has been done.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Have you made any assessment on the basis of which you are allotting?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : The assessment is done by the State Government for the normal damages.

[Translation]

In case of normal damage the assessment is made by the State Government. They send us the figures and we go through those. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is on the basis of that, it is done.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, there should be Half-an-Hour Discussion on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, please ask him to give a correct reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has given whatever information is available with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, I did not receive the reply of my question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : N.H. remained closed between Kolhapur to Muzaffarpur for a month and it is still in bad condition. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Have you answered Shri Prabhunath Singh's supplementary?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him answer.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am saying that whenever damage takes place, it is necessary for the State Government to send its estimate to us. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : The estimate is already with you. ...(Interruptions) He does not reply because he has to pay for the reply. ...(Interruptions) He is the Minister in the Government of India.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : If the estimate has been received then for what amount and how much funds have been released by him out of it?

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, the hon. Minister has given the details. He has already given the details.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : If the hon. Member wants to know about some particular road. Then I can give him the information but I can't give him information of each and every road.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Please give information to those who want it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You provide details to the Members who are demanding it.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : A National Highway wise statement was demanded by the Question. Why was the National Highway wise figure not given?

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : I want to know whether the Government propose to construct the roads which were damaged due to floods?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Minister has said that last year an amount of rupees two crores was provided to Bihar Government and I have also asked the hon. Minister to send the details of what both of you are asking?

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you have to protect the Questioner. The Question was "If so, the details thereof, year-wise and National Highways-wise." In the Statement laid on the Table, the National Highway-wise figures were not given. You have to protect the rights of the Members. The National Highway-wise Statement was demanded. It was not given. That is why, the Members are agitated.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : May I respond to that?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Shri Dasmunsi is getting excited. Let me say, Sir, that Shri Dasmunsi is getting excited without reading the reply. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him clarify.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : He should read the reply.

You have not read the reply. Why are you getting excited? Why do you not read the reply?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The reply given is year-wise and not National Highway-wise. The Question was year-wise and National Highway-wise. Now, he has raised the right question. What is National Highway-wise figure? You kindly see that the National Highway-wise figure also is given. I am not saying anything wrong. You see the reply. It is given year-wise and it is not National Highway-wise.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, further information whatever is required, you can send it to them; also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, he is seeking your protection. I also seek your protection. The reply is regarding assessment of damage done State-wise and not National Highway-wise. Please read the reply.

Sir, part (b) of the Question says, "If so, the details thereof, year-wise and National Highway-wise." That is the question, and the answer is not given Highway-wise. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have given floor to Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. I have already called him.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we come from an area which is flood-prone. In Assam, every year there is flood for two times or three times. We are

very badly connected by rail and air. Road is our main communication system. All the National Highways of Assam are in a very bad condition. The hon. Minister has taken into consideration this and in the past they had given some fund.

Unless a good amount is given, by the next floods, we would be in a terrible condition. So, instead of bringing in each and every road, I would urge upon you to kindly look into it.

You mentioned about the Sourashtra to Silchar highway, which the hon. Prime Minister declared in his speech in Parliament. The condition of that road is very bad. It is nobody's baby. From the Border Roads Organisation, some part has gone to the National Highways Authority. Neither the National Highways Authority nor the Border Roads Organisation is looking after it. You may kindly look into this. This is my humble request to you.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Sir, there are two points. One is about funds. Right in the beginning, I had mentioned what I was receiving. Out of the amount that is required for maintenance of roads, I am getting only 40 per cent. Therefore, to pay attention everywhere is not possible. I have got only 40 per cent of the allocation that I sought. This year, my requirement is for over Rs.2,000 crore but I am getting only Rs.800 crore. The House must understand my problem that I am getting only 40 per cent of my requirement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, to whom the hon. Minister is complaining? The Government, the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister, all are his own and he is saying in the House that funds are not available? Who is responsible for these? ...*(Interruptions)* He is making a pretext of non availability of funds. He cannot shirk of the responsibility by saying so. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Within his means, he is trying to do something.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : What I am trying to put up is that this is a Non-Plan expenditure. The entire House keeps on saying when the Budget is presented that Non-Plan expenditure should be reduced. I would be happy if the whole House raises this issue and says that should be provided with the required amount of Rs.2,000 crore.

The hon. Member has raised a question about National Highway No.52 in Assam. As you are aware, a road was to be handed over to the Border Roads Organisation. There were

differences between the State Government and us. It has now been finally agreed. The Border Roads Organisation is in the process of taking it over and we hope that the situation would improve.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A number of hon. Members want to ask supplementary questions on this.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir the hon. Minister said in his reply that they are making arrangements for the natural passage of water. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards Basti-Gorakhpur national highway. The bridge on Basti-Gorakhpur National Highway is very narrow which is causing obstructions for flow of water. Will he take steps for the construction a higher bridge on the Rapti river?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member said two things for my initial reply. I said that one are trying to develop the water drainage system which is under the NHD Project. He made a point about Gorakhpur. There is a proposal for constructing a second bridge 'East-West Corridor' in Gorakhpur which will be a foreland one. It will be looked into under the above plan.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is a very important question and many hon. Members want to ask supplementary questions. If you have no objection, we can have a half-an-hour discussion on this.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI : No problem.

UNP on Aids and WHO Report on Aids

*143. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the actual number of AIDS cases in India at present.

(b) whether the latest joint report of the United Nations Programme (UNP) on AIDS and World Health Organisation (WHO) has revealed only 29007 cases of AIDS in India which is far below the actual number of 3.86 million estimated cases; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such wide variations?

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

As per the reports received from all States and Union Territories in the country, 32,191 cumulative AIDS cases were reported to National AIDS Control Organisation as on 31st January, 2002.

World Health Organisation, Regional Office for South-East Asia region, has released a fact-sheet about HIV/AIDS in the South-East Asia region, on World AIDS Day, i.e. 1st December, 2001. The report shows 29,007 reported AIDS cases and 3.86 million HIV infections in the country. These figures tally with the official figure of reported AIDS cases as on 31st October, 2001 and HIV estimates of 3.86 million HIV infections as on October, 2000. The latest estimate of HIV infections for October, 2001 is 3.97 million.

The reasons for such wide variation between reported AIDS cases and estimated HIV infections is as follows :

The number 29,007 are reported AIDS cases, while 3.86 million is an estimated number of HIV infections derived from Nationwide HIV Sentinel Surveillance round conducted during August to October, 2000. It takes about 5 to 7 years for an HIV infected person to turn into a full-blown AIDS case. Besides, there is gross under-reporting of AIDS cases on account of its chronicity, discrimination and social stigma associated with this disease.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, the statement prepared by the hon. Minister is superficial and digressive in nature.

As we know, Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome is predicated by a lethal critical state of human immuno deficiency virus, which has become a nemesis for the population of the world. AIDS means a death warrant. It has already wiped out a huge population in the world, especially in the Third World countries, Sub-Saharan countries and India.

May I request the hon. Minister to go through his statement. It reads : "These figures tally with the official figure of reported AIDS cases as on 31st October, 2001 and HIV estimates of 3.86 million of 31st October, 2000. The latest estimate of HIV infection for October, 2001 is 3.97 million." This means, within a span of one year, we are simply adding 0.11 million HIV positive population in the world.

As far as world population is concerned, India is adding 16 million and as far as world AIDS population is concerned, India is adding 0.11 million. However, the Minister has stated that "besides, there is gross under-reporting of AIDS cases on account of its chronicity, discrimination and social stigma associated with this disease." Therefore, we are totally in the

dark as to what is the actual number of AIDS patients in India. May I ask the hon. Minister what is the percentage of HIV patients to be turned into full-blown AIDS patients from among the HIV positive population in India?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Sir, the hon. Member has said that this is a superficial reply. Actually, it is not superficial. The figure of the UN Programme on AIDS and the figure of the Government of India is the same. In fact, we do the survey and they take the figure from us. So, 29,000 is the figure of AIDS patients for the year 2000 and now the latest figure is 32,000. There is some difficulty, as the hon. Member knows, that with AIDS, a lot of stigma is there. AIDS patients at the terminal stage go to some hospital for secondary complications like tuberculosis, like fungal infection of the brain, like pneumocystis carinii infection. So, these people may not be included in the AIDS figure and, therefore, there may be some discrepancy in the figure. But it is an approximate figure which is not a house-to-house survey. Survey is done only by the Government of India. You will be glad to know that survey showed the figures as 3.9 million in 1998, 3.7 million in 1999, 3.86 million in 2000 and 3.97 million in 2001. So, the rate of increase is also decreasing. It was 0.2 million, 0.16 million and now the latest figure is 0.11 million. So, if this rate continues and if all the preventive steps are taken, the AIDS will be controlled by 2007.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : What is the death ratio of AIDS patients from among the HIV positive persons in India? I have asked that also. You have given the figure as 0.11 million, but you have stated that there is a gross under-reporting. That is why I have told you that we are in the dark about the actual figure of AIDS. Furthermore, you must admit that your Department adopts the worn out method, that is, KAP method - Knowledge, attitude and Practice method. It is totally insufficient to cope with the present AIDS menace because AIDS treatment is very much expensive. Anti-retrovirus drugs are very much expensive and are hardly affordable for the common people of India. So, is the Government considering anything, such as, public health intervention as similar as malaria, tuberculosis and other public programmes because this kind of programme is being pursued in Brazil also. Further, are you going to set up any exclusive AIDS hospitals with AIDS rehabilitation centre?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Actually, what the hon. Member wants to know is that anti-AIDS programme or treatment of those patients should be included in programme like for what we do for malaria, for tuberculosis, etc. Actually, that is not possible at present because if we do that, this will be more than the total budget of the Health Ministry, all taken together.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, in India, we are sitting on the AIDS bomb.

DR. C.P. THAKUR: But, Sir, he must know that AIDS has been controlled mostly by creating awareness and we are doing that.

SHRIADHIR CHOWDHARY : Only Awareness is a worn out method and anti-retrovirus drugs are very expensive.

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Brazil has a small AIDS population and they were facing bankruptcy because of this. So, it is not possible. What we are going to introduce this year is prevention of mother to child transmission. That we are going to do. We are going to give full treatment for those medical personnel, paramedical personnel who anyway get infection in hospitals. We are going to do that.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Are the hospitals equipped for scanning the blood with AIDS contamination?

...(Interruptions)

DR. C.P. THAKUR : We are starting district hospitals in all the high-prevalence States for testing and housing also. ... (Interruptions) We are equipping all the hospitals. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Recently a few Thalassaemia patients in West Bengal have got in contact with HIV while transfusion blood. (Interruptions)

DR. C.P. THAKUR: It is not correct. We are equipping most of the hospitals. We are doing it. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : You have earlier committed for exclusive hospital for AIDS in India. What happened to it?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : It was not for hospital for AIDS. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : I will suggest that you may constitute a task force to reduce the menace which is prevalent not only in India but also in the entire world.

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Sir, it is against the principle. Already we want to minimise the stigma. If there is a separate hospital for AIDS there will be more and more stigma. Therefore, we are treating more and more AIDS patients in general hospitals. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : The big brother of your Government has been infected by political 'AIDS'. Therefore, you do not have any way to fight out the actual AIDS. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Adhir Chowdhary, please

resume your seat. Shri Kirit Somaiya to ask the question now.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the cases of AIDS are maximum in the age-group of 14-15. I would like to know whether the Ministry conducted a study to ascertain that the death rate in the younger age group has increased in the last five year? I give figures of Mumbai Municipal Corporation. During the three years 1998-99 and 2000, the number of total death went up to 85000 out of which 27000 i.e. 31 per cent are of those comprising the age group of 14-15 years.

Before 1990 it was just below ten per cent. I would like to know whether any study has been done in this regard. Secondly, will the report so received be laid on the Table of the House?

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Sir, AIDS is primarily in this age group and in majority of the cases it is severally transmitted and it is more in the sexually active age group. The hon. Member is right but in Mumbai it is less than earlier and also less in that age group. The surveys conducted in regard to STD have also shown decline in this number and we conduct survey of that particular age group.

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, there is hardly any time left for this important question. Anyway, the recent census conducted in Andhra Pradesh have shown startling figures in AIDS transmission. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is a lot of noise in the House.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : You have been prescribing indiscriminately the cocktail drugs for AIDS as a result of which we are going to develop drug resistant AIDS virus which needs to be looked into. The third most important factor taking into consideration the ruling of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh that State cannot take responsibility for care of AIDS patients, home-care centres in rural areas have to be encouraged for terminally HIV patients.

DR. C.P. THAKUR : Sir, actually the hon. Member is partly correct that indiscriminate use of anti-retrovirus drugs will lead to resistance. We are going to do something in that direction also. All-over the world, especially in South Africa, the indiscriminate use of this drug has caused a resistance. Secondly, we are encouraging private bodies like the NGOs to build hospitals and aftercare homes for AIDS patients in Andhra Pradesh also. The hon. Prime Minister had taken a meeting recently of all the high-prevalence States and the

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was also there and he assured that he will take all precautions and he will do everything to control AIDS in Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : From the fifth position, the State of Andhra Pradesh has got the dubious distinction of coming to second position. What is it that the Government of Andhra Pradesh doing in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Sir, an important fact has come to our notice just now. Please allow me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Sardar Buta Singh, the Question Hour is not yet over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we have just now got the information that the Government of India has itself filed a petition before the Supreme Court asking for permission to allow *Puja* at Ayodhya by the *Sants*. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The entire country is ill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SAARC Summit

*144 SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SAARC Summit was held in Kathmandu recently;

(b) if so, the issues and themes which were focused upon;

(c) whether any joint communique was issued at the conclusion of the Summit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI

JASWANT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The SAARC Summit was held in Kathmandu from 4-6 January, 2002.

(b) to (d) The Eleventh SAARC Summit adopted the Kathmandu Declaration as the final document. The main issues that were deliberated upon by member countries were Regional Cooperation on Economic and Trade Issues, Poverty Alleviation, Terrorism and people-to-people contacts. Two Conventions were also signed - Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution; and Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia.

[Translation]

Computer Education in Rural Areas

*145. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes and programmes proposed to be launched by the Government for the development of information technology and computer education in the rural areas of the country; and

(b) the amount allocated for this purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) A number of projects/schemes are being implemented and some new schemes are being launched by the Government for the development of Information Technology and Computer Education in Rural areas. The details are placed at Statement-I, II and III (enclosed.)

Statement-I

Proposed schemes for Development of Information Technology in Rural Areas

1. Setting up of media lab. Asia :

Media Lab Asia has been jointly set up in September 2001 in Mumbai by the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (then Ministry of Information Technology) and MIT USA. The salient features of the project are development of state-of-the-art and future technologies and deployment of these technologies especially Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for the benefit of the common man including the rural masses. The objective is to help bridge the digital divide by taking information technology to the masses and thus empowering them. The thrust areas

of work include health, education and micro-entrepreneurship. Media Lab Asia is centred around a large network of village level projects. The role of the Media Lab Asia is to facilitate the invention, refinement and dissemination of innovations that benefit the masses. The Media Lab Asia is working with industry, NGOs, and government to bring these innovations to villages in India

Amount Allocated -

The initial phase of one year has been approved with a budgetary outlay of Rs.65.0 Crore from Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

2. Community Information Centres (CIC) Project :

- ❖ The Department of Information Technology has undertaken a scheme for setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at 487 block headquarters in the seven North-East states and Sikkim for promoting application of Information Technology for accelerating socio-economic development of the region. The scheme is expected to be implemented within two years in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.
- ❖ The project is mainly aimed at bridging the digital divide and providing connectivity at the grass root level particularly in those areas where the benefits of national development have not reached the community, specially women and children to the desired extent as they have all along been deprived of access to information relevant to their needs.
- ❖ The CIC project which is a pioneering scheme of the Government of India is intended to meet the requirements of the community located at inconvenient hilly terrain, inaccessible and remote area in a cost effective manner.
- ❖ The pilot project for setting up 30 CICs at block headquarters at sites selected by the State Governments was completed in October, 2000 at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crore projected over a five year period.
- ❖ Based on the experience of the functioning of 30 CIC under the pilot project, the main project is launched involving an estimated expenditure of

Rs.242 crores (including the cost of pilot project of 15 crore.)

Amount Allocated -

An amount of Rs. 67 crores has been allocated for the project during the financial year 2001-2002.

Statement-II

Proposed Schemes for Computer Education in Rural Areas

1. Employment Generation Training Scheme

With an overall objective to harness the potential of electronics and information technology, Department of Information Technology is implementing Employment Generation Training Scheme for North East states and for SC/ST/OBCs in other regions of the country. The scheme provides for conducting DOEACC 'O' level and 'A' level courses

Amount Allocated -

The amount allocated for this purpose during current financial year (2001-2002) is Rs. 2.00 crores for North East region and Rs. 1.00 crore for other than North-East region.

Statement-III

Schemes currently in operation for Development of Information Technology in Rural Areas

1. Samadhan Kendra

A project for Village Information Centre (Samadhan Kendra) was initiated in 1997-98 by DIT to bring IT intervention in Rural India. Under the project a Village Information Centre was set up in Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu after extensive study of the demography crops, animal husbandry and other related issues of the region. A number of packages to satisfy the information needs of the rural people were developed. The Samadhan Kendra is currently in operation and is being used extensively. The project is implemented by an NGO Centre for Ecology Research and Development, Pondicherry. The total cost is Rs.15.48 lacs.

Seeing the success of this project, DIT had initiated three more pilot projects :

- a) Madhya Pradesh - being implemented by National Centre for Human Settlement & Environment (NCHSE), Bhopal at the total cost of Rs.15.47 lacs.
- b) Madhya Pradesh - being implemented by

Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwa Vidyalay, Chitrakoot at the total cost of Rs.17.64 lacs.

- c) Andhra Pradesh - being implemented by Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad a CSIR based organization at the total cost of Rs.22.34 lacs.

2. IT Applications in Agriculture

Following projects are being implemented in order to promote IT applications in agriculture operation :

- a) Multimedia Software for Implementation of available Agriculture Technologies for various crops being implemented by Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya(JNKVV), Jabalpur at the total cost of Rs.29.66 lacs
- b) Modernisation of model tea factory and development of Integrated Automation of tea processing being implemented by Tea Research Association (TRA), Electronics Research and Development Centre of India (ER&DCI), Kolkata and Central Electronic Engineering Research Institution (CEERI), Pilani at the total cost of Rs.357.69 lacs.

3. IT Applications in Rural

- A. In order to promote the usage and development of IT in Rural Development domain, NIC has been extending the necessary support in terms of hardware/software and technical expertise upto district level. Salient efforts which are in continuation are being mentioned as below :
- i) Development of application software based on state of art technology for efficient operation; implementation and monitoring of various Rural welfare schemes and programmes. "RuralSoft" : A web enabled software is one such major initiative in this direction.
 - ii) Development of Web based application "Rural Bazar" to enable e-commerce in Rural Areas and to promote interest of rural craft & industry.
 - iii) Computerization of Land Records which is being implemented in more than 540 districts of India for facilitation of rural masses and better management of land resources. This is 100 percent centrally

sponsored schemes of GOI. NIC is engaged in its successful implementation in collaboration with MORD, GOI

- B. During the current year a sum of Rs.2.15 Crore has been allocated for computerization of land records project for upgradation of h/w and s/w and technical support.

Production of Medical Herbal Plants

*146. SHRI RAJO SINGH :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

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

(a) whether the Government have taken any step to save the various species of the medicinal plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to boost the production of the Ayurvedic medicines alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Government have taken step to encourage propagation and cultivation of plant species through various schemes such as in-situ/ex-situ conservation, Biosphere Reserves, establishment of Gene Banks and developing Agro-techniques. A Medicinal Plants Board has also been set up which will coordinate activities relating to conservation and cultivation of medicinal plants.

The Government has implemented a Central Scheme to assist State Pharmacies to increase their production. During the last two years, 21 State Pharmacies of Ayurveda have been provided grant-in- aid of Rs.15.50 crores. A number of schemes have also been implemented to increase production of quality raw drugs for domestic consumption and export.

[English]

Resumption of Indo-Pak Talks

*147. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether back channel diplomacy is being tried for starting Indo-Pak dialogue;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have put some conditions in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the possibility of resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan?

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

(b) Do not arise.

(c) to (e) Government position on the issue of a resumption of a dialogue with Pakistan has been reiterated on several occasions. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India so as to create appropriate conditions for the resumption of a meaningful dialogue which can contribute to establishing peaceful and cooperative ties between the two countries.

Indians Languishing in Foreign Jails

*148. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian nationals languishing in jails in various countries, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to get them released and bring them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) A statement giving the number of Indian nationals in foreign jails country-wise, as per information available with the Government, is enclosed.

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

In Gulf countries, during the holy month of Ramadan, our Missions send formal requests for Royal Pardon for release of Indian prisoners on humanitarian grounds.

Unless deported to India by the concerned country after completion of prison sentence as per the local laws, the Indian

diplomatic mission facilitates repatriation of the Indian prisoner to India after his release.

Statement

Indians Languishing in Foreign Jails

Country	No. of Indians in Jails
1	2
Azerbaijan	02
Bahrain	64
Bangladesh	620
Belarus	01
Bhutan	47
Brunei	01
China (Hong Kong)	28
Denmark	02
Egypt	12
Fiji	03
Finland	01
Germany	224
Georgia	01
Greece	184
Indonesia	02
Iran	15
Iraq	01
Ireland	01
Israel	02
Italy	34
Jamaica	14
Japan	03
Republic of Korea	07
Kuwait	162

1	2
Lebanon	36
Libya	03
Madagascar	02
Malaysia	697 (in detention camps/jails)
Maldives	25
Mauritius	44
Myanmar	32
Nepal	280
Netherland	105
New Zealand	09
Sultanate of Oman	40
Pakistan	1239
Panama	03
Philippines	03
Qatar	27
Saudi Arabia	1240
Singapore	226
South Africa	04
Sri Lanka	43
Syrian Arab Rep.	01
Thailand	36
Ukraine	03
UAE	1097
UK	130
USA	260
Yemen	02
Uzbekistan	01
Total	6919

Ban on Sex Determination Tests

*149. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that sex-determination tests are still being conducted in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Supreme Court has given any directions to ban the sex determination tests;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to bring an amendment in the "Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994" to control sex-determination tests in the country more effectively; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) to (c) Determination and disclosure of sex of foetus of a pregnant woman is illegal and is a punishable crime under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 since 1st January, 1996. No data is available on sex-determination tests being conducted in the country, since these are not done openly. Supreme Court has issued directions to both Central and State Governments in a Public Interest Litigation filed by the Centre for Enquiry into Health & Allied Themes (CEHAT) & Others Vs. Union of India and Others. The directions of Supreme Court, inter alia, include generation of awareness about the provisions of the Act both at national and State level) implementation of the Act with full vigor and zeal to ensure registration of all clinics using ultrasound machines so as to keep an eye on them lest they should undertake sex determination of foetus of pregnant woman, obtaining of information relating to users of such machines from their manufacturers, importers, suppliers, dealers, persons having their maintenance contracts and others, sealing and seizure of the machines of those who have not got themselves registered under the Act, to restrict sale of such machines to registered clinics, to amend the Act keeping in mind the emerging technologies and difficulties encountered in implementation of the Act and take all other such measures as may be necessary for effective implementation of the Act.

(d) The implementation of the Act mainly rests with

the States/UTs. The Central Government have requested all the State Governments/UTs to implement the provisions of the Act and comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with full vigor and zeal. Appropriate Authorities and Advisory Committees have been appointed under the Act in all the States/UTs. These have been appointed at district and at some places at sub-district levels in most of the States/UTs. They are taking action to generate awareness about the provisions of the Act in public and among law enforcing agencies, service providers, medical and paramedical personnel by hoardings, wall paintings, newspapers, All India Radio, TV and other means of publicity. Quarterly returns about the implementation of the Act are obtained from State Governments by the Central Supervisory Board (CSB). Action has been taken by States/UTs to ensure registration of the persons/bodies mentioned in the lists of buyers of ultrasound sound machines obtained from the manufacturers, importers, suppliers, dealers etc. of such machines including sealing and seizure of the machines of unregistered clinics. They have so far filed 92 cases against the violators of the provisions of the Act. The Central Government has constituted a Central Supervisory Board under the chairmanship of Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

(e) and (f) In accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, is proposed to be amended keeping in view the emerging technologies and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Act to, inter-alia, bring the technique of pre-conception sex selection within the ambit of this Act so as to pre-empt the use of such technologies with significantly contribute to the declining sex ratio, bring the use of ultrasound machines within the purview of this Act more explicitly so as to curb their misuse for detection and disclosure of sex of the foetus, to further empower the Central Supervisory Board for monitoring the implementation of the Act, introduce State level Supervisory Board for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Act at the State/UT level, to constitute a multi member State Appropriate Authority for better implementation and monitoring of the Act in the States, make punishments prescribed under the Act more stringent to serve as a deterrent for minimizing violations of the Act, to empower the Appropriate Authorities with the powers of Civil Court for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violators of the law including sealing of premises and commissioning of witnesses, making mandatory the maintenance of proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of foetus and also in respect of tests and procedures leading to preconception selection of sex.

Lunar Orbiter

*150. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has decided to launch a Lunar Orbiter;

(b) if so, whether the ISRO is actively considering a baseline approach of launching a Lunar Orbiter that can be placed in the polar orbit about 100 km. above the surface of the moon;

(c) if so, the main purpose of this Lunar Orbiter; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir. A decision on launching a Lunar Orbiter will be taken only after Lunar Mission Task Force constituted by ISRO concludes its surface on the various possibilities for undertaking a scientific mission to the moon.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Reduction of STD/ISD Rates

*151. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

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

(a) whether the Mobile Telephone operators have recently slashed the mobile STD/ISD call rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have also proportionately reduced the STD/ISD call rates;

(d) if so, comparative rates of private mobile telephone operators and those of BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited;

(e) the total annual loss likely to be suffered by the Government as a result thereof and how this loss is expected to be made up;

(f) whether the Government also propose to extend the local call network from the 200 kms to 500 kms radius;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is responsible for fixation of tariffs for Telecom Services including Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD) and International Subscriber Dialing (ISD) calls. STD/ISD Services are provided by National Long Distance Operators (NLDOs) and International Long Distance Operators (ILDOs) respectively and it is not in the terms of licence granted to Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Operators to provide these services. As per the Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) 1999, CMTS operators can charge from end-users airtime plus applicable charges for National or International Long Distance Calls. The charges for such calls levied by the CMTS operators are those which are applied by the NLDOs/ILDOs for these services. BSNL as NLD Service provider has reduced the STD rates with effect from 14.1.2002 and as per available information, the rates of calls of the private NLDO, who has started the service, and BSNL are the same.

As regards comparative rates of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service of private CMTS operators, BSNL and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), the information is as follows :-

- (i) The tariff for CMTS has been specified by TRAI in Schedule of Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) 1999. It specifies that the standard tariff package must be available to the subscriber at all times. In addition, service providers are given the flexibility to provide any other tariff package to subscribers subject to the condition that these tariff packages are approved by the TRAI.

The present standard tariff package consists of a monthly rental of Rs. 500/- (for Circles) and Rs. 475/- (for metros) and airtime charges of Rs. 4.50 per minute (for Circles) and Rs. 4/- per minute (for metros).

- (ii) Competition has driven down the tariff levels of CMTS providers including BSNL/MTNL. There are different tariff plans on offer by cellular operators to their customers in different parts of the country. In general the average airtime charge for the tariff plans is around Rs. 1.80 per minute.

(e) It has been estimated by BSNL that initially there may be decline in STD revenue of approximately Rs. 650/- crores to BSNL during 2001-2002, assuming that no traffic increase takes place. However, with reduction in tariff, the traffic (number of calls and call time) is expected to increase over a period of time to neutralize the loss in revenue. As against an average reduction of around 60% in STD rates w.e.f. 14.1.2002, as per a sample study conducted in February, 2002, the decrease in Long distance metered call units was about 20% since the Long Distance voice traffic has increased by about 25%.

(f) to (h) As the STD charges have been reduced recently w.e.f. 14.01.2002 for calls for more than 200 KMS distance, further concession is not under consideration at this stage by BSNL.

[Translation]

Goods Supplied by SSIC

*152. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether quality of goods supplied by the Small Scale Industries Corporation to the Government Offices has been deteriorating;

(b) whether any complaint has been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether inquiry has been conducted in this regard and if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to revise the list of goods being supplied by Small Scale Industries Corporation and industries under it; and

(f) if so, whether the Government have consulted the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) No, Sir It is clarified that there is no corporation in the name of Small Scale Industries Corporation. However, the National Small Scale Industries Corporation is a Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of India.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Review and revision of the list of the items reserved for exclusive purchase from SSI sector is a continuous process. The Government of India maintains regular contact with the State Governments in this regard and revision is done in a need based manner.

[English]

OIC on Draft on International Terrorism

*153. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has put forward a proposal at the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism as reported in the Statesman dated February 7, 2002;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether several developed countries have opposed the OIC terminology; and
- (d) if so, the stand of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (d) The draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, put forward by India at the UN, has been under discussion since October 2000. A number of suggestions and proposals have been made during the negotiations including by the O.I.C., the E.U. and some individual countries. Four rounds of negotiations have been held so far and agreement reached on many clauses. Negotiations will continue in October 2002, during the UN General Assembly. India's efforts are to reach early consensus on the Convention through further discussions.

[Translation]

Changes in Information Techniques

*154. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to bring certain changes in the information techniques in view of the recent challenges in the information technology sector;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the information technology oriented programmes have not been adequately introduced in the schools, colleges and technical institutes in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) There has been a considerable shift in the learning paradigm due to introduction of technology and newer methods of imparting education. Networking and Internet are being used as cost effective tools for improving learning opportunities for students, faculty development, professional development, increasing productivity of members of the learning community and improving the efficiency of schools, District and State administration.

(c) and (d) As a matter of policy, this Ministry funds only pilot projects as enumerated above. It is for the nodal Ministry, namely, Ministry of Human Resource Development to, replicate throughout the country. Department of Information Technology has launched the following projects on pilot basis :

1. Online Learning
2. ERNET Connectivity to North-Eastern Universities
3. Establishment of exclusive Institutes of Information Technology
4. Media Lab Asia
5. Vidya Vahini Programme
6. Gyan Vahini Programme

[English]

Free Telephone Facility to Senior Citizens

*155. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide 'free telephone' facility to the senior citizens including the pensioners, who have attained the age of 65 years;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, senior citizens of the age of 65 and above are entitled to register with BSNL/MTNL their demand for one telephone connection in their names under Non-OYT Special category, a category which is given priority over general category. Further, they are also exempted from payment of registration charges for registering their demand for new telephone connection. Pensioners can also avail this facility once they attain the age of 65 years. Fixation/regulation of tariff is a function of TRAI. At present there is no TRAI recommendation for concessional or free telephones to Senior citizens.

[Translation]

India's Candidature for Security Council

*156. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is making efforts to become a member of the Security Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the countries who have supported India's stand in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) India formally presented its candidature for permanent membership of the Security Council in 1994 in the UN General Assembly. Since then we have pursued our candidature at the UN and in our bilateral interactions. There is growing momentum in support of India's candidature for permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Many developing and developed countries including some permanent members of the Security Council have supported India's candidature either at the UN or bilaterally.

[English]

Mother-Child Programme

*157. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE :

SHRI Y.V. RAO :

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

(a) whether the Government have started "Mother-Child Programme" aimed at reducing the risk of HIV transmission to the newborn;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the clinical tests of the drug, used in the programme, has been done;

(d) if so, the reports thereon;

(e) whether adverse side effects have been reported by Federal Drug Authority; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) In view of the emerging threat of transmission of HIV infection from HIV infected pregnant mother to her baby, Government of India has started the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Programme, in the country. The feasibility study on prevention of mother to child transmission was initiated in March, 2000 in 11 institutions located in five HIV high prevalence States namely: Maharashtra (5), Tamil Nadu (3), Andhra Pradesh (1), Karnataka (1), Manipur (1). The first phase of the study has been completed in September, 2001. In this phase of the study, short course regimen of Azidothymidine (AZT) was administered to pregnant mothers who attended antenatal clinics from 36 weeks of gestation and during labour at the above institutions. In the second phase of the feasibility study at these centres, single dose Nevirapine to both HIV infected mother and baby pair is being administered for prevention of mother to child transmission. This drug has an additional advantage over azidothymidine as it is administered in single dose, besides being cost effective as compared to short course regimen of azidothymidine.

Encouraged with the results of the feasibility studies, Government has decided to scale up Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Programme in the entire country in a phased manner. In the first phase of the programme, Medical Colleges of the six high prevalence States namely Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur and Nagaland will be covered followed by District Hospitals in these States. In the second phase of the programme, Medical Colleges of other States will be covered.

(c) and (d) There have been extensive clinical trials of both the antiretroviral drugs azidothymidine and Nevirapine worldwide. Both the drugs have been found safe for the use in prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV infection. Azidothymidine and Nevirapine were included in the WHO model list of essential drugs in 1999 solely for indicating the

prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV infection.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) technical declaration in October, 2000, carefully reviewed the available information and concluded that benefits of decreasing mother to child transmission with the Prophylaxis of these antiretroviral drugs, greatly outweighed concern related to development of drug resistance.

(e) and (f) Central Drug Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO), Government of India, which is the Federal Drug Authority in India, has not reported any adverse side effects of these drugs.

ISRO's Agreement with European Space Agency

*158. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM :

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO has signed an agreement with European Space Agency on use of the outer space;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the agreement would be beneficial for India's Space Programme?

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

(b) ISRO and the European Space Agency (ESA) signed a cooperative agreement on January 9, 2002, renewing a relationship that started in 1971. This is a general umbrella agreement under which cooperative activities in several areas such as space sciences and applications including communications, remote sensing for monitoring the environment, meteorology, navigation and life and material sciences under microgravity conditions may be carried out.

(c) This will provide opportunities for ISRO to carry out joint projects that would supplement and complement our own programmes in different fields.

[Translation]

United Nations Human Development Report

*159. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the report recently issued by United Nations Human Development for the year 2001;

(b) if so, whether it has been mentioned in this report that the gap in the economic conditions in India between the rich and poor and urban and rural has widened in the nineties and will continue to widen during the next decade also;

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

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bridge this gap during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

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

(b) and (c) The Human Development Report, 2001, of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) does not mention about the widening gap in the economic conditions between rich and the poor and the urban and rural in India.

In fact, the Report mentions that China and India are two countries with low but rapidly growing per capita incomes and large populations which deserve special consideration. In China, inequality has followed a U-shaped pattern with inequality falling until the mid-1980s and rising since. The position is better in India, with inequality falling until recently, and then coming to a halt. The percentage of population in poverty has continued to decline. GDP growth in post economic reforms period has improved from an average of about 5.7 per cent in 1980s to about 6.5 per cent in Eighth and Ninth Plan periods making India one of the ten fastest growing developing countries. India has jumped up 13 places to rank 115 on Human Development Index among 162 countries and territories ranked by UNDP's HDR for 2001.

(d) The Tenth Five Year Plan is currently under formulation. However, the Approach Paper to the Tenth Plan mentions that the issues of equity and social justice would be explicitly addressed in the Plan.

[English]

Indo-Japan Fight Against Terrorism

*160. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any treaty has been signed between India and Japan to deal with terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said treaty is likely to come into force?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Funds for SCP and TSP under Tenth Plan

1466. SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the new schemes and programmes being formulated by Ministry of Small Scale Industries under SCP & TSP during the Tenth Five Year Plan in addition to the ongoing schemes for enhancing employment opportunities for the educated unemployed SC/ST youth and their economic empowerment in the field of small scale industries sector specifying the nature/scope and target groups of such schemes and programme;

(b) the amount of funds proposed to be requisitioned during the Tenth Plan from the Planning for such schemes/programmes; and

(c) the benefits and targets sought to be achieved under such schemes and programmes during Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) A new Scheme for 'Development of Industries in Tribal Areas' has been included by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Ltd. in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

The schemes & programmes of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries are promotional in nature and are intended to accelerate the growth of Small Scale Industries in the country. The schemes are uniformly applicable for all entrepreneurs including members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Some of the schemes/programmes in which specific reservation/concessions/preference are given to SCs & STs are :

(i) Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) - To cultivate the latent qualities of youth by enlightening them on various aspects to be considered for starting new industry.

(ii) Management Development Programme (MDP)- To impart state-of-art learning in emerging management techniques/practices to help small scale entrepreneurs for harvesting better profits and substantial share in the domestic/overseas markets.

(iii) Hire Purchase Scheme - To provide machines on hire purchase basis.

(iv) Training - To impart training in conventional technology trades.

(b) Funds are requisitioned for the whole scheme/programme and not separately for SCP & TSP component of the scheme.

(c) The targets sought to be achieved for SCs and STs under the various schemes during the Tenth Five Year Plan are :

(i) EDP - 28125 persons.

(ii) MDP - 6185 entrepreneurs.

(iii) National Entrepreneurial Awards - 05.

(iv) Development of Tribal Industries - 4000.

[Translation]

SIDBI Role in Development of SSI in Gujarat

1467. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) the role of the Small Industries Development Bank of India in promoting the small scale industries sector in Gujarat;

(b) the number of small scale units set up/revived in the State by SIDBI by providing loans during the last three years; year-wise;

(c) whether SIDBI propose to expand its activities in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Small Industries

Development Bank of India (SIDBI) extends financial assistance to small scale sector for new and existing projects and for modernisation and diversification through direct and indirect finance schemes which are in operation on an all-India basis including in the State of Gujarat.

(b) The assistance provided by SIDBI in Gujarat during the last three years is given below :

Year	No. of Units	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)	Amount Disbursed (Rs. in crore)
1998-1999	2004	679.46	423.03
1999-2000	1726	698.21	417.36
2000-2001	741	473.09	369.45

(c) SIDBI, has been continuously adopting new strategies to facilitate healthy growth to SSI sector. SIDBI would continue to take new initiatives for the SSI sector and the new activities would cover the entire country including Gujarat.

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

[English]

Wasteful Expenditure

1468. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to minimise wasteful expenditures in Government Departments the Ministry of Finance have identified certain sectors in various Government Departments where wasteful expenditure is maximum;

(b) if so, the details of such sectors under the Ministry of Small Scale Industries which have been identified by three years as on December 31, 2001; and

(c) the corrective steps taken so far by his Ministry to curtail/stop such wasteful expenditure, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) In order to curb wasteful expenditure, instructions for austerity in Government expenditure are issued by the Ministry of Finance Department of Expenditure to all the Ministries/Departments from time to

time. The austerity measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and entertainment/hospitality expenses, reduction in per diem allowance for travel abroad etc.

The instructions are followed by the Ministries of Small Scale Industries also. Besides, major recommendations of the Expenditure Reform Commission (ERC) in this connection for the Ministry of SSI have also been implemented.

Computerisation of Treasuries

1469. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the ex-servicemen and retired Government employees are receiving pension through treasuries in rural and remote areas;

(b) if so, whether several State Governments have requested the Government to computerise treasuries to facilitate the ex-servicemen and retired Government employees and freedom fighters in remote areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of requests received in this regard during last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

Government has provided facility for withdrawal of pension through designated Public Sector Banks/ Post Offices/ DPDO (Defence Pension Disbursing Offices/Treasuries).

(b) to (d) Requests for support for computerisation of treasuries are being considered under the Tenth/Eleventh Finance Commission Programme being administered by the Ministry of Finance. No specific reference, has, however been received from the States through their approved action plans for computerisation of treasuries which would facilitate the ex-servicemen, retired Government employees and freedom fighters in rural and remote areas.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) of Department of Information Technology (DIT), Ministry of Communications and Information Technology provide Technical support to the States for computerisation of their treasuries.

Setting up of Institute for Japanese Studies

1470. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his visit to Japan in December 2001 had taken up with the Japanese Government the issue of establishment of an Institute of Japanese studies in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of Japan thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

WLL in Jharkhand

1471. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone facility based on the WLL technique is being provided in the nearby villages adjoining towns of Singhbhum region of Jharkhand whereas other areas are being neglected;

(b) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the instructions given by Government to the concerned offices of the Telephone Department for providing telephones having WLL facility in far-flung areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The telephone facility based on Wireless on Local Loop (WLL) technique has been planned for all the areas of Jharkhand. No area has been neglected.

(c) Instructions have been given to the circles to cover all the villages without telecom facility in far-flung areas by WLL system subject to technical feasibility and availability of funds. .

Telephone Connection in Uttar Pradesh

1472. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting lists seeking telephone connections in big cities of Uttar Pradesh as on February 28, 2002; and

(b) the measures being taken to clear the waiting lists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons in the waiting lists seeking telephone connections in big cities of Uttar Pradesh as on February 28, 2002 is enclosed in the statement.

(b) The measures being taken to clear the waiting list are as under :

(i) The capacity of the existing Exchange is being increased.

(ii) A number of Remote Subscriber Units (RSUs) / Remote Line Units (RLUs) are being opened.

(iii) Underground cable is being laid in the external plant.

(iv) 10 pair/20 pair Distribution Points (DPs) are also erected in the external plant.

(v) Digital Loop Carrier (DLC) systems have been planned.

Statement*Waiting List in Big cities of Uttar Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Name of City	Number of Persons in the Waiting Lists
1	2	3
A.	Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle	
1.	Agra	356
2.	Firozabad	839
3.	Aligarh	210
4.	Hathras	165
5.	Bareilly	781
6.	Badaun*	0
7.	Bijnor *	0
8.	Bulandshahar *	0
9.	Etah	300
10.	Ghaziabad	1500
11.	Meerut *	0
12.	Baraut	43
13.	Mathura	417
14.	Moradabad	363
15.	J.P. Nagar	43
16.	Muzaffar Nagar	100
17.	G.B.Naar *	0
18.	Pilibhit *	0
19.	Rampur *	0
20.	Saharanpur	575
Sub Total		5692
B.	Uttar Pradesh (East) Telecom Circle	
21.	Lucknow	1523

1	2	3
22.	Allahabad	2275
23.	Azamgarh	1586
24.	Kanpur	1398
25.	Varanasi	1863
26.	Gorakhpur	1462
27.	Jhansi	560
28.	Faizabad	856
Sub Total		11523
Grand Total of W/L in U.P.		17215

* Note : Telephone is being provided on demand in cities where zero waiting list is shown.

Telephone Adalats

1473. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which Telephone Adalats have been organised in the each district of Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years;

(b) the number of the cases received in these Adalats during the said period, district-wise;

(c) the number of the cases disposed of, district-wise; and

(d) the details of the concessions given to the consumers and the criteria of organizing telephone Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The date on which Telephone Adalats have been organised in the each Telecom district of Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years is as follows :

Name of Telecom District	Date of Telephone Adalats	Level of Telephone Adalat
1	2	3
Srinagar	27.6.-2000	Telecom Circle level
Srinagar	24.5.2001	Telecom District level

1	2	3
Srinagar	20.9.2001	Telecom Circle level
Srinagar	15.10.2001	Telecom District level
Srinagar	29.12.2001	Telecom Circle level
Srinagar	28.2.2002	Telecom District level
Jammu	22.6.2000	Telecom Circle level
Jammu	31.8.2000	Telecom District level
Jammu	23.4.2001	Telecom Circle level
Jammu	16.5.2001	Telecom District level
Jammu	14.8.2001	Telecom District level
Jammu	18.9.2001	Telecom Circle level
Jammu	22.10.2001	Telecom District level
Jammu	21.12.2001	Telecom District level
Jammu	27.12.2001	Telecom Circle level
Udhampur	16.11.2001	Telecom District level
Rajouri	Nil	
Leh	18.3.2001	Telecom Circle level

(b) and (c) The number of cases received and disposed of in these Adalats during the last two years, district-wise are as below :

Name of Telecom District	Name of Revenue District	No. of cases received	No. of cases disposed
1	2	3	4
Srinagar	Srinagar	106	97
Srinagar	Anantnag	13	13
Srinagar	Baramulla	6	5
Srinagar	Kupwara	6	6
Srinagar	Badgam	8	8
Srinagar	Pulwama	2	2
Jammu	Jammu	227	132

1	2	3	4
Jammu	Kathua	5	4
Udhampur	Udhampur	4	2
Udhampur	Doda	7	5
Rajouri	Rajouri	1	1
Rajouri	Poonch	2	2
Leh	Leh	12	12
Leh	Kargil	0	0

(d) The details of concessions given to the consumers are as below :

Name of Telecom District	No. of subscribers to whom rebate granted	Amount of rebate granted (in rupees)
Srinagar	23	74,245
Jammu	46	4,65,127
Udhampur	2	1,950
Rajouri	2	4,574
Leh	4	7,212
Total	77	5,65,108

The criteria for holding of Telephone Adalat is once in three months at Telecom Circle level and once on two months at Secondary Switching Area (Telecom District) level.

STD Facility in Orissa

1474. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges having STD facility in Orissa till date, district-wise;

(b) the number of exchanges where this facility has not been provided so far alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which all exchanges are likely to be provided telephone exchanges with STD facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 1028 Telephone Exchanges are

having STD facility in Orissa State as on 28.2.2002. Details are given in statement-I.

(b) 18 number of Telephone Exchanges are not having STD facility as on 28.2.2002. Details are given in statement-II.

(c) It has been planned to provide STD facility to remaining 18 Telephone Exchanges on reliable media by September, 2002.

Statement-I

District-wise details of Telephone Exchanges having STD facility in Orissa State

Sl.No.	Name of District	Number of Exchanges having STD Facility
1	2	3
1.	Angul	36
2.	Balasore	54
3.	Bhadrak	30
4.	Baragarh	41
5.	Bolangir	29
6.	Bouth	12
7.	Cuttack	55
8.	Deogarh	8
9.	Dhenkanal	40
10.	Ganjapati	18
11.	Ganjam	97
12.	Jagtsinghpur	34
13.	Jajpur	38
14.	Jharsuguda	17
15.	Kalahandi	33
16.	Kendrapara	27
17.	Keonjhar	35
18.	Khurda	65

1	2	3
19.	Koraput	38
20.	Malkangiri	12
21.	Mayurbhanj	52
22.	Nowrangpur	16
23.	Nayagarh	17
24.	Nowapara	16
25.	Phulbani	26
26.	Puri	36
27.	Raygada	27
28.	Sambalpur	36
29.	Sonepur	16
30.	Sundargarh	67
Total		1028

Statement-II

District-wise Details of Telephone Exchanges without STD facility in Orissa State

Sl.No.	Name of District	No. of Exchanges without STD	Name of Exchanges
1	2	3	4
1.	Balasore	1	Srirampur
2.	Bhadrak	1	Chunida
3.	Bolangir	1	Khudasingh
4.	Gajapati	1	Luhagudi
5.	Ganjam	1	Bhikapada
6.	Keonjhar	1	Janghira
7.	Koraput	5	B. Singhpur, Balipeta, Ramgiri, Pukali, Kumbhariput
8.	Malkangiri	1	Padamgiri
9.	Nowapara	1	Bhuliasinkua

1	2	3	4
10.	Phulbani	3	Gochhapada, Balaskumpa, Kurtamgarh
11.	Rayagada	1	Jagannathpur
12.	Sonepur	1	Nagaon
Total		18	

[English]

Safety of Afghans of Indian Origin

1475. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Afghans of Indian origin and NRIs who had fled or migrated to India during Taliban regime and after American attacks on Afghanistan have started going back to Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the number of such persons who came to India and the number who has gone back to their homes in Afghanistan after the formation of new Government in Afghanistan;

(c) whether these people have been welcomed back in Afghanistan; and

(d) if not, whether the Government secured any assurance from the Government of Afghanistan for the protection of their lives and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) On account of civil conflict in Afghanistan, and repressive regime of the Taliban, several Afghan citizens, including those of Indian origin had been living in different countries of the world, including India. With the establishment of the Afghan Interim Administration government would encourage Afghan citizens, including those of Indian origin, to return to their country. According to the figures available with the Ministry of Home Affairs, there are about 18,500 Afghans registered in India.

In our bilateral interaction with the Afghan Interim Administration, the Afghan leadership has committed itself to protecting all its citizens, including those from minority communities.

Passenger Ship Service from Gulf Countries to Cochin

1476. SHRI T. GOVINDAN :

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Passenger Ship Service from Gulf Countries to Cochin in Kerala was started in June, 2001; and

(b) if so, the present status of the service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) A Passenger Ship Service from Gulf (Bahrain) to Cochin by Vessel named "Al Salam Taba-I" commenced in June, 2001. The dates of arrival of the Vessel at Cochin with passengers are 11th June, 2001, 27th July, 2001 and 21st August, 2001.

(b) At present there is no passenger ship service between Gulf and Cochin.

NGO in Health Sector

1477. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1486 on August 1, 2001 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The Implementation Report for the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1486 for 1.8.2001 has already been furnished on 29.1.2002 and the same has been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 7.3.2002.

Forming of Asian Belt

1478. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Singapore has mooted the idea of forming an Asian Belt of IT cities to utilise information technology as an engine of growth; and

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

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

(b) This concept is still at preliminary stage.

[Translation]

Sickle Cell

1479. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ICMR has been doing research on 'Sickle Cell' disease for the last ten years;

(b) whether the ICMR has suggested measures or optional arrangements to prevent this disease;

(c) if so, the details of measures suggested in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch National Sickle Cell Eradication Programme to eradicate Sickle Cell,

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Government are aware of the number of people of backward classes affected by this disease and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The ICMR has been doing research on Sickle Cell disease for more than a decade through research institutes, namely; Institute of Immunohaematology, Mumbai, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and Regional Medical Research Centres located at Bhubaneshwar, Jabalpur and Dibrugarh.

(b) and (c) ICMR has found that Sickle Cell disease has been mostly prevalent amongst tribal population groups and some scheduled castes. For improvement in patients taking

Folic Acid, multi-vitamin and de-worming tablets were recommended by ICMR. Patient taking these medicines showed haemoglobin level improvement. Also genetic counseling was offered to young couples and health education programmes have been conducted in villages and schools.

(d) to (f) In view of the prevalence of sickle cell anaemia in the tribal populations of the country a project titled "Intervention Programme of nutritional anaemia and other hemoglobinopathies amongst some primitive tribal populations of India" has been initiated in four States, namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. A pilot study is currently under progress. The outcome of the study will enable to assess the nutritional and haematological problems in order to administer appropriate intervention which will eventually help to formulate a strategy for improving the Health of the primitive tribals which will then help enable the State Governments to take up intervention programmes and integrate them through PHCs.

[English]

MBPT

1480. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities and services offered by Mumbai Port Trust as compare to other major ports in the country;

(b) the quantum of traffic handled by it in each of the preceding three years;

(c) the financial results of MBPT during three of the above years and whether MBPT has any scheme for the development of the port in future;

(d) the reasons for MBPT's inability to realise the entire lease rental year after year and the steps taken to improve the situation;

(e) the total areas of land owned by MBPT and how much of it is put to use for purposes other than port related industries;

(f) whether MBPT has drawn land-use plan as per the guidelines of 1995 and if so, the details thereof;

(g) the percentage of the land being commercially utilised out of the total vacant land available for the purpose; and

(h) whether there is any proposal to utilise the land economically alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Mumbai Port like most other Major Ports offer facilities for handling various types of cargo and provide services for berthing of vessels with towage and pilotage, ship to shore handling of cargo, storage and delivery etc. Unlike most other ports, Mumbai Port provides ancillary services of CFS, Ship repair, etc.

(b) The quantum of traffic handled by Mumbai Port during last three years is as under :

Year	(In Million Tonnes)
1998-99	30.97
1999-2000	30.41
2000-2001	27.06

(c) The financial results of the MBPT during the last three years are as under .

Item	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Operating Income	654.40	572.41	520.66
Operating Expenditure	499.05	487.86	589.45
Finance and Misc. Income	81.42	103.5	100.20
Finance and Misc. Expenditure	166.87	153.29	505.67
Net Surplus (+)/ Deficit (-)	69.90	34.76	(-) 474.26

Development of port is an on going process. However, the schemes for the development of MBPT in future includes modernisation of oil handling facilities and Jetties 1, 2 and 3 at Jawahar Dweep; replacement of submarine pipelines of marine oil terminal and off shore pipelines, construction of berth at Pir Pau for handling coal and other fuels, Second Liquid Chemical, specialized grade POL berth of new Pir Pau Pier and two deep drafted offshore container berths.

(d) The rent revision has been challenged by the lessees / tenants in the Court of Law and as such the matter is sub-judice.

(e) The total area of land owned by MBPT is 752.70 hectares, out of which approximately 351.30 hectares is let out for various purposes like commercial, industrial and residential.

(f) Yes, Sir. The plan drawn up by MBPT is based on the Mumbai City's development plan of the Municipal Corporation and provides for land use as per the Corporation

zoning which includes all reservation in the development plan and requirement of the port.

(g) and (h) Vacant land is available in small plots spread over the city. The large vacant land is available only at Titwala. Port intends to dispose of vacant land not required for ports use, by outright sale.

Letter Received by C.V.C.

1481. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters received by the Central Vigilance Commission on corruption issue from the Members of Parliament during each of the last three years;

(b) the number out of them are still pending replies;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the pending letters are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The Commission received 66, 161 and 175 letters during 1999, 2000 and 2001 respectively from the Members of Parliament. All the letters except those which were not directly addressed to the Commission were acknowledged.

The Commission is primarily an advisory body, which renders advice at different stages of disciplinary action. The Commission does not have its own investigating agency, but gives advice to the Disciplinary Authority concerned on receipt of investigation Reports. The action against the public servants is to be taken by concerned disciplinary Authority keeping in view, inter-alia, the facts of the case and the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission. The Commission, therefore, does not inform the complainants of the action taken on their complaints.

[Translation]

Health and Family Programme in Rajasthan

1482. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various health and family

welfare schemes and programmes being implemented in Rajasthan, directly by the Central Government or through Non-Government agencies selected by the Central Government and through State Government of Rajasthan, Non-Government agencies selected by the State Government;

(b) since when these schemes and programmes are being implemented; and

(c) the year-wise, programme/scheme-wise and agency-wise amount sanctioned for this purpose during the last three years alongwith the amount utilized therefor?

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

[English]

Allocation of Funds Under SCP and TSP

1483. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been implementing various schemes and programmes under Special Component Plan (SCP) and TSP since 1978 for achieving overall development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes majority who live below poverty line;

(b) if so, indicate the schemes/programmes formulated/being implemented under SCP & TSP since their commencement specifying nature, scope and target groups thereof as stipulated in letter No. 280-PMO/80 dated 12.03.1980 from the Prime Minister's Office addressed to the Health Ministry amongst other Ministries/Organizations while commencing SCP /TSP;

(c) the amount of funds requisitioned and procured by his Ministry during VIth, VIIth, VIIIth and Ninth Five Year Plans for such schemes/programmes; and

(d) the quantified benefits and targets achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The provision of medical facilities, particularly for the poor and the disadvantaged, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes continues to be a common objective for all those concerned. Better health care is sought to be achieved for the people through a variety of measures including the implementation of several national programmes, renovation and modernization of the health infrastructure and

augmentation of medical manpower, particularly in rural areas.

Various national health programmes are being implemented all over the country to provide preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative services to ensure a basic minimum standard of life for all sections of people living in remote, tribal and backward areas. National Malaria Eradication Programme covers 100 hard-core tribal districts across eight States. Free cataract surgery is provided to all throughout the country, including STs and SCs under the National Programme for Control of Blindness. In addition, financial assistance is provided to NGOs for conducting cataract surgery in rural and remote areas. Under National Leprosy Eradication Programme, free multi drug therapy is provided to all health centres including scheduled castes and those in tribal areas. Norms for facilitation of service delivery have been relaxed for tribals under the National Tuberculosis Control Programme. In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV /AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation which covers scheduled caste and tribal population as well.

(c) The amount of plan funds allocated during the last four Five Year Plans on major disease control Programmes viz. those relating to TB, Leprosy, Malaria and Blindness are as under :

(Rs. in crore)

Plans	Allocation to four Disease Control Programmes
Sixth	289.0
Seventh	511.5
Eighth	700.0
Ninth	2199.0

The Programme Officers have periodically been directed to ensure that plan funds are allocated for SCP and TSP based on Population Census. According to 1981 Census, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population was 15.75% & 7.76% respectively, thus necessitating corresponding plan allocation during Sixth and Seventh Plan periods and according to 1991 Census, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population was 16.5% and 8.1% respectively, requiring corresponding plan allocations during the Eighth and Ninth plan periods.

(d) Targets are laid down and achievements seen for the State as a whole, which includes the Scheduled Caste and Tribal population as well. As a result of implementation of

the various Disease Control Programmes, prevalence rate of leprosy has been reduced from 57/10,000 in 1981 to 3.74/10,000 in March, 2001, coverage of TB patients under Revised National TB Control Programme, with the objective to cure 85% of new sputum positive case and to detect 70% of such cases, has increased from 18 million in 1998 to 445 million at present. The performance of cataract surgeries has increased from 12 lakhs in 1990/91 to 37 lakhs in 2000-2001. The number of malaria cases has been contained at around 2 million annually as against 6.47 million in 1976.

20-Point Programme

1484. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) The number of schemes sanctioned during the year 2001 under 20 point programmes in Maharashtra;

(b) The details of the central assistance provided to Maharashtra to implement the schemes under this programme;

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the central assistance for the said programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected.

Scheme for Rural Development

1485. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra have sent some proposals for rural development such as small and medium irrigation projects, digging of tube wells and electrification of remote villages for approval and central assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Planning Commission on each of these proposals separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Planning Commission has not received any specific proposal for Central Assistance for Rural Development such as small and medium irrigation projects, digging of tube wells and electrification of remote villages from the Government of Karnataka and Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telephone Facility to Panchayats in Maharashtra

1486. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Panchayats connected with telephone during the last three years till date in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) whether all Panchayats connected with telephones are having STD facilities;

(c) if not, whether the Government are aware that villagers are facing difficulties in the absence of STD facilities; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide telephones facilities to all village Panchayat with STD facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of district-wise number of Panchayats connected with telephone facility in Maharashtra during the last three years, as reported, is given in statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) STD facility in village public telephones is provided on request from custodians. Custodians are encouraged to avail STD facility.

Statement

Village Public Telephones provided in Gram Panchayats of Maharashtra during the last three years

District	VPTs provided during 1998-99	VPTs provided during 1999-00	VPTs provided during 2000-01
1	2	3	4
Ahmednagar	28	0	0
Akola	75	0	0
Washim	50	0	0
Amravati	184	2	0
Aurangabad	112	23	0
Beed	67	23	0
Bhandara	90	0	0
Gondia	50	0	0
Buldhana	100	37	0
Chandrapur	137	0	0
Dhule	28	0	0
Nandurbar	10	0	0
Gadchiroli	109	0	0
Jalgaon	73	0	0
Jalna	60	10	0
Kalyan	85	0	0
Kolhapur	57	2	0
Latur	6	0	0
Nagpur	44	15	0
Nanded	26	16	0
Nasik	70	0	0
Osmanabad	120	0	0
Parbani	60	14	0

1	2	3	4
Hingoli	40	0	0
Pune	36	1	0
Raigad	160	0	0
Ratnagiri	60	9	0
Sangli	33	0	0
Satara	165	0	0
Sindhudurg	58	0	0
Solapur	31	0	0
Wardha	137	0	0
Yeotmal	101	13	0
Total	2462	165	0

Off Loading Shares of BSNL

1487. SHRI A. BHAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to off-load five per cent equity of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) whether any time limit has been set in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the objectives of off-loading only five percent of equity of BSNL;

(e) whether the Government have plans to off-load greater stake in BSNL over three years; and

(f) the details of such plans and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, Government is not considering any proposal to off-load 5% equity of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, at present.

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

NGOs in AIDS Control

1488. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of NGOs working in the country in the AIDS control, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the financial assistance given to each one of them in the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Placed at Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The funding of NGOs has been decentralized to the respective State AIDS Control Societies and grant is given directly by National AIDS Control Organization only for Community Care Centres in low prevalent states.

In the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 funds sanctioned to NGOs directly by National AIDS Control Organization is placed at Statement-II, enclosed.

Statement-I*Total Number of NGOs in the field of HIV/AIDS*

Sl. No.	State	Total Number of NGOs
1	2	3
1	Andaman & Nicobar	3
2	Ahmedabad	7
3	Andhra Pradesh	56
	DFID Funded	47
4	Arunachal Pradesh	2
5	Assam	9
6	Bihar	1
7	Chandigarh	6
8	Chennai	7
		0
9	Dadra & Nag. Haveli	0
10	Diu & Daman	0

1	2	3
11	Delhi	10
12	Goa	6
13	Gujarat (DFID) Funded	63
14	Haryana	9
15	Himachal Pradesh	4
16	Jammu & Kashmir	1
17	Karnataka	18
18	Kerala	0
	DFID Funded	35
19	Lakshadweep	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	10
21	Maharashtra	30
22	Mumbai (MC)	16
23	Manipur	17
24	Meghalaya	3
25	Mizoram	8
26	Nagaland	15
27	Orissa	8
28	Pondicherry	1
29	Punjab	6
30	Rajasthan	12
31	Sikkim	3
32	Tamil Nadu	65
	USAID Funded	31
33	Tripura	8
34	Uttar Pradesh	16
35	West Bengal	18
	DFID Funded	19
Total		570

Statement-II*Status Report on Projects Directly Funded by NACO 2000-2001*

S.No	Name of the NGO/Orgn.	Project	Total amount released
Delhi			
1	Drishtikon	Model Reproductive Health Center	5,31,000/-
2	Naz Foundation	Model HIV/AIDS Counselling centre, SJ Hospital	3,18,000/-
3	Torch	Tele-counselling center	7,90,600/-
4	NICD-Torch	Voluntary Blood Testing Centre	5,24,000/-
5	Sahara, Delhi	Community Care & Support Project	7,59,500/-
6	Prayas, New Delhi		2,57,099/-
Karnataka			
7	Freedom Foundation, Bangalore	Community Care & Support Project	15,19,000/-
8	Snehadaan	Community Care & Support Project	6,63,520/-
9	Freedom Foundation, Bellary, Karnataka	Community Care & Support Project	11,89,240/-
Manipur			
10	Shalom	Community Care & Support Project	7,58,760/-
11	Leprosy Patients Welfare Society, Imphal, Manipur	Community Care & Support Project	7,59,500/-
Assam			
12	ILA Trust	Community Care & Support Project	11,89,240/-
Maharashtra			
13	Bel Air Hospital, Maharashtra	Community Care & Support Project	14,21,900/-
Andhra Pradesh			
14	Freedom Foundation, Hyderabad	Community Care & Support Project	11,89,240/-
Bihaar			
15	OSERD, Patna	Telephonic counselling	3,50,000/-
Total			1,22,21,099/-

Status Report on Projects Directly Funded by NACO 2001-2002

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO/Organisation	Project	Total amount released
1	Sahara	Community Care & Support Project	Rs. 7,59,500/- (1st Instalment) Rs. 7,59,500/- (IInd Instalment)
2	Chelsea	Community Care & Support Project	Rs. 11,89,240/- (1st Instalment) Rs. 6,34,500/- (IInd Instalment)
3	SFDRT Pondicherry	Community Care & Support Project	Rs. 11,89,240/- (1st Instalment)

[Translation]

Microwave Tower in Chhattisgarh

1489. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which Microwave Tower installed at Jashpur Nagar (Chhattisgarh);

(b) the number of systems working through the said tower and the dates since they are working;

(c) the names of these systems alongwith their capacity; and

(d) the reasons for not commencing communication service through them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The microwave tower at Jashpur Nagar (Chhattisgarh) was installed on 5.12.2001.

(b) One number of Wireless in Local Loop Base Transmission Station is working from the tower at Jashpur Nagar since 26.01.2002.

(c) Wireless in Local Loop System with 500 lines capacity.

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

[English]

Change of Cadre

1490. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2299 on 9.3.1994 and state :

(a) the details of IAS and IPS Officers who were allowed Cadre change on the ground on public interest from 1980 to December 1995;

(b) the criteria adopted in this regard;

(c) whether in affidavit filed before CAT, Hyderabad in OA No. 1108 of 2001, Government have stated that in the absence of relevant records of some officials it was not possible to comment on the ground of their cadre change;

(d) whether the Government have fixed any responsibility in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government propose to reconstruct/trace the files/records of those officers as directed by CAT, Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) According to the records available in this Department, six I.A.S. officers were allowed cadre change in public interest during the years 1980-94. The extant policy on inter-cadre transfer came into force in 1995 and since then no inter-cadre transfer has been approved in public interest.

With regard to I.P.S officers, the Ministry of Home Affairs (the cadre controlling authority for I.P.S) has informed that I.P.S officers have been allowed cadre change on ground of marriage between two All India Service officers borne on different cadres, medical/health grounds, extreme hardship/compassionate grounds and on ground of security from 1980 to 1995. However, no I.P.S. officer has been allowed change of cadre merely on ground of public interest.

The Union of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs in its reply to O.A. No. 1108 of 2001 before CAT Hyderabad Bench has stated that in the absence of relevant records of some of the officials it was not possible to comment on the ground of their cadre change. Subsequently, however, in January, 2002 the Government of Punjab have made available to this Department the copy of Notification issued in August, 1986 in which the concerned I.A.S. officer was allowed cadre change in public interest. Ministry of Home Affairs have already been addressed to inform the Hon'ble CAT Hyderabad Bench of this position. No direction to reconstruct any file has been received from CAT Hyderabad Bench. The entire matter is presently before CAT Hyderabad Bench and is sub-Judice.

[Translation]

Internet Services

1491. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given priority to immediately available internet services for agriculture, textile and agro based industries in distant areas of the country;

(b) whether permission has also been given to international gateways also for encouraging internet;

(c) whether Government have also constituted an advisory committee for this work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Government has taken the following steps for encouragement of Internet services in the distant areas of the country.

- (i) Under Internet Service Provider (ISP) policy, Licence fee upto 31.10.2003 has been waived and subsequently, only a nominal licence fee of Re.1/- per annum.
- (ii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has made available Internet facility in all district headquarters of the country.
- (iii) Internet facility has been extended to 5,518 block headquarter (Both Rural and Urban) of the country as on 31.12.2001 by BSNL.
- (iv) Internet Nodes have been set up by BSNL in hilly areas like Shillong, Imphal, Kohima, Almorah, Solan etc.
- (v) BSNL, through the scheme Internet Dhabas set up through franchisees, has provided Internet dial-up connections to 2976 Internet Dhabas in both rural and urban block headquarters as of 31.12.2001.
- (vi) To promote proliferation of Internet in rural areas, BSNL is offering free Internet access for Internet Dhabas in rural block headquarters.
- (vii) Internet Dhaba Franchisees are also eligible for 25% of the Public Switching Telephone Network (PSTN) access charges as commission.

(b) Yes, Sir. ISPs have been permitted to set up International gateway for Internet using satellite medium and submarine cable medium after getting security clearance.

(c) and (d) A Bandwidth Advisory Committee consisting of eminent personalities of Information Technology (IT) and Telecom industry has been set up to advise Department of Telecommunications (DOT) on the steps to be taken to ensure that bandwidth is available on demand. The Committee has representative from Department of Telecom, Department of Information Technology, National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), Internet Service Provider Association of India (ISP AI), Stock Exchange Board of India (SEBI) etc.

Posts for Physiotherapist

1492. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4436 dated August 22, 2001 and state :

(a) whether the higher grade posts for Physiotherapist have since been created;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) The proposal for creation of higher grade posts for Physiotherapist in the CGHS was examined by the Government.

The Ministry of Finance has put a complete ban on the creation of new posts and therefore it will not be possible to create higher grade posts for Physiotherapists in CGHS at present.

[Translation]

Allotment of PCO Booths in West Bengal

1493. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether undue delay is being caused in allocation of PCO booths due to not convening of the PCO allocation committee meeting on Purulia region of West Bengal;

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

(c) the total number of persons applied for PCO's till date alongwith the number of persons who have not yet been allotted PCO booth alongwith the dates from which these applications are pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Till dated 943 applications were received out

of which, 199 have been allotted PCOs and the remaining are pending as per details given below :

- | | | |
|---|---|------------|
| (i) Applications pending for less than 1 year | - | 533 |
| (ii) Applications pending for 1 year to 2 years | - | 211 |
| (iii) Oldest date of application pending | - | 11-04-2000 |

Rajasthan's Proposal for National Highways

1494. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the number of proposals for construction of National Highways received from Rajasthan Government and the number out of them given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : Under Annual Plan 2001-02, 71 proposals were received from the Government of Rajasthan, out of which 47 proposal have been given clearance, based on availability of funds.

[English]

Different Categories of Vehicles in Chandigarh

1495. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of different categories of vehicles presently registered and plying in Chandigarh;
- (b) the amount released by the Chandigarh Union Territory Administration on account of road-tax during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether a portion of the same is transferred to the Municipal Corporation; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) Registration of motor vehicles and collection of road-tax is the responsibility of concerned States/Union Territories. Details thereof are not maintained by this Ministry.

[Translation]

NH in Gujarat in Dilapidated Condition

1496. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

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

- (a) whether most of the National Highways in Gujarat are in dilapidated condition;
- (b) whether the Union Government have issued any directions/orders to the State Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the total funds sanctioned and released for the repair of these highways during the last two years;
- (e) whether the Government propose to release special fund to Gujarat on emergency basis for the repair of roads on priority basis;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of National Highways in Gujarat; and
- (g) the time by which this repair work is likely to be Completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process.

- (d) The allocations for maintenance and repairs of National Highways in Gujarat during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 were Rs. 2318.17 lakhs and Rs. 2145.00 lakhs respectively.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) and (g) National Highways in Gujarat are continuously maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

[English]

Indo-American Research Centre

1497. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding financial assistance to the Indo-American Cancer Research which is pending with the Centre for a long time;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals and the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the time by which the Union Government are likely to clear the proposal?

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

(b) and (c) Indo-American Cancer Institute & Research Centre promoted by Smt. N.B.T. Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Foundation & American Telugu Women's Organisation has requested for grant-in-aid for purchase of Simulator Machine. Under the scheme of setting up of Cobalt Therapy Unit an amount of Rs.1.00 crore was released to the Smt. NBT Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Hospital, Hyderabad in 1999. Since this is a one time grant, the request of the organisation for additional assistance was not acceded to and they were informed accordingly.

Recall of Indian High Commissioner

1498. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the circumstances leading to the recall of Indian High Commissioner from Islamabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : In our interactions with the Pakistani authorities, following the December 13 terrorist attack on India's Parliament, it was abundantly clear that India's serious concerns about all the ramifications of the attack had not been fully grasped. Pakistan also did not sufficiently appreciate the depth of concern in India, the totality of rejection by the entire cross section of our country's opinion of Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism and its promotion of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. Pakistani spokesman went so far as to suggest that the attack had been organized by India's intelligence services in order to denigrate Pakistan.

In view of Pakistan's negative approach, India had no option but to take a series of diplomatic steps including the recall of the Indian High Commissioner from Islamabad, which was announced on 21st December 2001.

Indians Languishing in Guatemala Godown

1499. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Indians have been imprisoned in Guatemala Godown as reported in the Dainik Jagaran dated January 20, 2002;

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

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) According to information available with the Government, 25 individuals claiming to be Indian nationals were detained by the Guatemalan authorities in January, 2002 for not possessing proper travel documents. These individuals are reported to have since been released.

Formula for Grant and Loan

1500. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has favoured 50:50 formula for grant and loan with regard to States' demand for higher grants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The Plan assistance for the Special Category States and Non-Special Category States is released in the Grant: Loan ratio of 90:10 and 30:70 respectively. A change in the existing ratio has implications on Centre's revenue and capital receipts and thereby the Plan assistance to the States. Hence, any decision in the change in the existing Grant : Loan ratio would be based on overall resource position of the Centre and decision of the National Development Council (NDC) in this regard.

Post-Office Saving Schemes

1501. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of small saving schemes available at present in Post Offices of the country;

(b) the interest rates available on each scheme;

(c) the formalities, eligibilities alongwith minimum/maximum investment needed for investors, Scheme-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to add more small saving schemes in near future;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) A statement containing the current Small Savings Schemes run through the agency of Post Offices, rates of interest/maturity value etc. is enclosed.

(d) to (f) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce any new Small Savings Schemes.

Statement

Small Savings Scheme Run through Post Offices, Rates of Interest/Maturity Value Etc.

Name of the Scheme			Current Rate of Interest % p.a./ Maturity Value etc.		Current Minimum/Maximum Ceiling Limits	
					Single Account	Joint Account
1	2	3	4	5		
1 @ Post Office Saving Account	3.50	Simple Individual (account)	Rs. 20.00/- Rs. 1,00,000.00 (in all a/cs taken together)	Rs. 20.00/2,00,000.00 (in all a/cs taken together)		
2 * Post Office Recurring Deposit (5 Years) Maturity value of a Rs. 10 denomination account) (In Rupees)	748.49	Compound quarterly	Rs. 10.00 : No limit	Rs. 10.00 / No limit		
3 * Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (6 Years)	9.00	Payable monthly plus bonus at 10% of deposits at the end of six years	Rs. 1,000.00 / Rs. 3,00,000.00 (in all accounts taken together)	Rs. 1,000.00 / Rs. 6,00,000.00 (in all accounts taken together)		
4 * Post office Time Deposit						
(a) 1 Yr. Deposit	7.25	Compound quarterly and payable annually	Rs. 50.00 No Maximum limit	Rs. 50.00/ No Maximum limit		
(b) 2 Yr. Deposit	7.50		-do-	-do-		
(c) 3 Yr. Deposit	8.25		-do-	-do-		
(d) 5 Yr. Deposit	8.50		-do-	-do-		
5 ** NSC VIII Issue (6 years) (Maturity value for a Cft. of Rs.100 Denomination)	169.59	Compounded half yearly	Rs. 100.00 / No Maximum limit	Rs. 100.00 / No Maximum limit		

	1	2	3	4	5
6	** National Savings Scheme 1992 (4 Years)	8.50	Payable annually	Rs. 100.00 / No Maximum limit	Rs. 100.00 / No Maximum limit
7	Kisan Vikas Patra	Amt. Double in 7.2/3 years		Rs. 100.00 / No Maximum limit	Rs. 100.00 / No Maximum limit
8	@ Public Provident Fund Scheme (15 Years)	9.00	Calculated monthly balances at the end of the year	Minimum Rs. 100/- to maximum Rs. 60,000/- in a financial year.	

Legends

- * Benefit under Section 80L of Income Tax Act available
- ** Benefit under Section 88 & 80L of Income Tax Act available
- @ Interest completely tax free
In case of PPF benefit under Section 88 of Income Tax Act is also available.

Eligibility :

Small Savings Schemes are meant for small urban as well as rural investors.

Grades of Edible Preservatives

1502. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have specified the grades of edible preservatives, levelling agents etc. for use in food stuff;

(b) if so, whether regular/surprise checks are being conducted to ascertain the adherence of these rules by food industries; and

(c) if so, the result of such checks conducted during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The manufacture and sale of preservatives are under the

Compulsory Certification Scheme of the Bureau of Indian Standards. The Bureau of Indian Standard have prescribed the specifications of these products.

(b) The Bureau of Indian Standards has informed that they inspect the manufacturing premises in routine and make surprise visits to verify that the manufacturers are implementing the scheme of testing and inspection and testing the product as per the guidelines for licensing under the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark Scheme.

The manufacturers of food products who use these preservatives and levelling agents are required to follow the PFA Rules, 1955.

(c) The data regarding number of visits, sample drawn and samples found failed and action taken by Bureau of Indian Standards for last three years is at statement.

Statement

Date regarding number of visits, sample drawn and samples found failing

IS No. with Name of Additive	No. of licences	No. of visits	Samples drawn	Samples failed
1	2	3	4	5
4447 - Sodium Benzene	1	6	10	2*
4448 - Benzoic Acid	1	6	No production since May, 1998	-
4751 - Potassium Metabi Sulphite	1	8	7 (One Test Report awaited)	Nil
4752 - Sodium Metabi Sulphite	3//	16	20 (Three Test Reports awaited)	one#
5191 - Sodium Algenate	/	6	6 (Two Test Reports awaited)	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
4753 - Potassium Nitrate	Nil	-	-	-
4818 - Sorbic Acid	Nil	-	-	-
5057 - Potassium Nitrite	Nil	-	-	-
6030 - Sodium Propionate	Nil	-	-	-
6031 - Calcium Propionate	4	25	38	2@

* The firm was advised to stop using ISI mark and take corrective actions for rectification of the discrepancies. After verification of the corrective action the firm was permitted to resume marking.

// Firm had taken corrective action. One licensee had not initiated marking.

@ The failure has been communicated to the firm for investigating the failure and taking corrective actions. Corrective actions to be verified.

Closure of PSUs

1503. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several PSUs are being declared closed in the country;

(b) if so, whether the proprietor had taken the Government's approval in this regard;

(c) the number of such PSUs which have been permitted to close down with the approval of the Government; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The Government's policy towards Public Sector is to :

- Restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs;
- Close down PSUs which cannot be revived;
- Bring down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower, if necessary; and
- Fully protect the interests of the workers;

2. As per this policy, need-based budgetary support is provided to potentially viable Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

3. As per information available as on 31/12/2001, Establishments of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. (BGML), Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd. (TAFCO), Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd. (MNPM), Bharat Process and Mechanical Engg. Ltd. (BPMEL), Weighbird (India) Ltd. (WIL), Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC), National Bicycle Corp. of India Ltd. (NBCIL), Mining & Allied Machinery Corp. Ltd. (MAMC), and Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL) have been closed. Tangra unit of Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (TCIL), four units of HMT and seven loss making Refractory Units (LRUs)/Fabrication Yard of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL) have also been closed. Further closure of India Road Construction Corpn. (IRCC) and ET & T have been approved by the Government. Tea Trading Corpn. of India (TTCI) has filed an application for liquidation.

Cochin Shipyard Repair Project

1504. SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN :

SHRI GEORGE EDEN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give sanction to Cochin Shipyard Repair Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government also propose to declare the stretches of West Coast Canal between Kollam-Kovalam and Kottappuram-Kasaragod as extension to National Waterway No.III;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Project involves installation of 120 Meter Ship Lift System with essential facilities. The total estimated cost of the Project is Rs.98.38 crores, which is to be funded partially from Cochin Shipyard's internal resources and remaining from borrowings from Financial Institutions.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) A techno-economic feasibility study for extension of National Waterway No.3 from Kottappuram to Kasaragod in North and from Kollam to Kovalam in South has been carried out, which has shown that development of these stretches is viable. Declaration and subsequent development would be subject to the availability of resources.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Scheme for Uttaranchal

1505. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for the development of newly formed Uttaranchal State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which such a scheme is likely to be formulated and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Uttaranchal has been granted Special Category Status with effect from the Financial Year 2001-02. An Annual Plan of Rs.1050 crore has been approved for the year 2001-02 for the development of the State.

Complaint Against Officers

1506. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints against telephone officers designated as T.D.M., G.M. and C.G.M. in the country for their involvement in corrupt practices;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received during the last two years, State-wise;

(c) the action taken against such officers; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Telecom Policy

1507. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the Telecom Policy, 1994, it was aimed to provide telephone on demand and to provide at least one village Public Telephone in all the villages in the country by the year 1997;

(b) whether the target date was postponed to the year 2000 and again to the year 2002;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same;

(d) whether the Government had to announced a new Telecom Policy in the year 1999 in view of the above;

(e) if so, the reasons for not being able to implement the Telecom Policy; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure proper implementation of the Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target to make available telephone on demand and to achieve telecom coverage of all villages in the country by the year 2002 was set in the "New Telecom Policy" 1999".

(c) For covering the Village Public Telephone the appropriate technology was not available. The Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) technology used for this work was found to be inappropriate. Based on evaluation, new technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Centre for Development of Telematics Time Division Multiple Access/Point To Multipoint

(C-Dot TDMA/NPMP) and satellite terminals for inaccessible areas have now been selected apart from the conventional Under Ground Cables and the work is in progress. The contribution from Private Sector participation as per NTP'94 was also minimal due to fixed licence fee regime which was found to be unworkable by the Private Sector. This was changed to revenue sharing in NTP'99 and now the roll out of service by Private Operator has picked up.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The target set in the NTP'99 are likely to be met. The work of providing Village Public Telephones is in progress. 429515 Villages have been provided with Telephone facility as on 31st January 2002 out of 607491 villages in the country. 58,722 Villages are to be covered by Private Basic Operator. Remaining villages are to be covered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), by the end of year 2002.

National Highways in Bihar

1508. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that National Highways in Bihar are in very bad shape and not traffic worthy;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve these National Highways;

(c) whether the Government also provide grants for maintaining even State Highways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) National Highways in Bihar are being maintained generally in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. During 2001-2002 development works amounting to Rs.85.34 crores have been sanctioned for National Highways in Bihar, besides periodical renewal works for Rs. 25.48 crores and Flood Damage Repair/Special Repair works for Rs. 12.53 crores. The Annual Plan 2002-2003 provides for development works on these National Highways at a plan of Rs. 156.00 crores.

(c) and (d) Under Central Road Fund, Central Government also provides some funds for development and maintenance of State Highways and major district roads. However, the responsibility for maintaining State Highways rests with the State Government concerned.

Six Lane Mumbai-Pune Express Way

1509. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

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

(a) whether the six-lane Mumbai-Pune Express way has developed extensive multifarious cracks, within six months of its commission;

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

(c) the steps taken to set the express way in order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Mumbai-Pune Expressway is not a National Highway. It is being maintained by Government of Maharashtra. This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways.

Touts in Passport Offices

1510. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the unauthorised agents are active in and around passport offices throughout the country to get passport for their parties in connivance with office staff;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered in this connection so far;

(c) the number of touts arrested for such offence so far; and

(d) the steps taken to check these type of agents from such operation in and around the passport office premises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The Govt. is aware that unauthorised agents are active around passport offices in the country. However, investigations so far have not established any direct linkage between these unauthorised agents and employees of Passport Offices.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Passport Officer and other officers go on

round of the Passport Office premises to check on the presence of touts or unauthorised agents. To eliminate the menace of unauthorised agents or touts, recognised travel agents have been authorised to submit applications for passport related services. In addition, facilitation counters have been introduced in some passport offices where Ex-Servicemen's Association has been permitted to assist applicants in filling of passport applications. Police Authorities have also been approached to curb the activities of such touts/ unauthorised agents.

Survey of Mental Asylums

1511. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :

SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY :

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed to carry out a survey of medical asylums to ensure none of the patients was chained;

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

(c) the action proposed to set up at least one Central Government run Mental Hospital in each State and Union Territory in a time bound measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) In its order dated 5.2.2002, the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed all States and Union Territories to carry out district-wise survey of all mental asylums and submit a compliance report to the effect that no mentally challenged person is chained in any part of the State. Action in this regard is being taken by the concerned States/Union Territory Governments.

(c) The present policy of the Government is to strengthen the infrastructural facilities and services in the existing mental hospital/institutions in order to maximize the benefits to the mentally ill persons, rather than creating new infrastructure, at this stage.

Malnutrition and High Infant Mortality Rate

1512. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO :

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

SHRI ANANTA ANAYAK :

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

(a) the details of Infant Mortality Rate (per thousand birth within one year of age), State-wise;

(b) whether districts have been identified where Infant Mortality Rate/Malnutrition among the children under the age of five and among expectant mothers is chronically high, State-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far alongwith the details of schemes to be implemented during the Tenth Five Year Plan period to check the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) As per Sample Registration System (SRS), a statement showing IMR (state-wise) is enclosed (Statement-I).

(b) and (c) The Sample Registration System (SRS) brings out estimates of IMR at State level only. The India Nutrition Profile 1998 brought by Department of Women and Child Development provides district-wise malnutrition picture for 187 Districts in 18 States/UTs. Information on Anaemia among children (below 3 years) and pregnant women, as per National Family Health Survey conducted in 1998-99 is enclosed (Statement-II.).

(d) The Government of India, Department of Family Welfare has initiated various steps to reduce the mortality in Infants, Children and care for expectant mothers. The recent initiative is the Reproductive and Child health (RCH) Programme launched in 1997. It includes all the components of Child Survival with additional emphasis on maternal care and nutrition. This will continue in Tenth Plan also.

The Department of Women and Child Development has been implementing the Integrated Child Development Services, nutrition component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana and Nutrition Education Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board to improve the overall nutritional status of the young children and pregnant and nursing women. Under the National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme of the Government of India, Iron folic acid tablets are distributed to High risk groups such as pregnant women, lactating women, women using IUDs and pre-school children between 1 to 5

years. The various poverty alleviation programmes of Department of Rural Development and Targeted Public Distribution System of Ministry of Food are also some of the steps in this direction.

A National Nutrition Mission for addressing the problem of malnutrition is also under consideration of the Government for implementation in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Statement-I

Infant Mortality Rate

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	1999
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	66
2	Assam	76
3	Bihar	63
4	Gujarat	63
5	Haryana	68
6	Karnataka	58
7	Kerala	14
8	Madhya Pradesh	90
9	Maharashtra	48
10	Orissa	97
11	Punjab	53
12	Rajasthan	81
13	Tamil Nadu	52
14	Uttar Pradesh	84
15	West Bengal	52
16	Arunachal Pradesh	43
17	Chhattisgarh	78
18	Delhi	31
19	Goa	21
20	Himachal Pradesh	62

1	2	3
21	Jammu & Kashmir	NA
22	Jharkhand	71
23	Manipur	25
24	Meghalaya	56
25	Mizoram	19
26	Nagaland	NA
27	Sikkim	49
28	Tripura	42
29	Uttaranchal	52
30	A&N Islands	25
31	Chandigarh	28
32	D&N Haveli	56
33	Daman & Diu	35
34	Lakshadweep	32
35	Pondicherry	22
	All India	70

NA - Not available

Source - SRS - RG India

Statement-II

Anaemia among Pregnant Women and Children for Major States

Sl.No.	State/UT/India	% of pregnant women with Anaemia	% of Children with Anaemia
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.8	72.3
2.	Assam	NA	NA
3.	Bihar	49.8	81.3
4.	Gujarat	47.4	74.5
5.	Haryana	55.5	83.9

1	2	3	4
6.	Karnataka	48.6	70.6
7.	Kerala	20.3	43.9
8.	Madhya Pradesh	53.8	75.0
9.	Maharashtra	52.6	76.0
10.	Orissa	60.5	72.3
11.	Punjab	37.1	80.0
12.	Rajasthan	51.4	82.3
13.	Tamil Nadu	57.1	69.0
14.	Uttar Pradesh	46.0	73.9
15.	West Bengal	56.9	78.3
	All India	49.7	74.3

[Translation]

Eradication of Malaria

1513. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO :

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

(a) the number of people died due to Malaria in the country, during the last three years, particularly in Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa;

(b) whether the State Governments have sent any proposal to the Union Government in regard to eradication of Malaria;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the assistance provided to the above States for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Number of Malaria deaths reported during the last three years in the country and those in Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa are as under :-

Year	No. of deaths reported in the country	No. of deaths in Jharkhand	No. of deaths in Bihar	No. of deaths in Orissa
1999	1048	NA *	131 **	399
2000	931	16	2	467
2001 (Provisional)	928	21	0	281

* State came into existence in the year 2000 only.

** Pertains to undivided Bihar

NA - Not Applicable.

(b) to (d) National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) is a Category-II Centrally Sponsored Scheme on a cost sharing basis between Centre and State Governments. The assistance provided by the Government of India is in the form of commodity grants. The assistance provided for the current year is :-

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Year	Jharkhand	Bihar	Orissa
2001-02 (B.E.)	561.28	357.37	557.34

The States of Jharkhand and Orissa are also included under the Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank support and Central assistance to the tune of around Rs.21. 74 crores to 21 districts of Orissa and Rs.5.43

crores to 10 districts of Jharkhand covered under the Project have been provided in the form of commodity and cash grants from 1997-98 to 2001-02.

[English]

National Institute of Rural Industrialisation

1514 SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission have sought an allocation of Rs. 100 crore for upgrading National Institute of Rural Industrialisation of Wardha;

(b) whether Government are considering to allocate the revised fund to the institute:

(c) if so, the time by which the allocation would be made available; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Development of National Highways

1515. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for the development of Rajkot-Somnath, Jetpur-Junagadh-Somnath and Somnath-Kodinar-Bhavnagar as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	NH No. & Sections	Proposals received		Proposals sanctioned		Remarks
		Nos.	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Nos.	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	
1.	Jetpur-Junagarh-Somnath (NH-8D)	10	3461.511	10	3308.351	
2.	Somnath-Kodinar-Bhavnagar (NH-8E)	9	2189.483	9	2045.079	One Proposal amounting to Rs. 187.03 lakhs received in February, 2002 is under process.
3.	Rajkot-Jetpur (NH-8B)	-	-	-	-	Four laning of 17 km. length completed, 17 km. length in progress and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the remaining length is in progress under East-West corridor of National Highways Development Project (NHDP), targeted for completion by December, 2007.

Administrative Reforms of Ports

1516. SHRI K. E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to introduce administrative reforms of Ports in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Working Group of Planning Commission has made some recommendations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Administrative reforms in the major ports are carried out as part of an ongoing process to improve management practices, operational efficiency, cost effectiveness and service quality. The Working Group for the Port Sector for Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) has recommended measures, inter-alia, aimed at improvements in equipment productivity, equipment maintenance, disposal of surplus equipment, labour productivity, optimization of work force, training and optimal use of information technology.

Telephone Rent

1517. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the rent of the telephone instrument have increased;
- (b) if so, whether there is any plan to improve the quality of the instruments; and
- (c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) No rental is charged specifically for the telephone instruments. Quality improvement of telephone instruments forms part of the mandate of the Telecom Engineering Centre. This is a continuous and on-going exercise.

[Translation]

Medicine for Asthma

1518. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether 'Indian Institute of Chemical Biology' have claimed to develop an effective, medicine for Asthma for the first time in the World which has no side effects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated number of patients suffering from this disease in the country;
- (d) whether pollution is the main cause of this disease; and
- (e) if so, the preventive steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) According to Vallabh Patel Chest Institute, no controlled study of any new drug for asthma has been published in a scientific journal by any organization in India in recent years.

(c) to (e) Studies for different parts of India have reported that 2 to 15% of population suffers from asthma. Air pollution has been documented to be an important factor for asthma exacerbation. Facilities for treatment of Asthma is also

available all over the country. The preventive steps taken by various governmental and other agencies include introduction of changes in vehicular and fuel technology, road transport and traffic management, preventive vehicular checkups, phasing out of old commercial vehicles, introduction of cleaner fuels and introduction of smokeless chullahs.

[English]

Assistance for I.T. Parks

1519. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to assist the States who want to set up I.T. Parks in their States with 100% Central assistance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa for helping them in meeting the expenditure on the infrastructural establishment of I. T. Parks / I. T. City in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up Software Technology Parks in the States with 100% central assistance.

(c) to (e) The Government has not received any new proposal from the State Government of Orissa for setting up any new Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Centres. However, STPI, an autonomous society under the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology have already set up Centres at Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in the State of Orissa.

Tender Invited by Kendriya Bhandar

1520. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Kendriya Bhandar invited a limited

tender for the purchase of tubelights and bulbs, to get most competitive prices but the same was thrown open to unregistered firms also without notice in the newspapers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the tender was finalized in favour of the lowest bidder of Rs. 32.75 but their supplies were later on discontinued without giving any reasons in writing and started purchasing some other tubelight at higher rate;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any conditions were prescribed in the tender that can lead to discontinuation of supplies; and whether any of those conditions were violated by the lowest bidder; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/propose to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Limited tender was invited for the supplies of bulbs and tubelights from existing registered and other reputed suppliers as per provisions of the purchase policy. Since tender issued was limited tender, hence question of publishing tender notice in newspaper does not arise.

(c) and (d) The rates were approved not only for lowest ECE brand @ Rs.32.75 to be supplied through M/s Tayal Agencies but also for Philips, Wipro and Crompton Greaves etc. as Kendriya Bhandar usually stocks more than one brand and supplies the brand preferred by the consumers. If the consumer does not give any preference, the lowest cost brand is supplied.

The supplies of bulbs and tubelights from M/s Tayal Agencies have been suspended as a large number of complaints are being investigated against this firm which includes providing a false address and an attempt to defraud Kendriya Bhandar by placing a sticker of higher MRP on a supply of Milton jugs. The registration of M/s Tayal Agencies with Kendriya Bhandar has also been suspended. However, to provide ECE brand of tubelight and bulbs to the customers, the manufacturer of ECE brand tubelight and bulbs have been approached for direct supply. Response from manufacturer is awaited.

(e) The discontinuation of supplies through M/s Tayal Agencies were due to the reasons mentioned in reply to (c) & (d) above. For such action no specific provision in tender conditions is required to be made.

(f) In view of (e) above, question does not arise.

Vallarpadam International Container Trans-Shipment Terminal

1521. SHRI GEORGE EDEN :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State Government of Kerala regarding the expeditious sanction of Vallarpadam International Container Trans-Shipment Terminal;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in implementing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. However, the Cochin Port Trust has submitted a proposal for development of Vallarpadam International Container Trans-shipment Terminal.

(b) and (c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Wireless in Local Loop Services in North-East and Sikkim

1522. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Defence Ministry still holds up BSNL's WLL Service in the North-eastern Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the areas in the North-East and Sikkim that will be covered by WLL Services and the date of commissioning the Services, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Defence have expressed difficulties in granting clearance to WLL services to be offered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) in North, Eastern region due to technical considerations and security implications. The names of the areas is enclosed as statement. The commencement of service in North-Eastern region depend upon clearance from Ministry of Defence while in Sikkim it is expected by August 2002.

Statement

State	Area
1	2
Sikkim	Gangtok
Sikkim	Namichi
Assam	Barpeta Road
Assam	Bijni
Assam	Bilasipara
Assam	Bonaigaon
Assam	Dhubri
Assam	Goalpara
Assam	Kokrajhar
Assam	Nalbari
Assam	Chapakhowa
Assam	Dibrugarh
Assam	Doomdooma
Assam	Margherita
Assam	Moran
Assam	Namrup
Assam	Tinsukia
Assam	Jorhat
Assam	Mariani
Assam	Sibsagar
Assam	Sonari

1	2
Assam	Bokajan
Assam	Diphu
Assam	Golaghat
Assam	Hamren
Assam	Hawraghat
Assam	Hojai
Assam	Morigaon
Assam	Nagaon
Assam	Samilango
Assam	Sarupathar
Assam	Behupuria
Assam	Dhakuakhana
Assam	Gogamukh
Assam	Kharupetia
Assam	Napam
Assam	Shillapathar
Assam	Tangla
Assam	Abhaypuri
Assam	Barpeta Town
Assam	Bijaynagar
Assam	Boko
Assam	Borjhar
Assam	Hajo
Assam	Rangia
Assam	Sonapur
Assam	Dullavacherra
Assam	Hailakandi
Assam	Halflong

1	2
Assam	Karimganj
Assam	Lala Bazar
Assam	Patharkandi
Assam	Silchar
Assam	Umarangshu
Assam	B. Charali
Assam	Dhemaji
Assam	Gohpur
Assam	Jonai
Assam	Mongaldoi
Assam	North Lakhimpur
Assam	Udalguri
Tripura	Agartala
Assam	Pan Bazar
Tripura	Ambassa
Tripura	Dharam Nagar
Tripura	Kailashahar
Tripura	Khowai
Tripura	Manubassar
Tripura	R.K. Pur
Tripura	Santir Bazar
Tripura	Shrman Tilla
Tripura	Teliamura
Mizoram	Aizawal
Mizoram	Demagiri
Mizoram	Hnathlal
Mizoram	Kolasib
Mizoram	Lunglei

1	2
Mizoram	Mammit
Mizoram	Sangau
Mizoram	Serchip
Mizoram	Thingsulthia
Meghalaya	Amalarem
Meghalaya	Cherrapunjee
Meghalaya	Jowai
Meghalaya	Khliehriat
Meghalaya	Mawkyrwat
Meghalaya	Nongpoh Hills
Meghalaya	Nongstoian Hills
Meghalaya	Shillong (Mawpat)
Meghalaya	Tura Hill
Meghalaya	Williamnagar
Meghalaya	Bagmara
Meghalaya	Mairang
Meghalaya	Mendipathar
Meghalaya	Phulbari
Meghalaya	Aitkor
Manipur	Bishenpur
Manipur	Churachandpur
Manipur	Imphal
Manipur	Kakching
Manipur	Moreh
Manipur	Thouba
Manipur	Ukhrool
Manipur	Vaitumkullen
Arunachal Pradesh	Bomdila

1	2
Arunachal Pradesh	Doimukh
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
Arunachal Pradesh	Khonsa
Arunachal Pradesh	Miao
Arunachal Pradesh	Naharlagun
Arunachal Pradesh	Namsai
Arunachal Pradesh	Passighat
Arunachal Pradesh	Roing
Arunachal Pradesh	Tezu
Nagaland	Dimapur
Nagaland	Impur
Nagaland	Kohima
Nagaland	Metzhithema
Nagaland	Mokokchung
Nagaland	Mon
Nagaland	Phek
Nagaland	Tuensang
Nagaland	Wokha
Nagaland	Zunheboto

Change in Passport Procedure

1523. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the procedure for issuing passports has been changed and checks have been provided after the attack on the American Information Centre in Kolkata; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The improvement of the procedures relating to issue of passports is a continuous process. The employees of the Passport Offices have been asked to exercise greater care in scrutiny of the documents submitted in support of passport

applications. The Government has strengthened the police verification to ensure that passports are not issued to undesirable elements.

Shipping Policy

1524. DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the component of shipping policy with outlines of each important points;

(b) the recommendation made by the "Pinto Committee" with regard to "New Shipping policy";

(c) the number of harbours in the country, with physical and financial dimensions of each; and

(d) the share of public & private sector funds in each harbour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Salient feature of India's shipping policy are (i) promotion of national shipping to increase self reliance in the carriage of country's overseas trade and (ii) protection of various stakeholder's interest in Export-import trade.

(b) Pinto Committee submitted its report in July, 1997. The Committee had made 31 recommendations in all. The details are in statement.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

List of recommendations made by Pinto Committee :-

1. Shipping Industry be recognized as Export Industry.
2. Shipping Industry to receive all fiscal and financial benefits available to export Industry.
3. Restoration of Section 33AC in its original form.
4. Enhancing depreciation rate for Shipping Industry and bringing it at par with other modes of transport.
5. Tax benefits to Indian Seafarers on Indian flag vessels.
6. Remuneration for shipboard service should be treated as foreign source income accrued and earned overseas.

7. Relaxation in maturity period of ECB and Simplification in ECB procedure and expeditious clearance thereof for ships acquisitions.
 8. All import of bulk cargoes be made only on f.o.b basis.
 9. Cargo support by Government should not be extended to BBOD chartered vessels operated by companies with more than 51% foreign equity.
 10. Amendment to Merchant Shipping Act to facilitate the growth of the industry is made in a time bound manner.
 11. The Afzulpurkar Committee recommendations to facilitate coastal shipping must be implemented without delay.
 12. A Coastal Shipping Act to facilitate independent development of coastal shipping and new reduced requirement for dedicated coastal ships must be promulgated.
 13. Coastal Shipping be declared as infrastructure industry.
 14. Domestic shipbuilding capacity for coastal ships to be enhanced and ships be eligible for soft loans from Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).
 15. Greater emphasis needs to be placed on training HSC candidates as marine engineers. Government should consider within the present training period of 4 years.
 16. Private initiative must be encouraged for setting up additional training facilities.
 17. Selection of crew, their training and certification process to be modified and retirement age of crew to be set up at 48 as in the case of armed forces.
 18. Companies must be required to maintain their own rosters of crew, and the general roster system be done away with.
 19. To reduce the manning scale in a fixed time frame.
 20. Seamen's Employment Office to be done away with and instead they should only facilitate placement of seamen.
 21. LNG and LPG carriage should be reserved for Indian flagships with possible dispensation in the absence of available national tonnage.
 22. Reduction of freight paid from taxable income when Indian ships are used.
 23. The subsidy to public sector shipyards should be restricted for building liner and coastal vessels and such subsidy should be extended to all shipyards.
 24. National Trade and Transportation facility forum with representation from various Ministries to be established for facilitating multi modal transportation.
 25. Indian ports should be required to develop and implement suitable safety and quality management systems that meet the universally accepted standards.
 26. To achieve compliance with safety and quality standards and maintain consistency with the requirements of the shipping industry, interaction on these issues between port administration and the maritime administration must be enhanced.
 27. Ports must be encouraged to make provision for ship repair facilities.
 28. State Governments should be encouraged to create suitable infrastructure for industry to participate in ship repair.
 29. The Maritime Administration must be restructured to be responsive to the demands of the changing shipping environment and staffed with adequately trained manpower, competent to address contemporary issues related to safety, quality and training.
 30. In order to attract experience manpower the state's maritime administration must attract personnel from industry, the competing empower, which pay much higher remuneration.
 31. Neither an open register nor a second register demonstrates any potential benefit for Indian Shipping's development. In fact both could harm the interest of the existing national flag carriers.
- Donation of Eye**
1525. SHRI R.S. PATIL :
- SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
- Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :
- (a) whether Government are aware that donation

of eyes to the eye banks is over-whelming during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government are making any special efforts to enthuse and encourage more and more people to donate their eyes so that blind persons can also get an opportunity to see; 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) No, Sir. The approximate requirement of the cornea annually is about one lakh whereas the eye banks collected only 15,194 corneas in 1998, 12,174 corneas in 1999 and 19,069 corneas in 2000 which is far below than the expected collection. The State-wise details of eye collection of the above three years is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. To promote eye donation in the country, the following measures are being taken :-

- i. Organising National Fortnight on Eye Donation from 25th August to 7th September every year.
- ii. Enhance mass awareness through messages on television, radio, press and printed material.
- iii. Training hospital staff on GRIEF COUNSELLING for motivating relatives of terminally ill patients for donating the eyes.
- iv. Provide financial assistance to eye banks in Government and voluntary sector.
- v. Organise training of eye surgeons in the corneal transplantation to restore vision of corneal blind persons.
- vi. Launching hospital cornea retrieval programme with the support of major hospitals, medical colleges in Government and Non-Government sector, Army, ESI & Railway hospitals of the country.
- vii. To shift the focus from "Pledging of Eyes" to actual collection of Eyes.

Statement

State-wise statistics of Cornea collection by the member Eye Banks of EBAI

Sl.No.	State	Eyes Collected in 1998	Eyes collected in 1999	Eyes collected in 2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1040	917	1306
2.	Assam	Not reported	Not reported	0
3.	Bihar	28	68	17
4.	Chandigarh	200	225	246
5.	Delhi	846	997	973
6.	Gujarat	5133	588	6078
7.	Haryana	10	Not reported	168
8.	Karnataka	723	776	842
9.	Kerala	238	206	264
10.	Maharashtra	2700	1477	4189
11.	Madhya Pradesh	310	456	408
12.	Orissa	Not reported	Not reported	0

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Punjab	752	100	199
14.	Rajasthan	47	143	218
15.	Tamil Nadu	2534	1201	3359
16.	Uttar Pradesh	319	224	214
17.	West Bengal	214	296	531
18.	Pondicherry	—	—	67
Total		15,194	12,174	19,069

Visits of Leaders

1526. SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the recent past there has been extensive exchange of visits of Indian and U.S.A. leaders; and

(b) if so, the outcome of such visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. India and the United States have continued their high level of engagement at the political and official levels in pursuit of the shared goal of Prime Minister and U.S. President, reaffirmed at their meeting in Washington on 09 November 2001, to complete the process of qualitatively transforming India-U.S. relationship.

(b) These exchanges have deepened mutual understanding and advanced cooperation across the full spectrum of bilateral activities and international issues of mutual interest, including in political and security matters, defence, economic and commercial relations, science and technology, health, energy, environment as well as on the global campaign against terrorism and the political and economic future of Afghanistan.

New Telephone Connections provided on the same day

1527. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new telephone connections provided in the Karnataka State in the year 2001, District-wise; and

(b) the places in the State where these connections have been provided on the same day on which applied for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Number of new telephone connections provided in Karnataka State in the year 2001, Telecom district-wise, is given in the statement.

(b) In the following places telephone connections are provided within 24 hours of booking the connections :

1. Bangalore City (partly)
2. Hassan City
3. Mysore City
4. Bellary City
5. Mulubagal
6. Belgaum City
7. Hubli City
8. Gulbarga City
9. Mandya City

Statement

Telecom District-wise telephone connections provided in Karnataka State in the year 2001

Sl.No.	Name of the Telecom District	Connections provided from Jan'01 to Dec'01
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore	142441
2.	Belgaum	21399
3.	Bellary	5749

1	2	3
4.	Bidar	8897
5.	Bijapur	18350
6.	Chickmagalur	9055
7.	Dakshin Kannada	41348
8.	Chitradurga	12938
9.	Gulbarga	14047
10.	Hassan	16305
11.	Hubli	17903
12.	Kodagu	7962
13.	Kolar	18385
14.	Mandya	10206
15.	Mysore	22825
16.	Richur	12844
17.	Shimoga	17851
18.	Tumkur	17278
19.	Uttar Kannada	14681
Total		430464

Widening/Expansion work on National Highway-47

1528. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the widening and expansion work on National Highway-47 in Kayamkulams section is very slow;

(b) if so, the time by which it will be completed; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The work of widening of single lane to two lanes of Harippad-Kayamkulams-Krishnapuram Section of NH-47 in Kerala is substantially complete except some minor miscellaneous works which will be completed shortly.

[Translation]

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

1529. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH :

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI J .S. BRAR :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

SHRI T .GOVINDAN :

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new VRS to its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which it would be made effective;

(c) the number of employees identified so far as surplus in each Ministry/Department, category-wise;

(d) the number of employees in each category likely to be covered under the VRS during 2002-2003 and the criteria adopted by the Government for the same;

(e) whether this scheme will also be applicable to railways and defence personnel;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government also propose to reduce the retirement age of its employees keeping in view the down sized bureaucracy as a result of introduction of new Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the Central Government employees declared surplus has been introduced vide Office Memorandum No.25013/6/2001-Estt.(A) dated 28th February, 2002 a copy of which is enclose. The scheme is applicable with immediate effect.

(c) and (d) The Expenditure Reforms Commission had, in its report, identified approximately 42,200 employees as surplus. So far 12,200 posts have been identified as surplus for abolition by various Ministries/Departments, on the basis of the Commission's recommendations. As the new scheme is optional, it is not possible to indicate number of employees category-wise opting for VRS.

(e) and (f) The Scheme is applicable to the Central Government civilian employees governed by CCS (pension) Rules and are declared surplus in any Ministry/Department.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise in view of reply to (g) above.

No.25013/6/2001-Estt.(A)

Government of India

**Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Personnel & Training**

New Delhi, the 28th February. 2002

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub : Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme for Surplus Central Government Employees.

The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) set up by the Government of India has suggested a liberal Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for the employees declared surplus. This recommendation, contained in Commission's second Report on 'Optimising Government's Staff Strength - Some General Issues' has been considered carefully and the Central Government have decided to introduce a special Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as per details given in para 2 hereunder for the permanent employees declared

surplus in any Ministry/Department as a consequence of one or more of the following :-

- (i) Implementation of decisions of the Cabinet regarding restructuring of Ministries/Departments;
- (ii) Implementation of the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission;
- (iii) Implementation of the decision of a Ministry/Department relating to downsizing/rightsizing including, inter alia, restructuring of an organization, transfer of an activity to a State Government, Public Sector Undertaking or other Autonomous Organisation, discontinuation of an ongoing activity and introduction of changes in technology; or
- (iv) Implementation of work study reports undertaken by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance or any other body set up by the Central Government or the Ministry/Department concerned.

2. The features of Special VRS for the employees declared surplus are as under :-

- (a) All permanent employees rendered surplus irrespective of their age and qualifying service can opt for the scheme.
- (b) An optee of Special VRS will be entitled to receive an ex-gratia amount equal to basic pay plus dearness allowance for the number of days worked out on the basis of length of service @ 35 days for each completed year and 25 days for each remaining year. For any part of a year, the number of days for ex-gratia amount, will be worked out on the basis of 365 days in a year. The ex-gratia amount will be further subject to the following conditions :
 - (i) total number of years to be counted for payment of ex-gratia will not exceed 33 years;
 - (ii) No weightage of additional service will be given for the purpose of calculation of ex-gratia;
 - (iii) The ex-gratia will be subject to a minimum of Rs.25,000/- or 250 days emoluments, whichever is higher;
 - (iv) The ex-gratia amount should not exceed

the sum of the basic pay plus DA that the employee would draw at the prevailing level for the balance of the period of service left before superannuation;

- (v) The ex-gratia amount will be paid in lump-sum;
- (vi) The ex-gratia amount up to Rs.5.00 lakhs will be exempted from Income Tax;
- (c) A weightage of five years to the qualifying service shall be given under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 to such permanent surplus employees who have rendered a minimum of 15 years of qualifying service on the date they are declared surplus. However, as provided in rule 29 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, the qualifying length of service after taking into account the aforesaid weightage should not be more than the service he would have rendered had he retired on the date of his superannuation.
- (d) Encashment of Earned Leave accumulated on the date of relief as per CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972;
- (e) Payment of savings element with interest in the Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme as per rules;
- (f) TA/DA as on retirement for self and family for settling anywhere in India as per Travelling Allowance Rules;
- (g) Group 'A' officials opting for the special VRS will be exempted from the operation of rule 10 of the CCS (Pension) Rules which stipulates previous sanction of the Government for accepting commercial employment.

3. Payment of ex-gratia to the employees declared surplus and opting for the special VRS within the specified three months period will be over and above the normal retirement entitlements under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972.

4. The order of voluntary retirement in each case should clearly stipulate that the surplus post held by the retiring incumbent will stand abolished from the date of his/her voluntary retirement.

5. The identification of surplus employees for the purpose of VRS would be guided by procedure given in Item 3 of Annexure-I under the heading "Steps for identification of Surplus staff" to the revised scheme of the disposal of personnel rendered surplus due to reduction of establishment

in Central Government Department/Offices notified vide Circular No. 1/18/88-CS-III of DOPT dated 1st April, 1989.

6. The permanent employees declared surplus will have to exercise option for special VRS within three months from the date he or she has been declared surplus in any Ministry/Department. Surplus employees presently on the Rolls of the Surplus Cell (Redesignated as the Division of Retraining and Redeployment) of the Department of Personnel & Training as on the date of this OM can also opt for special VRS within three months from this date.

7. In order to facilitate the maintenance of a close watch on the implementation of the scheme, all Ministries/Departments are required to submit quarterly returns to the Surplus Cell of Department of Personnel & Training that may be prescribed by that Cell.

8. Ministry of Finance, etc. are requested to give wide publicity to the contents of this O.M. to the employees declared surplus.

(Smt. Pratibha Mohan)
Director (E-II)
Tel.: 301 3180

To

All Ministries/Departments (As per standard list).

[English]

AIDS Control Programme in Eastern States

1530. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI :

SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA :

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

(a) whether the level of awareness of the national AIDS Control Programme has spread amongst the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Eastern States are still low on AIDS awareness; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to intensify awareness programme among the people, especially in the Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The National AIDS Control Organization through its

awareness campaigns has significantly raised the levels of awareness in India.

(b) The results of the National Family Health Survey (1998-99) showed that the level of awareness about HIV/AIDS in India was 40.30%. According to National Baseline Behavioural Survey (2001) the awareness level has increased to 76.1%.

(c) The levels of awareness in the eastern states

viz. West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar have risen significantly over the last three years. A statement showing the change in awareness levels is at statement.

(d) At the State level intensive and focused Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are being undertaken by the State AIDS Control Societies to respond to local priorities and communication in local languages.

Statement

Awareness Level of HIV/AIDS

A Comparative Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	National Family Health Survey (1998-99)	National Baseline Behavioural Survey (2001)
		Percentage of Ever married Women Age 15-49 with Knowledge of HIV/AIDS	Awareness on HIV/AIDS among general population
1.	Bihar	11.70	40.30
2.	Orissa	39.00	67.10
3.	West Bengal	26.40	58.20

Assistance to States

1531. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to bring out a Uniform Relief Policy with regard to paying of central assistance to the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any proposal in this regard from various States;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The Plan assistance for the Special Category States and Non-Special Category States is released in the Grant : Loan ratio of 90:10 and 30:70 respectively. A change in the existing ratio has implications on Centre's revenue and capital receipts and thereby the Plan assistance to the States. Hence, any decision

in the change in the existing Grant : Loan ratio would be based on overall resource position of the Centre and decision of the National Development Council (NDC) in this regard.

(c) and (d) Since the States have sought a revision of the Gadgil Formula for allocation of Normal Central Assistance (NCA) to States, Planning Commission has sought their views and suggestions have been received from various State Governments. However, there is vide divergence in the views amongst the States in this regard. In general, while the advanced States have sought higher weightage for performance, the less advanced States have sought higher weightage for backwardness. Hence, the Full Planning Commission in its meeting held on 27th and 29th June, 2001 discussed, inter-alia, the issue of revision of Gadgil Formula and in view of the divergence of the views among the State Governments and the sensitivity of this issue, it was decided that it would be necessary to discuss this further and evolve a consensus before alternatives are considered by the NDC.

Wheat Supplies to Afghanistan

1532.
- SHRI D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :
- DR. (SHRIMATI) C.SUGUNA KUMARI :
- SHRI G.GANGA REDDY :
- SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI G.PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has recently denied transit facilities for wheats supplied from India to Afghanistan;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the World Food Programme Authorities and the Government of Afghanistan;

(d) if so, the reactions of the World Food Programme Authorities and Afghanistan in this regard;

(e) whether any alternative route has been decided for the transportation of the wheat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the additional expenditure likely to be incurred as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) As part of our commitment to ameliorate the condition of Afghan people the government has committed to offer humanitarian assistance to internally and externally displaced Afghans, and others in need, including through provision of one million tonnes of wheat. Government has been in touch with various UN agencies, including the World Food Programme and is working out the modalities for sending humanitarian assistance of wheat to the Afghan people as early as possible. As part of Indian UN aid for Afghanistan, the government has not approached Pakistan for transit facility.

There have been reports that Pakistan has not been willing to provide transit facility for this humanitarian assistance

claiming alleged infestation and disease. Government have made it clear that such claims are ill-founded and self-serving.

(c) and (d) Government has been discussing the matter of transportation of Indian wheat with the World Food Programme. We have seen statements by the WFP, indicating the Indian government has agreed to deliver wheat stocks which would meet WFP specifications.

(e) and (f) Government is examining and evaluating various parameters of all alternative options to transport Indian wheat to Afghanistan as soon as possible.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange with OFC in Bihar and Jharkhand

1533. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH :

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

(a) the names of telephone exchanges in Jharkhand, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh States which are proposed to be converted into Optical Fibre Cable; and

(b) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be converted into Optical Fibre Cable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) List enclosed at statement I, II and III for Jharkhand, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh, respectively.

(b) These exchanges are planned to be connected by Optical Fibre by Cable March 2003 progressively subject to availability of funds and materials.

Statement-I

The names of telephone exchanges in Jharkhand which are planned to be converted into OFC media.

Sl.No.	Exchange
1	2
1.	Nawadih
2.	Jori
3.	Bagmara

1	2
4.	Rajganj
5.	Narayanpur
6.	Saraiyahat
7.	Jama
8.	Fatehpur
9.	Goelkera
10.	Atka
11.	Aura
12.	Dwarpahari
13.	Chapuadih
14.	Gandey
15.	Maheshmunda
16.	Gangti
17.	Korka
18.	Barkatha
19.	Badan
20.	Keredari
21.	Demotand
22.	Karmatar
23.	Chandwara
24.	Godakhar
25.	Markacho
26.	Chhipadohar
27.	Bishunpur
28.	Kisko
29.	Panki
30.	Kotal Pakhar
31.	Bhagaiya

1	2
32.	Bakudih
33.	Tinpahar
34.	Sonua
Statement-II	
Exchanges planned to be provided with OFC media in Bihar	
Sl. No.	Exchange
1	2
1.	Akhgaon
2.	Azimabad
3.	Naryanpur
4.	Sahar
5.	Sandesh
6.	Saraiya
7.	Chausa
8.	Dhansoi
9.	Itarhi
10.	Rajpur
11.	Sikathi
12.	Unwas
13.	Dumri
14.	Nawanagar
15.	Simri
16.	Behea
17.	Jagdishpur
18.	Khutaha Bazar
19.	Tarari
20.	Bharko
21.	Dhoraiya

1	2
22.	Kumarpur
23.	Shadpur
24.	Shambhuganj
25.	Vijayahat
26.	Kalajor
27.	Dariapur
28.	Fatehpur
29.	Jamsi
30.	Khiriban
31.	Pithana
32.	Raghuchak
33.	Sajor
34.	Shajadpur
35.	Borohiya
36.	Ishipur
37.	Madarganj
38.	Sanokhar
39.	Sonaulha
40.	Chandan
41.	Dighi
42.	Bhairoganj
43.	Valmikinagar
44.	Mainatand
45.	Sikta
46.	Maker
47.	N. Jalalpur
48.	Bathua Bazar
49.	Panchdeori

1	2
50.	Goriakothi
51.	Mairwa
52.	Guthani
53.	Taraiya
54.	D. Dubauli
55.	Darauli
56.	Madhawapur
57.	Mulichak
58.	Saharghat
59.	Basaitha
60.	Benipur
61.	Biraul
62.	Ghanshyampur
63.	Jaideopatti
64.	Kirathpur Rasiyari
65.	Kusheshwarasthan
66.	Andama
67.	Baheri
68.	Bithauli
69.	Hathori
70.	Kansi
71.	Khirhar
72.	Kusothar
73.	Lahta
74.	Pakhari
75.	Sakathpur
76.	Sonki
77.	Ughara

1	2
78.	Ujjan
79.	Basopatti
80.	Ladaniya
81.	Harri
82.	Kuthia
83.	Madhepur
84.	Babubarhi
85.	Bhatsimra
86.	Bhilahi
87.	Ghanghaur
88.	Rajnagar
89.	Laukahi
90.	Jale
91.	K. Chakauti
92.	Kajrapatti
93.	Kamtaul
94.	Keoti
95.	Ladari
96.	Majra
97.	Pinaruch
98.	Raiyam
99.	Saraiya
100.	Tektar
101.	Nirmali
102.	Sibipatti
103.	Kanaulibazar
104.	Karpi
105.	Sonbhadra Surajpur

1	2
106.	Deo
107.	Poiwan
108.	Rajoi
109.	Sheoganj
110.	Simra Bazar
111.	Paraiya
112.	Dumaria
113.	Boknarikala
114.	Apsar
115.	Kasichak
116.	Kowakol
117.	Warhaliganj
118.	Gurupa
119.	Phesar
120.	Meskaul
121.	Banke Bazar
122.	Bhadeya
123.	Guragu
124.	Gurua
125.	Mohanpur
126.	Atri
127.	Bathani
128.	Fatehpur
129.	Mohra
130.	Tankuppa
131.	Tarma
132.	Kasma
133.	Naniwan

1	2
134.	Sakurabad
135.	Maw
136.	Sahdeo Khap
137.	Narhat
138.	Barachili
139.	Telebigha
140.	Chainpur
141.	Kaliaganj
142.	Kursakanta
143.	Champanagar
144.	Katha
145.	Azamnagar
146.	Barsoi
147.	Sonaili
148.	Barharakothi
149.	Mirdaul
150.	Parwaha
151.	Dhan Khora
152.	Diliniwanganj
153.	Hasanganj
154.	Manihari
155.	Samaili
156.	Gauripur
157.	Saidpur
158.	Rauta
159.	Bhargama
160.	Babhangama
161.	Tilrath

1	2
162.	Beldaur
163.	Dumaria Khud
164.	Kajraitha
165.	G. Sumbhaghat
166.	Ghorasahan
167.	Banjaria
168.	Fenhara
169.	Harnatha
170.	Narha Panapur
171.	Pakri
172.	Asrganj
173.	H. Kharagpur
174.	Majhgaon
175.	Sangrampur
176.	Tetiabambar
177.	Adha
178.	Aliganj
179.	Kalanarayanpur
180.	M. Simaria
181.	Sikandra
182.	Simultala
183.	Barahia
184.	Ghosaith
185.	Kajra
186.	Gidhaur
187.	Dhahara
188.	Patma
189.	Ariari

1	2
190.	Chewara
191.	Ghatkusmba
192.	Shekhopursarai
193.	Manikpur
194.	Karnaul
195.	Panapurkariat
196.	Aurai
197.	Gaighat
198.	Narma
199.	Beribeta
200.	Cauranth
201.	Sursand
202.	Dumrikatsari
203.	Purnahia
204.	Tariyani
205.	Bairgania
206.	Parihar
207.	Ghoswari
208.	Gause Shekhpura
209.	More
210.	Rampur Dumria
211.	Asthawan
212.	Ben
213.	Devisarai
214.	Dipnagar
215.	Dumrawan
216.	Ghosrama
217.	Gopalabad

1	2
218.	Katrisarai
219.	Maulanadih
220.	Rahui
221.	Sarmera
222.	Piplawan
223.	Dayalchak
224.	Ganjpar
225.	Ishlampur
226.	Kaliachak
227.	Kariaparsurai
228.	Panhar
229.	Parwalpur
230.	Salalpur
231.	Thartharai
232.	Yogipur
233.	Daniawan
234.	Khushrupur
235.	Punpun
236.	Simra
237.	Sampathchak
238.	Walmi
239.	Birpur
240.	J. Raghopur
241.	Ratanapur
242.	Ghallar
243.	Kumarkhand
244.	Birathpur
245.	Haripur

1	2
246.	Kasnagar
247.	Mangaur
248.	S. Bakhtiarpur
249.	Salkhua
250.	Sonbarsaraj
251.	Teliahat
252.	Baluaha
253.	Bhagauli
254.	Dhabauli
255.	Golma
256.	Kapasias
257.	Mainarajhanspur
258.	Mehsi
259.	Murajpur
260.	Nauhata
261.	Binababhangama
262.	Garbaruari
263.	Hariharpur
264.	Pipra
265.	Saraigarh
266.	Baluabazar
267.	Chhatapur
268.	Girdharpatti
269.	Tribeniganj
270.	Zadia
271.	Alamnagar
272.	Gausa
273.	Gwalpura

1	2
274.	Phulaut
275.	Rajnibabhangama
276.	Udakishanganj
277.	Kharbudhama
278.	Ramnagar
279.	Sahjadpur
280.	Alamnagar
281.	C. Mathurapur
282.	Khalispur
283.	M. Nagar
284.	Patori
285.	Rasulpur
286.	Bithan
287.	Dasoth
288.	Hasanpur
289.	Hansa
290.	Karpurigram
291.	Kathia
292.	Kishanpur
293.	Kubougram
294.	Morwa
295.	Pusa
296.	S. Kalyanpur
297.	Shadipur Simraha
298.	Sripurgahaar
299.	Wani
300.	Chamehsi
301.	Mahraul

1	2
302.	R. Gangeshwarnagar
303.	Adhaurah
304.	Sonhan
305.	Kachhwa
306.	Rajpur
307.	Ahinaura
308.	Deohalia
309.	Kurda
310.	Pasauli
311.	Ramgarh
312.	Saisar
313.	Rohtas
314.	Cenari
315.	Kalyanpur
316.	Kochas
317.	Raipurchor
318.	Sheosagar
319.	Tilauth

Statement-III

Exchanges planned to be provided with OFC media in Himachal Pradesh

Sl.No.	Exchange
1	2
1.	Baghipuri
2.	Kohlighat
3.	Lambajubber
4.	Kedi
5.	Kiarnoo
6.	Narain
7.	Rakchham

1	2
8.	Kungalbalti
9.	Tiyali
10.	Dandsa
11.	Summerkot
12.	Neeli
13.	Poabo
14.	Baghi
15.	Dharkundru
16.	Kariali
17.	Mohri
18.	Barang
19.	Karchham
20.	Kuddu
21.	Dhabas
22.	Deha
23.	Deoh
24.	Mandharh
25.	Pujarli
26.	Nerwa
27.	Marhog
28.	Chandi Kaslog
29.	Manjha
30.	Sehrol
31.	Kuftoo
32.	Goela
33.	Kanda
34.	Dadahu
35.	Sunderghat

1	2
36.	Haripurdhar
37.	Chhiachi
38.	Kando
39.	Jamun ki Ser
40.	Marhighat
41.	Dharoi
42.	Joharji
43.	Saru
44.	Rajal
45.	Seul
46.	Kaloha
47.	Hobar
48.	Sundla
49.	Balera
50.	Badalthore
51.	Bari
52.	Tihri
53.	Lagroo
54.	Chari
55.	Badhukhar
56.	Jakhabar
57.	Alampur
58.	Daroh
59.	Gadiara
60.	Gopalpur
61.	Kotlu
62.	Lahru
63.	Thural

1	2
64.	Bhali
65.	Sanghani
66.	Jandru
67.	Bari Pharnol
68.	Kashmir
69.	Chauri
70.	Sujanpur
71.	Galore
72.	Nalti
73.	Railijajhari
74.	Ambera
75.	Soharitakoli
76.	Talmera
77.	Kodra
78.	Pirnigah
79.	Jwar
80.	Nakhlara
81.	Bhakhra
82.	Kallar
83.	Swahan
84.	Harnora
85.	Badhu
86.	Danerdi
87.	Beri
88.	Barokhari
89.	Cholthara
90.	Dhalara
91.	Drubbal

1	2	1	2
92.	Durgapur	120.	Shiah
93.	Gaddidhar	121.	Jibhi
94.	Hanogi	122.	Shanang
95.	Jaidevi	123.	Peej
96.	Jassal	124.	Thakibeed.
97.	Karkoh	[English]	
98.	Kufri	Medical Facilities in Private Hospitals for Pensioners	
99.	Mahunag	1534. SHRI DAILPAT SINGH PARSTE :	
100.	Majhwar	SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :	
101.	Makreni	Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :	
102.	Pandole	(a) whether Government have allowed the pensioner to avail medical facilities in private hospitals in Delhi and other places in the country without making any advance payment;	
103.	Patrighat	(b) if so, the details thereof;	
104.	Ropari	(c) the names of such private hospitals in the capital that have been authorized by the Government for treatment of a pensioner alongwith the names of diseases etc.;	
105.	Sainjbagra	(d) whether the Government have also fixed charges to be claimed by these private hospitals for the treatment;	
106.	Sandhole	(e) if so, the details thereof;	
107.	Sardhwar	(f) whether the Government have allowed to provide credit facilities in private hospitals for medical treatment to pensioners; and	
108.	Seribangloo	(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the guidelines issued in this respect?	
109.	Sikawari Soja	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) CGHS Beneficiaries have an option of availing specialized treatment/Diagnostic tests at private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS after obtaining the advice of the specialist of CGHS/Government hospital/CMO in-charge of CGHS dispensary and getting permission from the	
110.	Taleli		
111.	Thona		
112.	Karsai		
113.	Bagan		
114.	Balupadhar		
115.	Bandron		
116.	Bhutti		
117.	Bharain		
118.	Halan-I		
119.	Pangan		

concerned office in the case of serving employees and from the CMO In-charge in the case of pensioner beneficiaries.

(c) to (e) The details containing the names of private hospitals recognised under CGHS Delhi along with the ceiling rates for various procedures/tests/investigations are contained in Department of Health's O.M. dated 7.9.2001, which has already been circulated to all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The details about credit facilities is given in para 10 of Department of Health' O.M. dated 7.9.2001 which is available at statement.

F.No. : Rec-24/2001/JD(M)/CGHS/Delhi/CGHS(P)
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.

Dated : 7th September, 2001

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject :- Recognition of private hospitals/diagnostic centres under CGHS, Delhi for specialised and general purpose treatment and diagnostic procedures and fixation of package/ceiling rates - Regarding.

The undersigned is directed to say that the issue of fresh recognition of private hospitals and diagnostic centres for treatment of CGHS beneficiaries under CGHS, Delhi and fixation of package/ceiling rates has been under consideration of the Government for quite some time. It has now been decided to recognise the hospitals/diagnostic centres for different specialities as per list attached at Annexure-A & B.

- 2 (a) Package rate is defined as lump sum cost of inpatient treatment or Diagnostic procedure for which a patient has been referred by competent authority or CGHS to Hospital or Diagnostic Center. This includes all charges pertaining to a particular treatment/procedure including admission charges, accommodation charges, ICU/ICCU charges, monitoring charges, operation charges, anaesthesia charges, operation theatre charges, procedural charges/ Surgeon's fee, cost of disposable, surgical charges and cost of medicine used during hospitalization, related routine investigations, physiotherapy charges etc.
- (b) The package rate does not include diet, telephone charges, T.V. charges and cost of cosmetics,

toiletry, tonics and medicines advertised in mass media. Cost of these, if offered, on request of patient will be realized from the individual patient and are not to be included in package charges.

- (c) The recognised hospital/diagnostic centre will not charge more than the package rate from the beneficiary.
3. Package Rates envisage duration of indoor treatment as follows :
 - 12 days for specialized procedure
 - 1-8 days for other procedures
 - 3 days for laproscopic Surgery
 - 1 day for day care/minor procedures (OPD)
4. However if the beneficiary has to stay in the hospital for his/her recovery for more than the period covered in the package rate, the additional reimbursement shall be limited to room rent as per entitlement, cost of the prescribed medicines and investigations, doctors visits (not more than 2 times a day) for additional stay.
- 5 (a) The entitlement for indoor treatment would be as under :-
 - i) Basic Pay upto Rs.7500/- - General Ward
 - ii) Basic Pay Rs.7501/- to 10500/- - Semi Private Ward
 - iii) Basic Pay Rs.10501/- and above - Private Ward
- (b) Package rate offered to CGHS for treatment in Semi-Pvt. Ward is mentioned and Indicated in the rate list at Annexure-C.
- (c) It has further been decided that the CGHS beneficiaries taking treatment in the above mentioned hospitals with the prior permission of the CGHS will be entitled for reimbursement as per the package rates given in the Annexure C. The rate for indoor treatment mentioned in attached Annexures are for Semi Private Category. For Private Ward there will be an increase of 15% and for General Ward there will be a decrease of 10%.
- (d) The implant shall be reimbursed as per actuals except for the items where ceiling is defined.
6. A Private Hospital/ Diagnostic Center whose rates for a

procedure/test/facility are lower than the approved rates shall charge the beneficiaries as per actuals.

7. (a) For investigations and treatment procedures for which admission is not required, rates will be same for all categories.

(b) The maximum room rent for different categories would be :-

General	Rs.500/- per day
Semi Private	Rs.1000/- per day
Private	Rs.1500/- per day
Day care (6-8 hours admission)	Rs.500/- per day (same for all categories).

- 8 The beneficiary will have the option of availing specialized treatment/diagnostic tests at CGHS recognized Hospitals/diagnostic centres of his/ her choice after the Specialist of CGHS/ Govt. Hospital/ CMO I/C of CGHS Dispensary recommends the procedure/ test.
9. For non-emergency cases, beneficiaries of Central Govt. Health Scheme are entitled to medical reimbursement for treatment in hospitals/diagnostic centres recognized under the scheme subject to written permission from the competent authority.
10. On production of valid permission, the recognized hospitals/Diagnostic centers shall provide credit facilities to :
- Freedom fighters, or
 - Ex member of Parliament, or
 - Ex-Governors/ Ex Vice- President of India /Former Prime Minister, or CGHS employees
 - Pensioners (& their dependants) of Central Govt. drawing pension from civil estimates holding valid CGHS card

The recognised Private Hospitals/ Diagnostic Centres required to submit bills pertaining to above mentioned beneficiaries once in a month directly to the office of concerned Additional Director of CGHS, who will settle the claims within 60 days of submission of bills.

11. In case of an emergency, the recognized private hospital shall not refuse admission or demand advance from the

beneficiary and shall provide credit facilities to the concerned patient on the production of valid CGHS card. The recognised CGHS Hospital/diagnostic centre shall submit the bill for reimbursement subject to the ceiling of approved rate to the respective department/ Addl. Director CGHS where the payment is made by CGHS directorate.

12. Reimbursement in respect of serving CGHS beneficiaries and Members of Parliament covered under CGHS will be made by the respective Ministries/ Departments/Organizations.
13. The recognized hospitals/diagnostic centres will provide necessary medicines & all disposable sundries of standard quality and will not get them purchased through CGHS beneficiaries.
14. If one or more minor treatment procedures form part of a major treatment procedure, package charges would be made against the major procedures. Only half of actual charges quoted for the minor procedures would be added to the package charges of the first major procedure.
15. Any legal liability coming out of such services shall be dealt by the hospital/diagnostic center and it shall be responsible alone.
16. This issues with the concurrence of Finance Division vide JS(FA) Dy.No.4232 dated 02/07/2001.
17. This will supersede all earlier orders relating to recognition of hospitals, diagnostic centres and rates for specialised and general treatment/diagnostic tests for Delhi, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and NOIDA CGHS areas.
18. While settling claims of the recognised hospitals/ diagnostic centres, concerned authorities shall ascertain the date of signing of agreement by them with the Director CGHS about recognition and rates.

(B.B. BHATTACHARJEE)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

- Mata Channa Devi Hospital C-1, Janak Puri, New Delhi
General purpose, Specialized Purpose & Dialysis, Non Invasive Cardiac Procedure, Diagnostic, except Cardiac Surgery
- Maharaja Agarsain Hospital Road No-35, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-26

- General & Specialized Purpose, Dialysis, Laparoscopic surgeries, Non Invasive Cardiac Procedure etc, Diagnostic (Except Cardiac Surgery)
3. Rajiv Gandhi Cancer & Research Centre Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi
Specialized Purpose-Cancer & Cancer Chemotherapy, radiotherapy.
 4. Thirth Ram Shah Hospital Near Tis Hazari, Battary Lane, Delhi
General Purpose & Diagnostic
 5. Sant Parmanand Hospital 18, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi
General & Specialized Purpose, Diagnostic except Cardiac Surgery
 6. Jeevan Mala Hospital 67/1, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi-5
General & Specialized Purpose, Diagnostic, except Cardiac Surgery
 7. Mohan Eye Institute 11-B, Ganga Ram Hospital Marg, New Delhi
Specialized Purpose-Ophthalmology
 8. Kesar Hospital AH-11, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
Specialized Purpose minimum invasive surgeries (Laparoscopic)
 9. Indian Spinal Injury Centre 50-C, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi
Specialized & Diagnostic (Spinal injuries, Diseases related to spines and Physiotherapy)
 10. Pushpawati Singhanian Research Institute Press Enclave Marg, Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi-17
Specialized Purpose for Liver, Renal & Digestive diseases.
 11. R.G. Stone Urological Research Institute F-7, East of Kailash, New Delhi
Lithotripsy
 12. Malhotra Heart Institute & Medical Research Centre 14, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi.
Specialized Purpose-Cardiology, Cardiac & Vascular Surgery & related Diagnostic
 13. North Point Hospital (P) Ltd S-357, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi
Lithotripsy
 14. Sri Ram Singh Hospital & Heart Institute B-25-26-26A, East Krishna Nagar, Delhi
General Purpose only
 15. Kalyani Hospital (P) Ltd, 354/2, Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon
General Purpose & Diagnostic
 16. Dr. Taneja Hospital & Heart Centre, 113-A, New Colony, Gurgaon
General Purpose & Diagnostic
 17. Narendra Mohan Hospital, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad
General/Specialized Purpose including Non Invasive Cardiac Procedure & Diagnostic (except Cardiac Surgery)
 18. Santosh Medical & Dental College Hospital, 1, Ambedkar Road, Ghaziabad
General Purpose & Diagnostic
 19. Yashoda Hospital & Research Center, III-M, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad
General Purpose & Diagnostic
 20. Metro Hospital & Heart Institute, X-1, Sector-12, C-M, Sector-11, Noida.
General & Specialized Purposes - Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery and Diagnostic Procedures
 21. Kailash Hospital & Research Centre, H-33, Sector-27, Noida
General Purpose & Diagnostic, Non Invasive Cardiac Procedure
 22. NOIDA Medicure Centre, 16-C, Block-E, Sector-30, Noida
General/Specialized Purpose & Diagnostic, Non Invasive Cardiac Procedure
 23. Satya Medical Centre, A-98/A, Sector-34, Noida
General Purpose Only
 24. Faridabad CT Scan Centre, Neelam Chowk, Faridabad.
CT
 1. National CT Scan & Diagnostic Centre 17, NWA, Club Road, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi.
Conventional Radiology, CT & lab
 2. Saral Advanced Diagnostic (P) Ltd E-1073, Saraswati Vihar, Pitam Pura & 2, Shakti Vihar, Pitam Pura, Delhi
Conventional Radiology, USG, CT, MRI & lab
 3. Janta X-Ray Clinic, 4B/5, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18

- Conventional Radiology, CT, MRI, Mammography, USG & Colour Doppler & Lab

4. City X-Ray & Scan Centre 4B/7, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi
Conventional Radiology, CT, Mammography, USG & Colour Doppler & Lab

5. New Delhi Scan Institute (Sir Ganga Ram Hospital) Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi CT

6. North MR Scan Research Institute (Sir Ganga Ram Hospital) Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi MRI

7. Mahajan Nuclear Medicine & Bone Dersitometry Center (Sir Ganga Ram Hospital) Rajendera Nagar, N. Delhi
Nuclear medicine & Bone Densitometry

8. CD Diagnostic (Sunder Lal Jain Hospital) Ashok Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi CT

9. Metro Health Care Centre (Tirath Ram Shah Hospital) Near Tis Hazari, Battary Lane, New Delhi CT

10. Sidhartha Diagnostic Centre, Sidharth Cat Scan Speciality, 2169, Shadi Kham Pur, Main Patel Road, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi.
USG, CT & Lab

11. Shalimar Diagnostic Centre AD-130A, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi
Conventional Radiology & Lab

12. Dr. S. S. Doda Ultra Sound Centre 23-B, Pusa Road, New Delhi
Conventional Radiology, USG & Mammography

13. GMR Institute of Imaging & Research Centre. 35-B, Pusa Road, New Delhi
CT & MRI

14. North Delhi Path clinic, Kamla Nagar, 56-A, Kamla Nagar, Delhi
Lab

15. Dr Lal Path Lab (P) Ltd Esky Home, 54, Hanuman Road, New Delhi
Lab

16. Diwan Chand Satyapal Aggarwal Imaging Research Centre 10-B, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
All Radiological Investigations & Nuclear Medicine
17. Millennium Bone Densitometry & Osteoporosis Research Centre 47, Pusa Road, New Delhi
Bone Densitometry

18. Specialty Ranbaxy Ltd., C/o. Indian Spinal Injuries Center, Sector-C. Vasant Kunj, New Deihl.
Lab

19. Max Medical Centre 110, Panchseel Park, New Delhi-17
Conventional Radiology, CT, MRI, Mammography. USG. Echo, Holter, PFT, Audiometry & Speech Therapy

20. G.M.R. Institute & MRI Scan Centre, A-13, Green Park, New Delhi
MRI

21. Organ Imaging Research Centre A-22, Green Park Main, New Delhi
CT & MRI

22. Dr. P. Bhasin Path Lab S-13, Greater Kailash Part-I, New Delhi
Lab

23. N.M.C Imaging & Diagnostic Centre (VIMHANS Campus) 1, Institutional Area, Nehru Nagar, New Delhi
CT, MRI. Conventional Radiology, USG and Lab

24. Col Pants Imaging Centre A-2, 2. Green Park, New Delhi
USG and Memmography

25. Delhi MR & CT Scan Centre (Ashok Hospital) 25A/AB, S.J. Enclave, New Delhi
MRI, CT and USG

26. Vasant Vision X-ray & Ultra Sound Clinic, F-9/4, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi
Conventional Radiology & USG

27. Maharaja Hospital, Jamia Hamdard, Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi
Diagnostic, Conventional Radiology and Lab,

28. Dr. Savita Jain Arun Imaging Centre 0-29, Vivek Vihar, Delhi
Conventional Radiology, USG & Mammography

29. Dr, Anand Imaging & Neurological Centre F-24, Preet Vihar, Delhi
Conventional Radiology, CT & MRI

- 30 Modern Diagnostic & Research Centre, 363/4, Jawahar Nagar, New Railway Road, Gurgaon. Conventional Radiology, CT & Lab
31. NOIDA Diagnostic Centre, D-4, Sector-20, NOIDA Conventional Radiology & Lab

Prohibition of Entry of MTNL into ILD

1535. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to prohibit MTNL and BSNL from entering the International Long Distance Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that such a step will adversely affect the valuation of these two entities; and

(d) the decision of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) and (d) The Government has decided that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) will route their International Long Distance (ILD) calls through Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) for a period of two years after transfer of management control to the strategic partner as a "Most Favoured Customer" which would be at market rate. This dispensation was granted as full and final settlement of every sort of claim against preponing of ILD demonopolisation of VSNL by two years.

BSNL/MTNL can however apply for licence to enter ILD sector any time as per their requirement.

National Highway in Karnataka

1536. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the request of Karnataka to declare Bidar-Srirangapatna, Jewargi-Sankeshwar, and Kalala

Raichur as national highways is pending for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The request received from the Government of Karnataka during the 9th Plan period was duly considered along with similar proposals received from other State Governments but could not be acceded to, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority of all such proposals and overall availability of funds.

Conversion of Dhodar Ali Road into National Highway

1537. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received to convert Dhodar Ali Road of Assam into a National Highway;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal would be considered along with similar proposals received from other State Governments during the next consideration, after the finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Foreign Investment in I.T.

1538. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to form an autonomous body to woo Foreign Investment in the I.T. Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Financial Assistance from World
Bank for National Highways**

1539. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to avail financial assistance from the World Bank and other foreign financial institutions for the development of National Highways;

(b) if so, the amount thereof and the names of such institutions;

(c) the names of the National Highways for the development whereof the amount will be spent; and

(d) the details of the amount loan/assistance availed from the foreign financial institutions till January 31, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Government avails financial assistance from the World Bank and other foreign financial institutions for the development of National Highways from time to time. Presently the Government has negotiated a loan of US \$ 210 million with Asian Development Bank for development of West Bengal Corridor Development Project on NH-34 in West Bengal. Also negotiations are proposed to be held for a loan of about US \$ 170 million from the World Bank for construction of Allahabad Bypass on NH-2 in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Details are given in the statement.

Statement

. Financial Assistance from World Bank for National Highways

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Funding Agency	Loan Amount (Million)	Loan Duration	States Covered
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	First National Highway Project (2534-IND)	World Bank	US \$ 200.00	1986-1993	Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal
2	Second National Highway Project (2365-IN/3470-IN)	World Bank	US \$ 306.00	1992-2001	Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa & Maharashtra
3	Third National Highway Project LN No. 4559-IN	World Bank	US \$ 516.00	2000-2006	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand
4	Grand Trunk Improvement Project LN No. 4622-IN	World Bank	US \$ 589.00	2001-2006	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand
5	1st Road Improvement Project (LN No. 918-IND)	ADB	US \$ 172.86	1988-1998	Haryana, Uttar Pradesh & Andhra Pradesh
6	Second Road Project (LN No. 1041-IND)	ADB	US \$ 250.00	1991-1999	Karnataka, Kerala & Rajasthan
7	National Highways Project (LN No. 1274-IND)	ADB	US \$ 245.00	1995-2002	Haryana, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal & Andhra Pradesh
8	Surat Manor Tollway Project (LN No. 1747-IND)	ADB	US \$ 180.00	2000-2003	Gujarat & Maharashtra
9	Western Transport Corridor Project (LN No. 1839-IND)	ADB	US \$ 240.00	2001-2005	Karnataka

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	IDP-81 NH-2 Mathura-Agra	JBIC	Jap ¥ 3957.76	1992-2000	Uttar Pradesh
11	IDP-91 Naini Bridge	JBIC	Jap ¥ 10037.00	1994-2001	Uttar Pradesh
12	IDP-92 NH-5 Improvement Project in Andhra Pradesh	JBIC	Jap ¥ 11360.00	1994-2001	Andhra Pradesh
13	IDP-100 NH-5 Improvement Project in Orissa	JBIC	Jap ¥ 5836.00	1995-2002	Orissa
14	IDP-101 NH-24 Improvement Project in Uttar Pradesh	JBIC	Jap ¥ 4827.00	1995-2002	Uttar Pradesh

ADB = Asian Development Bank.

JBIC = Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

U.S. Military Bases in Central Asia and SAARC Region

1540. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether America proposes to set up permanent military bases in Central Asia and SAARC region;

(b) if so, whether India is evolving any new strategy in its national interest in this context;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The United States deployed military forces in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia for conducting the on-going "Operation Enduring Freedom", which was launched in October 2001 against the former Taliban regime and the Al-Qaeda terrorist network in Afghanistan. The United States has also publicly stated that it is not seeking a permanent military presence in these regions.

(b) and (c) The Government is fully alert to all military developments in India's extended neighbourhood and formulates its policies and approach taking into account the impact of these developments on India's national security interests.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Diversification of Activities of SCI

1541. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) the National and International areas in which Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) is operating its shipping business at present;

(b) whether SCI has a proposal to diversify its activities; and

(c) if so, the details of the programme drawn up in this regard for Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) In the International arena, the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) presently operates Bulk Carrier/Tanker/Liner/Specialised Vessels/Offshore Services and Ship Management Services.

In the National arena, SCI is operating passenger-cum-cargo services between the Mainland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands, as also Inter-Island services in these regions.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. SCI is continuously striving to diversify into new areas such as LPG Carriers, Offshore Supply Vessels, Chemical Carriers etc. SCI has bid jointly with a foreign partner for Indian Oil Corporation's tender for installing and operating a Floating Storage and Of-loading Unit at Sandheads and has plans to form more joint ventures to acquire and operate LNG Carriers.

[Translation]

Membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

1542. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has applied for membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the terms and conditions for joining it;

(c) the names of countries which are members of this Organisation; and

(d) the objectives of this Organisation?

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

(c) China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan

(d) The objectives of SCO are :-

Regional security and stability, combating terrorism and to set up a Regional Anti-terrorism mechanism besides undertaking political, economic and cultural cooperation.

[English]

Condition of Laboratories

1543. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the various laboratories set up by the Union Government to test bacteria etc., are ill equipped to produce quick and accurate analysis in the Government hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether such labs are functioning below international specifications and unable to give correct and prompt results; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Funds for SCP and TSP under Tenth Plan

1544. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) new schemes and programme being formulated by his Ministry under Special Component Plan (SCP) & Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) during the Tenth Five Year Plan in addition to the ongoing schemes for economic empowerment of SCs & STs specifying the nature/scope and target group of such schemes and programmes;

(b) amount of funds proposed to be requisitioned during the Tenth Plan from the Planning for such schemes/programmes; and

(c) benefits and targets sought to be achieved under such schemes and programmes during Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways and formulation of Motor Vehicles Act/CMV Rules only. As such no schemes/programmes for economic benefits of SCs and STs under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) come under its purview.

[Translation]

Promotion of Assistants

1545. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the provisions of Rule 13(7) of Central Secretariat Service Rules, long term appointment of Assistants is considered as approved continuous service and through limited departmental examination they are appointed/promoted as Section Officers;

(b) if so, whether such Assistants are not considered for appointment/promotion to the post of Section Officer through seniority quota;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government propose to include such Assistants in the selection list from the date of continuous service under Rule 13(7)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The concept of long term service in the grade of Assistants has been dispensed with by the Government in the year 1988.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Targets Achieved in Small Scale Industries

1546. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of strategy adopted by the Government for promotion of Small Scale Industries in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the objectives and targets achieved so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) During the 9th Five Year Plan, the strategy adopted was to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally through package of measures providing fiscal incentives, easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

(b) and (c) The SSI Sector has shown sustained growth during the Ninth Plan. The number of SSI units is expected to go up from 28.03 lakhs in 1996-97 to 35.13 lakhs by 2001-02. The value of their production is expected to go up from Rs. 3,29,935 crores in 1996-97 to Rs. 4,86,486 crores in 2001-02. The employment target of 184 lakh persons for the 9th plan was exceeded in 2000-01 itself.

Deficiency of Vitamin A

1547. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce fortification of sugar with Vitamin-A to reduce its deficiency in the population suffering from eye disorders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, has recommended that to fortify sugar with vitamin-A to balance the diet of those suffering from eye disorders; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available the fortified sugar to the children particularly living below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) A Working Group has been constituted by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, to look into the progress of pilot study on the effect of fortified sugar on targeted population in a selected area.

Following the recommendations of the above Group, a Pilot Plant for fortification of sugar with Vitamin A has been set up at Shirpur. Maharashtra with the financial support from the Sugar Development Fund, for production of fortified sugar with Vitamin A.

The plant has produced 5 quintals of fortified sugar with Vitamin A during 2000-2001. The efficacy of this sugar has not yet been tested.

NIN, Hyderabad, has not recommended fortification of sugar with Vitamin A as a National Programme.

Health Care Schemes

1548. SHRI MANJAY LAL :

SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored Health Care Schemes being implemented in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the people in remote rural areas of the country are unaware of the Centrally sponsored health schemes;

(c) if so, whether any measures being taken by the Government to disseminate information regarding Centrally sponsored health schemes to remote rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to each State under these schemes and achievement made by each State during the year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) National disease control programme for control of major diseases of Malaria, TB, Blindness, AIDS and Leprosy are being implemented by the Government as Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(b) to (d) Intensive public awareness activities are regularly undertaken as part of national disease control programmes using mass media through Television, Radio, Press, rural folk media, family health awareness campaigns etc. to disseminate information about these programmes.

(e) Statements showing details of Centrally sponsored health schemes provided by Central Government and achievements made during 2001-02 are given at statement-I and II.

Statement-I

Plan/Funds Released to States/UTs during 2001-02

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	States/UTs	NAMP	NPCB	NACP	NTCP	NLEP	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	249.00	776.25	850.00	714.95	223.83	2814.03
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	486.93	28.65	124.50	24.14	62.09	726.31
3.	Assam	1983.27	57.50	415.15	314.19	153.85	2923.96
4.	Bihar	357.37	12.00	809.50	524.77	663.94	2367.58
5.	Chhattisgarh	570.71	108.25	129.50	45.92	378.34	1232.72
6.	Jharkhand	561.28	17.65	156.00	40.71	356.23	1131.87
7.	Goa	6.08	8.35	99.00	1.34	11.52	126.29
8.	Gujarat	92.70	77.00	508.30	1403.19	61.97	2143.16
9.	Haryana	18.43	89.50	266.00	202.70	61.94	638.57
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2.20	17.00	308.50	176.56	49.69	553.95
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	22.96	49.25	244.50	14.65	100.55	431.91
12.	Karnataka	291.34	229.20	785.15	667.75	196.05	2169.49
13.	Kerala	39.24	86.75	368.00	968.93	74.61	1537.53
14.	Madhya Pradesh	788.25	438.75	780.50	244.42	395.32	2647.24
15.	Maharashtra	468.50	682.25	1135.65	1433.45	426.99	4146.84
16.	Manipur	358.91	36.15	356.50	242.49	71.02	1065.07
17.	Meghalaya	381.41	14.00	65.50	4.99	46.94	512.84
18.	Mizoram	433.94	25.30	210.50	1.91	60.51	732.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Nagaland	346.91	47.15	464.50	3.50	87.72	949.78
20.	Orissa	557.34	267.50	200.00	358.13	540.77	1923.74
21.	Punjab	49.38	33.60	171.50	88.42	32.30	375.20
22.	Rajasthan	397.56	769.50	317.50	1574.78	123.07	1382.41
23.	Sikkim	0.11	5.60	79.50	1.12	34.87	121.20
24.	Tamil Nadu	99.77	1199.75	1455.95	1888.73	413.04	5057.24
25.	Tripura	542.45	53.65	79.50	7.65	46.47	729.72
26.	Uttaranchal	23.64	81.25	98.00	24.67	129.01	356.57
27.	Uttar Pradesh	540.44	600.50	1465.65	836.10	1282.90	4725.59
28.	West Bengal	464.88	94.90	967.00	1449.12	574.26	3550.16
29.	Pondicherry	13.43	5.75	54.00	26.46	2.00	101.64
30.	Delhi	97.57	8.00	334.00	310.85	47.56	797.98
31.	A & N Islands	226.84	8.10	95.50	0.47	19.30	350.21
32.	Chandigarh	41.06	8.00	152.65	1.34	6.00	209.05
33.	D & N Haveli	40.67	5.80	26.00	0.33	7.00	79.80
34.	Lakshadweep	6.35	4.60	29.50	1.00	7.00	48.45
35.	Daman & Diu	16.08	4.50	31.00	0.27	27.90	79.75
Total		10577.00*	5951.95	13634.50	13600.00	6776.56	50540.01

NAMP National Anti-Malaria Programme
 NPCB National Programme for Control of Blindness
 NACP National AIDS Control Programme

NTCP National Tuberculosis Control Programme
 NLEP National Leprosy Eradication Programme

* Excluding EAC Component of Rs. 100.00 crores

Statement-II

National Anti Malaria Programme

State/UT	2001	
	Population Screened for Malaria	Case Detected and Treated
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	8033406	54356
Arunachal Pradesh	296157	50331
Assam	2295944	93336

1	2	3
Bihar	312232	3427
Chhattisgarh	3644181	251850
Goa	277311	12331
Gujarat	7027000	84131
Haryana	2279998	1200
Himachal Pradesh	523862	340
Jammu & Kashmir	334539	912

1	2	3
Jharkhand	842628	122982
Karnataka	9217396	194250
Kerala	1644543	2331
Madhya Pradesh	8599687	180314
Maharashtra	14001006	55784
Manipur	104378	943
Meghalaya	222014	16066
Mizoram	204492	9929
Nagaland	52404	4602
Orissa	3965378	427769
Punjab	2750169	604
Rajasthan	6745197	129233
Sikkim	10665	31
Tamil Nadu	6414264	28840
Tripura	280715	17761
Uttaranchal	128485	1441
Uttar Pradesh	2810000	94045
West Bengal	2951458	128701
A & N Islands	245632	925
Chandigarh	78418	298
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	35224	848
Daman & Diu	22709	87
Delhi	1073073	1484
Lakshadweep	1905	0
Pondicherry	308963	106
All India Total	87735433	1971588

National Programme for Control of Blindness target & cataract surgery done during 2001-2002

States	Target	Ach.
1	2	3
World Bank Project States		(2001-2002)*
Andhra Pradesh	350000	297330
Madhya Pradesh	240000	106601
Chhattisgarh	80000	24038
Maharashtra	420000	388071
Orissa	130000	60354
Rajasthan	220000	141224
Tamil Nadu	400000	257797
Uttar Pradesh	450000	251146
Uttaranchal	100000	20257
Sub Total	2390000	1546798
Other States		
Arunachal Pradesh	1000	265
Assam	45000	12155
Bihar	140000	21476
Jharkhand	70000	7699
Karnataka	220000	127407
Delhi	80000	16700
Goa	7000	3611
Gujarat	400000	329278
Haryana	110000	58861
Himachal Pradesh	16000	11455
Jammu & Kashmir	13000	8112
Kerala	90000	43074
Manipur	2000	886
Meghalaya	2000	421
Mizoram	800	514
Nagaland	500	250
Punjab	160000	92055
Sikkim	1000	266
Tripura	8000	6804
West Bengal *	220000	187901
A & N Nicobar	500	372

1	2	3
Chandigarh	5500	2409
D&N Haveli	330	161
Daman & Diu	350	311
Lakshadweep	20	2

1	2	3
Pondicherry	7000	5827
Others	10000	3163
Sub Total	1610000	941455
Grand Total	4000000	2488253

*Achievement for 2001-2002 upto Dec. 2001.

National AIDS Control Programme

State-wise Achievements for the year 2001-2002

Sl.No	State	No. of STD clinics	No. of TI projects	No. of VCTCs	No. of Major Blood Banks	No. of District Blood Banks	No. of ZBTCs	No. of Sentinel Sites	No. of Community Care Centres	No. of Blood Units Collected
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andaman & Nicobar	3	3	3	1	1	1	4	0	2550
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	103	30	21	40	12	13	1	158743
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6	2	4	1	4	1	3	0	970
4	Assam	7	10	9	3	15	3	5	2	26639
5	Bihar including Jharkhand	21	1	15	9	42	9	12	0	57457
6	Jharkhand									
7	Chandigarh	3	6	3	2	1	1	3	0	48237
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	1	0	1	0		NA.
9	Diu & Daman	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	NA.
10	Delhi	11	10	7	2	14	5	9	2	137085
11	Goa	4	6	2	2	1	2	5	0	7760
12	Gujarat	31	70	20	13	42	6	15	0	275020
13	Haryana	11	9	6	4	14	4	7	0	81232
14	Himachal Pradesh	20	4	5	3	6	2	12	0	14539
15	Jammu & Kashmir	10	1	8	7	6	2	5	0	N.A.
16	Karnataka	34	18	33	13	39	9	18	4	249687
17	Kerala	24	35	14	14	21	5	6	0	129934
18	Lakshadweep	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	NA.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
19	Madhya Pradesh including Chhatisgarh	50	10	20	9	39	10	24	0	5 7 1 2 5
20	Maharashtra	34	46	33	30	41	7	34	1	326797
21	Manipur	9	17	10	2		1	13	2	14762
22	Meghalaya	6	3	3	1	2	1	5	0	1729
23	Mizoram	8	8	5	4	1	0	6	0	8630
24	Nagaland	8	15	9	1	8	3	7	0	1126
25	Orissa	19	8	5	7	39	4	11	0	107005
26	Pondicherry	5	1	1	2	1	1	4	1	5093
27	Punjab	7	6	6	12	25	3	7	0	88930
28	Rajasthan	24	12	8	8	11	6	12	0	115124
29	Sikkim	2	3	2	1	1	1	3	0	999
30	Tamil Nadu including (CH)	53	103	38	28	67	19	17	0	304097
31	Tripura	3	8	2	6	1	0	3	0	10638
33	Uttar Pradesh including Uttaranchal	44	16	20	22	47	13	27	0	156643
33	West Bengal	30	37	10	15	61	9	15	0	73569

Targets vis-a-vis Achievements of NTCP under 20 Point Programme 2001-02

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	2001-02					
		Sputum Examination			Detection of new Sputum Positives cases		
		Annual Target	Achievements		Annual Target	Achievements	
			No.	%		No.	%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	378,500	198,927	52.56	37850	20708	54.71
2	Arunachal Pradesh	5,450	4,282	78.57	545	312	57.25
3	Assam	133,000	2,875	2.16	13300	238	1.79
4	Bihar	414,500	-	0.00	41450	-	0.00
5	Chhattisgarh	104,000	13,550	13.03	10400	1075	10.34
6	Goa	6,500	5,369	82.60	650	395	60.77
7	Gujarat	253,000	145,481	57.50	25300	26074	103.06
8	Haryana	105,500	73,187	69.37	10550	7619	72.22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	Himachal Pradesh	30,400	35,727	117.52	3040	0	0.00
10	Jammu & Kashmir	50,500	70,592	139.79	5050	2978	58.97
11	Jharkhand	134,500	4,527	3.37	13450	655	4.87
12	Karnataka	264,000	191,942	72.71	26400	23055	87.33
13	Kerala	159,000	16,949	10.66	15900	1142	7.18
14	Madhya Pradesh	302,000	216,149	71.57	30200	21157	70.06
15	Maharashtra	484,000	520,912	107.63	48400	44774	92.51
16	Manipur	11,950	6,950	58.16	1195	1055	88.28
17	Meghalaya	11,500	2,953	25.68	1150	479	41.65
18	Mizoram	4,450	1,871	42.04	445	232	52.13
19	Nagaland	9,950	871	8.75	995	237	23.82
20	Orissa	183,500	26,019	13.63	18350	2625	14.31
21	Punjab	121,000	96,133	79.45	12100	7114	58.79
22	Rajasthan	282,500	52,120	18.45	28250	9572	33.88
23	Sikkim	2,750	6,087	221.35	275	455	165.45
24	Tamil Nadu	310,500	164,428	52.96	31050	10601	31.14
25	Tripura	15,950	9,682	60.70	1595	676	42.38
26	Uttaranchal	42,350	44,037	103.98	4,235	3023	71.38
27	Uttar Pradesh	830,500	578,363	69.64	83050	59764	71.96
28	West Bengal	401,000	24,202	6.04	40100	2395	5.97
29	A & N Islands	1,800	3,169	176.06	180	182	01.11
30	Chandigarh	4,500	1,894	42.09	450	0	0.00
31	D & N Haveli	1,100	595	54.09	110	60	54.55
32	Daman & Diu	800	934	116.75	80	56	70.00
33	Delhi	69,000	55,718	80.75	6900	11434	165.71
34	Lakshadweep	300	169	56.33	30	1	3.33
35	Pondicherry	4,850	12,937	266.74	485	1143	235.67
Total		5,135,100	2,588,601	50.41	513510	261286	50.88

Achievements for the year 2001-02 are for Nine months w.e.f. April 2001 to December 2001.

NTCP : National Tuberculosis Control Programme

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

State-wise Target (T) and Achievement (A) in respect of case detection, treatment and discharge during 2001-02

S.No.	State/Sector	2001-2002					
		Cases Detected		Cases Treated		Cases Discharged	
		T	A	T	A	T	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A. States							
1	Andhra Pradesh	15000	39411	15000	39411	43000	38235
2	Arunachal Pradesh	80	79	80	79	200	111
3	Assam	800	1398	800	1398	3000	1677
4	Bihar	18000	100262	18000	100262	75000	66090
5	Goa	50	239	50	239	470	336
6	Gujarat	3000	8629	3000	8629	11000	8681
7	Haryana	50	557	50	557	800	650
8	Himachal Pradesh	50	211	50	211	340	209
9	Jammu & Kashmir	50	544	50	544	1000	557
10	Karnataka	8000	13425	8000	13425	14000	11770
11	Kerala	2500	1647	2500	1647	3500	1944
12	Madhya Pradesh	10000	14697	10000	14697	18000	13659
13	Maharashtra	16000	36076	16000	36076	35000	30318
14	Manipur	80	114	80	114	250	163
15	Meghalaya	30	18	30	18	70	32
16	Mizoram	20	19	20	19	60	44
17	Nagaland	15	61	15	61	50	45
18	Orissa	18000	36889	18000	36889	36000	28162
19	Punjab	100	1088	100	1088	1450	955
20	Rajasthan	1200	1485	1200	1485	5000	1296
21	Sikkim	20	47	20	47	50	41
22	Tamil Nadu	15000	15728	15000	15728	43000	19376

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23	Tripura	20	70	20	70	160	78
24	Uttar Pradesh	29000	87333	29000	87333	86500	57628
25	West Bengal	18000	39073	18000	39073	30800	25551
26	A & N Islands	20	53	20	53	100	56
27	Chandigarh	20	213	20	213	300	175
28	D & N Haveli	20	183	20	183	160	136
29	Daman & Diu	10	43	10	43	40	29
30	Delhi	100	2614	100	2580	6600	2175
31	Lakshadweep	10	13	10	13	15	15
32	Pondicherry	100	398	100	398	600	406
33	Jharkhand	12000	38049	12000	38049	25000	24967
34	Chhattisgarh	15000	23430	15000	23430	12000	14875
35	Uttaranchal	1000	2069	1000	2069	1500	1480
Total		183345	466165	183345	466131	455015	351922

[Translation]

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Russia

1549. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia visited India in February, 2002;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions held with him;

(c) whether any strategic agreement was signed between the two countries during the visit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Ilya Klebanov, then Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation, paid an official visit to India from 5-8 February, 2002 for the Eighth Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC) and the Second Session of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC).

(b) to (d) During this visit, Mr. Klebanov and Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha co-chaired the Eighth Session of the IRIGC on 7 February, 2002. Mr. Klebanov and Raksha Mantri Shri George Fernandes co-chaired the Second Session of the IRIGC-MTC. Protocols were signed at the end of both these meetings.

Mr. Klebanov also called on the President and Prime Minister of India. He met with the External Affairs Minister and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and National Security Advisor Shri Brajesh Mishra.

[English]

Visit of Libyan Envoy

1550. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a special envoy to the Libyan Leader Col. Muammer Gaddafi visited India in January, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held with him and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Mr. Salem Ibrahim Salem had visited India in January, 2002 as Special Envoy of Col. Muammer Qathafi. During his interactions with the Indian leaders, he conveyed Libya's strong condemnation of 13 December attack on the Indian Parliament and mentioned that his services were available to defuse the situation between India and Pakistan.

Special Central Assistance to Kerala

1551. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the State Government of Kerala seeking special assistance to solve the present financial crisis in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Kerala sought Rs.300 crore for capital investment before the finalization of Annual Plan 2001-02. Apart from this, the State Government has sought Rs.300 crore additional SLR based market borrowings for the Annual Plan 2001-02 to overcome the difficult financial position of the State. Further, Kerala Government requested a change in funding pattern of National Slum Development Scheme as a 100% Grant scheme from the existing pattern of 70:30 loan and grant proportion.

(c) The request of Rs.300 crore for capital investment was also considered while finalizing the Annual

Plan 2001-02 at the level of Rs.3015 crore. In respect of the request of Rs.300 crore additional SLR based market borrowings, based on the Medium Term Fiscal Reforms Programme of the State Government, an additional allocation of Rs.200 crore has been allowed to the Government of Kerala for the year 2001-02. In the case of National Slum Development Scheme, the pattern of funding could be changed only after taking a policy decision at the national level.

Reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs

1552. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs has not reached the level of 15 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 27 per cent respectively reserved for them in the cadre of 'Section Officers' under various Ministries/Departments of Central Government;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of 'sanctioned posts' of 'Section Officers' under various Ministries/Departments;

(d) the number of persons belonging to SC, ST, OBC and General categories working against such posts including their respective percentage to such posts as on July 2, 1997 as ascertained as per the instructions contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96- Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997; and

(e) the new vacancies occurred during 1999, 2000 and 2001 and year-wise number of such vacancies/posts filled by persons from SCs, STs, OBCs and General categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The grade of Section Officer of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) is decentralized amongst 33 cadre authorities and no such information is centrally maintained/available. However, as per the details furnished by the cadre authorities, the sanctioned strength of this grade as on 1.1.2001 is 2362.

(e) The total number of vacancies for the year 1999 were 47 out of which only 35 were filled by the appointment of 2, 6, 5 & 22 candidates belonging to SC, ST, OBC and General categories respectively. During the year 2000 vacancies were

112 and the nominations of the candidates are yet to be finalized. The vacancy position for the year 2001 has not yet been determined.

[Translation]

Eradication of TB on the line of Polio

1553. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to prepare programme for the eradication of TB disease from the country on the line of Polio;

(b) if so, the salient features of the programme; 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) TB is a wide spread disease. At this moment, it is technically not possible to eradicate it. The strategy being implemented at present, is to control TB by expanding Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) in a phased manner. Under this programme, 8 out of 10 patients are being cured or are completing their treatment as against 4 out of 10 earlier. As on date, RNTCP covers 450 million population. It is proposed to cover 800 million population by 2004 and the entire country by 2005.

[English]

Demarcation of Indo-Nepal Border

1554. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Nepal have finalised a preliminary survey work to identify areas where permanent pillars would be constructed along the border in Sikkim sector;

(b) if so, whether the demarcation of the border between the two countries was necessitated in the absence of any proper boundary pillars in Sikkim;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the 24th Joint technical level Indo-Nepal boundary committee meeting was held at Kathmandu in September 2001;

(e) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(f) whether the issues relating to Indo-Nepal

borders of Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim were discussed in the meeting;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps being taken to implement them?

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

(b) and (c) In Sikkim Sector, the India-Nepal Boundary follows a well defined geographical feature i.e. the watershed along the Singaleela Range. Boundary Pillars are being erected only at places where the watershed is not clearly discernible.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) to (h) Various matters for completion of tasks relating to identification of the boundary alignment, preparation of boundary strip maps and renumbering of boundary pillars in a sequential manner from east to west were discussed and the programme for various Indo-Nepal Boundary Tasks to be undertaken during 2001-02 was finalized. Work is in progress along the Indo-Nepal Boundary in Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal sectors.

Revival of Rajabagan Dockyard

1555. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to revive the Rajabagan Dockyard of CIWTC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. Government has already approved a revival plan for Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC) Ltd. Kolkata which also envisages closure of Rajabagan Dockyard (RBD) alongwith manpower.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The decision taken envisages focusing the activities of the Corporation on the River Services Division, in line with the primary mandate of the Corporation to be an Inland Water Transport operator and it was based on an overall assessment of the activities and report of a consultant commissioned for the purpose.

[Translation]

WLL Connection in Madhya Pradesh

1556. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which telecommunication services are likely to be provided in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the number of equipments of WLL have been provided by the Government in rural areas of Madhya Pradesh so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Rural areas of Madhya Pradesh Service Area (including Chhattisgarh) are expected to be provided with telephone facilities by December, 2002.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has reported that 18,500 lines and 34,000 lines of WLL equipment have been provided to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh respectively for rural areas during the current year.

[English]

India's Cellular Market

1557. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's cellular market is not expanding to its satisfaction;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the steps being taken by the BSNL to expand wireless phone in the country;

(d) whether WLL of BSNL is discouraging the cellular service providers to expand; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to allow a level playing field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, post National Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) and migration of the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Operators to the revenue sharing regime of NTP-99, the CMTS has experienced a healthy growth.

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

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has plans to provide CMTS to all District Headquarters, wherever permitted by the Government, in two phases throughout the country (except Mumbai and Delhi) covering important Towns, Highways and Railway Routes. In addition, BSNL has plans to provide Wireless Phones through WLL (Wireless in Local Loop). So far 64,500 lines of WLL Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) System and 16,750 lines of WLL COR-DECT system have already been commissioned in urban areas of the country. There is further plan to provide 16.6 lakhs of Wireless Telephones in BSNL network for both urban and rural areas of the country during 2002-03.

(d) No, Sir. The growth of CMTS is quite healthy.

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

[Translation]

Road Accidents

1558. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons lost their lives in road accidents and the number of those who were injured during the last two years in the country;

(b) the extent to which the worn out condition of roads and vehicles are responsible for these accidents; and

(c) the details of the suggestions made by Dr. P. S. Pasricha Committee to reduce the number of these accidents and deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) As per information received from State Governments, the number of persons killed and injured in road accidents during the last two years is given below :

Year	Persons Killed	Persons Injure
1999	80206 (P)	371850 (P)
2000	76070 (P)	393288 (P)

P = Provisional

(b) As per assessment of the Ministry, bad roads and mechanical faults in vehicles were responsible in the year 1998 for around 1.1% and 3% respectively of the total number of road accidents in the country.

(c) Some of the major suggestions given by Dr. P.S. Pasricha Committee to reduce the number of these accidents and deaths are given below :

- i) Standardization of traffic destination boards, traffic pattern and road layouts, etc.
- ii) Modifications/changes in Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central-Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.
- iii) Making traffic education an integral part of the school curriculum.
- iv) Encouragement to NGOs and associating them with road safety process.
- v) Constitution of Road Safety Cell in every district/ range under the charge of the district.
- vi) To improve the Driving License System.
- vii) To set up a Trauma Care Centre at every 50 km. of National Highways.
- viii) Setting up an "All India Road Safety Research Centre".
- ix) Enhancement of penalty for traffic offence.
- x) Removing liquor shops from the National Highways
- xi) Establishing Traffic Aid Posts at every 50 km. along the National Highways and every 100 km. along the State Highways.
- xii) Removing Encroachment on Roads.
- xiii) Fitting reflectors on rural vehicles.
- xiv) Providing Highway Amenities, etc.

Telephone Directory

1559. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1621 dated November 28, 2001 and state :

(a) the action being taken in regard to the telephone directories worth more than five crores which have not been distributed so far while MTNL is going to print new directory for Delhi;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the willingness of the subscribers to purchase the directory to avoid loss; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, in reply to Parliament Question No.1621. of November, 2001, it was mentioned that 193334 Main Directories and 141329 Supplementary Directories were in the stock. Now as on 28.02.2002 this balance of Main Directories have reduced to 126390 and Supplementary Directories have been reduced to 135505. These figures show that on an average 22315 Main Directories and 1831 supplementary Directories are being issued per month respectively.

(b) No, Sir. The Directory is issued free of cost to the subscribers.

(c) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

[English]

Indian Fishermen in Pak Captivity

1560. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan Marine captured eight indian fishing boats and 45 fishermen near Jakhua, Kutch district recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of fishing boats and fishermen captured during the last two years and kept in the Pak jails; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to release the boats and the fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Gujarat, 100 Indian fishermen and 17 boats have been apprehended by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency in January and February this year. Subsequently, there have been reports that another 94 fishermen and 16 boats have been taken in custody by Pakistani authorities on March 4th and 5th, 2002.

(c) Pakistan apprehended a total of 320 Indian fishermen and 53 boats during the last two years i.e. 2000 and 2001. All these fishermen with their boats were got released and repatriated to India in November/December, 2001.

(d) Government have taken up the issue of release and repatriation of recently apprehended Indian fishermen/

boats with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels.

Density of Telephone

1561. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI Y.V. RAO :

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

(a) the details of Tele density per one lakh population in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation in Bihar and West Bengal since these States stand lowest in the country;

(c) whether the telephone density is likely to touch 11.5 per cent in the next five years;

(d) if so, whether this is likely to meet the basic requirement; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the telephone density?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The details of Tele density in the country during last three years, State-wise are as per statement.

(b) Although the tele density in Bihar & West-Bengal are lower compared to National average, but there has been steady growth of tele density in both the state. However it may be worth mentioning that the tele density is dependent upon demand for telephone in the states and is different in different states due to following reasons:

- Economic condition of states i.e. per capita income.
- Literacy rate.
- Business & Commercial Interest.

(c) and (d) With the present growth rate of 22% of telephones (both fixed and mobile) the tele density is likely to reach 11.5% in the next five years and likely to meet the requirement.

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

Statement

State-wise Tele density (no. of telephones) per one lakh persons

S.No.	Name of State	Mar-98	Mar-99	Mar-00	Mar-01
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2290	4220	6340	8442
2	Andhra Pradesh	1580	2110	2950	4056.5
3	Assam	630	820	1040	1330
4	Bihar	410	510	630	865.6
5	Gujarat	2740	3230	3960	5166.27
6	Haryana	2230	2680	3240	4046.4
7	Himachal Pradesh	2860	3440	4250	5919.6
8	Jammu & Kashmir	950	1110	1310	1723
9	Karnataka	2420	2850	3510	4676.7
10	Kerala	3410	4230	5270	7636.3
11	Madhya Pradesh	1040	1200	1370	2011.33

1	2	3	4	5	6
12	Maharashtra	4240	3738	4900	7239.24
13	North East	990	1250	1560	2078.78
14	Orissa	760	940	1108	1494.78
15	Punjab	3740	4490	5290	6771.3
16	Rajasthan	1460	1760	2070	2471
17	Tamil Nadu	3510	2710	4280	5904.58
18	Uttar Pradesh	1010	820	1230	1653.58
19	West Bengal	1610	1970	2330	2660.48
20	Delhi	12070	12230	13020	17395
Total (Average)		1840	2200	2660	3560

Note Gujarat state includes Dadar, Diu, Daman & Nagar Haveli (U.T).
Kerala state includes Laskhadweep (U.T).
Maharashtra state includes Goa and Mumbai.
North East telecom circle includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura state.
Punjab state includes Chandigarh (U. T.)

Tamil Nadu state includes Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T.).
West Bengal state includes Calcutta and Sikkim state.
Bihar state includes Jharkhand State (Formed in March, 01).
Madhya Pradesh state includes Chhattisgarh state (Formed in March, 01).
Uttar Pradesh state includes Uttranchal state. (Formed in March, 01).

Establishment of RPOs/ Passport Offices

1562. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of district headquarters where Regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices have been opened during the last six months;

(b) whether any time-frame has been set for opening regional Passport Offices/Passport Offices in all the district headquarters of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) No Regional Passport Office/Passport Office has been opened in any of the district Headquarters during the last 6 months.

(b) and (c) The Government has decided to decentralize the passport services and to bring these services closer to

the people. Under this scheme, the passport applicants can deposit their filled passport application forms through the office of the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police in every state throughout the country. The districts where the number of applications exceeds 10,000 per year will have dedicated District Passport Cells (DPCs). The forms will be scrutinized and documents checked by the DPCs and then forwarded to the Passport Office who will issue the passports.

This scheme has already been launched in the State of Sikkim, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Goa, Kerala, Bihar, Assam and Andhra Pradesh. The scheme has been fully launched with effect from February 1, 2002, except states like UP where the scheme would be launched from April 1, 2002.

Pending Passport Applications

1563. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pending passport applications in various passport offices in UP and Delhi as on date;

(b) if so, the details in this regard during each of the last two years, year-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) A passport application is considered pending if the application is complete in all respects and a clear police verification report has been received. The number of pending passport applications in Passport Offices in UP and Delhi as on 6.3.2002 are indicated below :

Passport Office	Pendency
Lucknow	659
Bareilly	1552
Ghaziabad	2040
Delhi	2532

(b) The number of applications pending in the Passport Offices in UP and Delhi during the last two years is given below :

Passport Office	2000 (as on 31.12.2000)	2001 (as on 31.12.2001)
Lucknow	3838	1339
Bareilly	464	419
Ghaziabad	0	1724
Delhi	3659	7735

(c) The simplification and streamlining of procedure for issue of passports is an ongoing process. Among the measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications are : computerisation of processing procedures, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post, introduction of machine writing of passports & expediting police verification reports with passport office holding regular consultation with police authorities in their respective areas. The pendency situation in each passport office is monitored on a weekly basis.

Development of Ports

1564. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to develop the ports in the country;

(b) if so, the fund earmarked for the purpose during Ninth Plan;

(c) the port-wise allocation made and actual amount spent in each port during the plan period; and

(d) the specific development or expansion programme implemented in Paradeep Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Development of Ports in the country is an ongoing process to cope with the demands of maritime trade. A Statement indicating the funds allocated, port-wise, for development of major ports and actual expenditure during the 9th Plan period from 1st April 1997 to 31st March 2002, is enclosed.

(d) During the 9th Plan period, the following major development/expansion programmes, involving a capacity addition of 30.25 MT were implemented in Paradip Port.

- (i) Mechanical Coal Handling facilities for handling 20.00 MT of coal;
- (ii) Captive fertilizer handling facilities for handling 1.25 MT of fertilizers;
- (iii) Multipurpose Berths at Western Quay with capacity of 2.00 MT;
- (iv) Construction of Oil Berth for handling 6.00 MT of POL ; and
- (v) Second Multipurpose cargo Berth for handling 1.00 MT.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of Port	Fund allocated during the 9th Plan	Actual expenditure during the 9th Plan
1	2	3	4
1.	Calcutta	476.54	242.20
2.	Mumbai	799.44	523.34
3.	Jawaharlal Nehru	398.36	231.35
4.	Chennai	1153.14	980.43
5.	Cochin	133.45	77.36
6.	Visakhapatnam	400.70	364.00
7.	Kandla	433.29	253.72

1	2	3	4
8.	Mormugao	169.79	122.94
9.	Paradip	1055.86	743.69
10.	New Mangalore	269.44	205.34
11.	Tuticorin	401.13	306.81
12.	Ennore Port Limited	2.00	0.00
Total		5693.14	4051.18

N.B. : Figures in Col.4 above comprise actual expenditure during 1.3.1997 to 31.3.2001 and anticipated expenditure from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002.

Ultrasound Equipments

1565. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court sought the names & addresses of clinics that had been supplied with ultrasound equipment to help identify unregistered clinics to check femicide a year back; and

(b) if so, details of the progress made in collecting the information from different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 11th December, 2001 had directed that information relating to buyers of ultrasound machines may be obtained from the manufacturers, importers, suppliers etc. of such machines.

(b) A list of over 11,000 buyers of ultrasound machines received from the manufacturers, suppliers and service providers has already been obtained and passed on to the States/UTs for ensuring registration of clinics using the same under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, and for prosecution of those who may be found misusing these machines for detection of sex of foetus.

[Translation]

Meerut-Kotdwar National Highway

1566. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the pace of widening and metalling works of Meerut-Kotdwar main

National Highway linking Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal is very slow;

(b) whether there is an increase in the number of accidents due to the poor condition and pot holes on this Highway; and

(c) if so, the time by which the repair and widening work of the Highway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Meerut-Kotdwar highway linking Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal is a State Highway and not a National Highway. Out of total length of 132 km, State Government of U.P. has sanctioned rehabilitation works in the portion of 118 km from Meerut to Najibabad under phase-I of the U.P. State Road Project with World Bank loan assistance. For the remaining length of about 14 km, widening and strengthening to two lane standards has been accepted in principle under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Inter-State Road Connectivity.

(b) No data is available for this road with regard to number of accidents due to the poor condition and pot holes on this road.

(c) Contracts for the rehabilitation works under Phase-I of U.P. State Road Project with World Bank assistance have been signed and the work is likely to be started in April, 2002. The work is targeted for completion in two years from date of start.

Malaria-Kalazar-Dengue Control Programme

1567. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI :

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :

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

(a) the funds allocated under the Ninth Five Year Plan for Malaria-Kalazar and Dengue Control Programme;

(b) whether the funds allocated for Malaria-Kalazar and Dengue Control Programme were not enough for the plan period; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have made any provision to increase funds for this purpose in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

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

National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) an outlay of Rs. 1030 crores was allocated to National Anti Malaria Programme, Kala-azar, Filariasis, JE, Dengue and Enhanced Malaria Control Project with World Bank Support during IXth and Five Year Plan.

(b) The allocations are made on the basis of technical requirements, operational feasibility of the programme and approved norms.

(c) Keeping in view, the inflation of prices and extension of programme in the States, increased funds have been proposed in the Xth Five Year Plan.

[English]

Upgradation of Highways along Gujarat Coast Line

1568. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coastal highways running along the Gujarat State coast line have not been upgraded to National Highway till date;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering to upgrade these highways in to National Highways;

(d) if so, the time by which it will be upgraded; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) Some portions of roads along the coast line in the State of Gujarat have not been declared as National Highway, in view of inter-se priority of proposals received from various States and overall availability of funds.

(c) to (e) This proposal would be considered along with similar proposals received from other State Governments during the next consideration, after the finalisation of the Tenth Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Dolphin Mobile Service

1569. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the subscriber base of Dolphin service in Mumbai MTNL;

(b) whether MTNL is pursuing its price advantage with a well planned commercial strategy;

(c) if so, the other steps MTNL propose to take to ensure that the price advantage of Dolphin service in Mumbai fetches good subscriber base;

(d) the manner in which MTNL plans to ensure the level of service in the Dolphin scheme do not deteriorate; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) As on 8.3.2002, Postpaid subscriber base - 76363 and prepaid subscriber base 10155.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) MTNL, Mumbai cellular mobile service has adopted a systematic advertising plan through display boards on more visible places like bus stops, bill boards, backside of buses etc. to ensure that dolphin service fetches good subscriber base in Mumbai.

(d) and (e) Following steps are being taken to ensure that the level of service in the Dolphin Scheme does not deteriorate.

(i) MTNL is starting 26 more Base Transmission station (BTS) in Kalyan and Dombivli areas.

(ii) MTNL is starting a professionally managed call centre in order to answer customer queries.

Injury Chink Clinic

1570. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sports Injury Clinic at Safdarjung Hospital is in urgent need of toning up and the department part of the orthopedic center has been languishing from lack of funds, staff and equipments;

(b) if so, whether the wing has full sanctioned strength and funds; and

(c) if not, the reasons and the corrective steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The Sports Injury Clinic at Safdarjung Hospital is functioning with the requisite staff and basic equipments. Meeting the

requirements for staff and equipments based on the demand is continuous process. So far as budget is concerned it is allocated to the hospital for management of the hospital in totality including the sports injury clinic.

Facilities/Benefits to Retired Government Employees

1571. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether All India Retired Central Government Employees Association demanded for some new facilities and benefits for retired employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government have taken any initiative for providing them a new package; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) Representations are received from time to time from various Pensioners' Association etc. for benefits and new facilities and they are processed for appropriate action. However, there is no proposal at present to provide a new package to the existing retired Central Government employees.

MBBS Degree Holders Abroad

1572. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of students, who have passed from unrecognized medical colleges abroad, have been applying to Medical Council of India (MCI) for registration;

(b) if so, whether the MCI propose to frame some Rules and Regulations for registration of doctors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) The Medical Council of India with the approval

of the Central Government have framed the Screening Test Regulations, 2002 whereby an Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institution outside India who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with the Medical Council of India or any State Medical Council on or after 15.3.2002 shall have to qualify a Screening Test conducted by the Prescribed Authority for this purpose as per provisions of Section 13 of the Indian Medical Council Act (as amended by the Indian Medical Council Amendment Act, 2001). The primary medical qualification must be a recognized qualification for enrolment as medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated and is equivalent to MBBS in India.

Corruption in Kendriya Bhandar

1573. SHRI C.N. SINGH :

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of letters have been written by the Members of Parliament to the Government and officials of the Kendriya Bhandar on corruption, irregularities, frauds, mismanagement, sordid affairs etc. in the Kendriya Bhandar but the replies to many of the letters are not being replied for months and even a year or so; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of letters still pending and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) In the period from 1.4.01 to 8.03.02, this Department has received 185 letters from Members of Parliament on issues concerning Kendriya Bhandar. 132 have been replied and 53 are under process for reply.

However many of the issues raised in the pending letters have been clarified in earlier letter, facts sent to Parliament and replies to Parliament Questions.

Letters received from Members of Parliament are accorded the highest priority and all efforts are made to ensure that replies are sent to them as early as possible.

Establishment of Schools in Indian Missions

[Amount (Rs. in lakhs)]

1574. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to open new schools in Indian Missions Abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the schools are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Opening of a new Indian School in Muscat, Oman, is at proposal stage.

Development of Coir Industry

1575. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to promote and develop the Coir/Fibre Industries in the country;
- (b) whether the Government have formulated any new scheme/project in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the total funds allocated, disbursed and utilised during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Steps taken with a view to develop Coir/Fibre Industries in the country, inter-alia, include Research & Development, Training, Domestic Market Development, Export Promotion and Trade Information Service, Welfare Measures, Quality Improvement, Brown Fibre Sector Development and Cooperativisation.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Coir Board has formulated the following new schemes :

- (i) Revised scheme for extension of financial assistance to coir units in the Brown Fibre Sector;
- (ii) Market Development Assistance Scheme;
- (iii) External Market Development Assistance Scheme.
- (d) The total funds allocated/ disbursed and utilized during the last three years, State-wise are :

State	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
Kerala	68.65	130.51	100.61
Tamil Nadu	205.18	106.77	141.82
Karnataka	60.84	118.70	74.36
Andhra Pradesh	21.59	101.97	26.71
Orissa	35.61	69.85	77.89
Assam	Nil	Nil	3.94
West Bengal	Nil	Nil	2.52
Pondicherry & Lakshadweep	Nil	Nil	2.00
Others (unallocable to any state)	496.16	722.84	954.13
Total	888.01	1250.64	1383.98

Annual Financial Envelope for Health Services

1576. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Central Government offer Annual Financial Envelope to State Government for strengthening health services;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total money released to different States under this scheme during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, State-wise and year-wise;
- (d) whether the Union Government have studied the outcome of this scheme;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether some States have proposed continuation of this scheme during the year 2002-2003 also; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, a Financial Envelope Scheme is being implemented in six States viz. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab

and Maharashtra. Under this scheme, States have been given flexibility to identify and implement interventions under the programme. The funds released to the States till date are shown in the enclosed statement.

(d) to (g) The progress of the programme is being reviewed from time to time. The reports received from the States like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka indicate some progress in implementation of activities like functioning of round the clock Women Health Centres and appointment of additional ANMs, contractual appointments of doctors at PHCs and involvement of Anganwadi workers in RCH services. The Financial Envelope Scheme is an ongoing scheme under the RCH Programme. Funds during 2002-2003 will be released, based on utilization of allocated funds and receipt of future proposals.

Statement

Funds released to the States under Financial Envelope Scheme (RCH-Programme)

State	(Rs. in lakhs)			
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
Andhra Pradesh	84.43	253.30	Nil	337.73
Kerala	17.48	52.42	Nil	69.90
Tamil Nadu	67.50	202.50	Nil	270.00
Karnataka	Nil	209.00	Nil	209.00
Punjab	Nil	50.00	50.00	100.00
Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	272.70	272.70

Statement

Details of private cellular operators regarding performance bank guarantee against existing licences and liquidated damage (LD) charges levied

S.No.	Name of the Company	Service Area	PBG Furnished	Amount of LD Levied due to non- fulfilment of coverage criteria
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Delhi	Yes	50 Lakhs
2.	Sterling Cellular Ltd.	Delhi	Yes	50 Lakhs
3.	BPL Mobile Communications Ltd.	Mumbai	Yes	20 Lakhs

Cellular Licenses

1577. SHRI M.O. H. FAROOK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) number of licenses of cellular operators in the country who have provided performance guarantee and have not fulfilled the obligations timely in terms of the said guarantee;

(b) if so, the names of such operators;

(c) the action Government propose to take in the interest of the public;

(d) whether there is a proposal for waiving the financial Bank guarantee in respect of cellular operators; and

(e) if so, the safeguard the Government will have in the absence of the financial guarantee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Sir, the private cellular operators have furnished required Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG) in terms of the licence agreement conditions. Liquidated Damage charges have been levied against those operators who have not timely fulfilled the obligation of Service Area coverage in terms of the licence agreement. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.

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

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Hutchinson Max Telecom Ltd.	Mumbai	Yes	50 Lakhs
5.	Bharti Mobitel Ltd.	Calcutta	Yes	50 Lakhs
6.	Usha Martin Telecom. Ltd.	Calcutta	Yes	50 Lakhs
7.	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	Chennai	Yes	50 Lakhs*
8.	Bharti Mobinet Ltd.	Chennai	Yes	50 Lakhs
9.	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.	Haryana	Yes	100 Lakhs
10.	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.	Rajasthan	Yes	100 Lakhs
11.	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Yes	100 Lakhs
12.	FASCEL Ltd.	Gujarat	Yes	100 Lakhs
13.	Hexacom India Ltd.	Rajasthan	Yes	100 Lakhs
14.	Hexacom India Ltd.	North East	No***	Nil**
15.	Bharti Mobile Limited	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	100 Lakhs
16.	Bharti Mobile Limited	Punjab	Yes	100 Lakhs
17.	Bharti Mobile Limited	Karnataka	Yes	100 Lakhs
18.	Koshika Telecom Pvt. Ltd	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Yes@	100 Lakhs @
19.	Birla Tata AT&T Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	100 Lakhs
20.	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Yes	45 Lakhs
21.	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Haryana	Yes	Nil
22.	Escotel Mobile Communications Pvt. Ltd.	Kerala	Yes	NIL
23.	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	Yes	100 Lakhs
24.	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	Kerala	Yes	25 Lakhs
25.	BPL Mobile Cellular Ltd.	Maharashtra	Yes	100 Lakhs
26.	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	100 Lakhs
27.	RPG Cellcom Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	100 Lakhs
28.	Birla Tata AT&T Ltd.	Gujarat	Yes	100 Lakhs
29.	Birla Tata AT&T Ltd.	Maharashtra	Yes	100 Lakhs
30.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Assam	Yes	NIL**
31.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	100 Lakhs

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	North East	Yes	NIL**
33.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	West Bengal	Yes	100 Lakhs
34.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Bihar	Yes	100 Lakhs
35.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	100 Lakhs
36.	Reliance Telecom (P) Ltd.	Orissa	Yes	100 Lakhs
37.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Karnataka	Yes	100 Lakhs
38.	Spice Communications Ltd.	Punjab	Yes	100 Lakhs
39.	Aircel Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	Yes	NIL
40.	Birla AT&T Communications Ltd.	Delhi	Yes	Not applicable
41.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Mumbai	Yes	Not applicable
42.	Reliable Internet Services Ltd.	Kolkata	Yes	Not applicable
43.	Barakhambha Sales and Services Ltd.	Chennai	Yes	Not applicable
44.	Barakhambha Sales and Services Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	Yes	Not applicable
45.	Barakhambha Sales and Services Ltd.	Karnataka	Yes	Not applicable
46.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Gujarat	Yes	Not applicable
47.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Haryana	Yes	Not applicable
48.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Kerala	Yes	Not applicable
49.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	Yes	Not applicable
50.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Maharashtra	Yes	Not applicable
51.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	Yes	Not applicable
52.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	Yes	Not applicable
53.	Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	Yes	Not applicable.
54.	Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	Punjab	Yes	Not applicable
55.	Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	Rajasthan	Yes	Not applicable
56.	Escorts Telecommunications Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	Yes	Not applicable

Legend :

- * The LD charges levied have not been recovered as a representation from the Licensee Company is to be examined.
- ** In these cases Liquidated Damage Charges have not been levied as the operators have not been permitted by the Government for expansion or fresh start of service in the Licensed Service Area, on security consideration.
- *** In this case, the condition of furnishing PBG has been waived as the operator has not been permitted to start the service, on security considerations
- @ The PBG furnished has been encashed as the licence fee due as well as Liquidated Damage Charges have not been paid by the Operator.

Cellular Services in North-East State

1578. SHRI K. A. SANGTAM :

SHRI M. K. SUBBA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact the Cellular Phone service has been introduced only in Guwahati and Shillong in the North-East;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the Cellular Phone service in other parts of the North-East also;

(d) if so, the time schedule drawn therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Expansion or fresh start of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is not permitted at present by Private Operators as well as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the North-East and Assam Telecom Circles covering the North-Eastern States, on security considerations.

National Highway between Chengalpattu and Villupuram

1579. SHRI A.K. MOORTHY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the number of major accidents occurring daily on the National Highway between Chengalpattu and Villupuram in Tamil Nadu due to bad condition of Road; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of National Highway in this stretch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No data is available with regard to cases of accidents on this road due to bad condition of the road.

(b) In order to enhance the safety and improve the efficiency of vehicular movement, Chengalpattu-Villupuram section of National Highway-45 in Tamil Nadu is proposed to

be Upgraded by widening it to four-lanes divided carriageway facility. The Work of 4-laning on Chengalpattu-Tindivanam sub-section has already been awarded.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridges on National Highways

1580. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges targeted to be constructed on National Highways during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the number of bridges constructed as on date and the number of bridges which are under construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) 504.

(b) Number of bridges constructed as on date - 398

Number of bridges under construction - 106

[English]

List of Militant Groups

1581. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has asked Pakistan to furnish a comprehensive list of militant groups who have infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this Indian demand was conveyed to Pakistan during the recent visit of US Secretary of State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (e) No Sir, though the Government have on numerous occasions conveyed to Pakistan that it must stop cross border terrorism, and its use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy.

*[Translation]***No War Pact**

1582. DR. ASHOK PATEL :

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently received any proposal from Pakistan President calling for signing a No War Pact with India and to make South-Asia a nuclear-free zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Transport Policy

1583. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for formulating a new transport policy in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any decision in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) Government is not aware of any demand for a new transport policy. Evolution of transport policy is a continuous process, keeping pace with changing needs, technology and opportunities.

*[English]***Telephone Connections in Kerala**

1584. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges opened in the current financial year in the State of Kerala;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided as on date; and

(c) the number of telephone applications pending in Kerala circle as on date, district-wise; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 39 new telephone exchanges have been opened during the current financial year from 1.4.2001 to 31.1.2002 in the state of Kerala.

(b) The number of telephone connections provided as on 31.1.2002 during current financial year is 264694.

(c) The number of telephone applications pending as on 31.1.2002 is 775783. The District-wise details are given in statement enclosed.

(d) About 75% of the applicants are in rural areas where the requirement of cable, line material and man power are very high compared to the connections in urban areas. The waiting list is planned to be cleared by March, 2004 subject to availability of funds and materials.

Statement

No. of Applications as on 31.1.2002 in Kerala State, District-wise

Name of District	No. of Applications Pending
1	2
Trivandrum	40428
Quilon	80674
Pathanamthitta	16815
Alleppey	71794
Kottayam	36308
Idukki	30716
Ernakulam	47879
Trichur	70376
Palghat	46740

1	2
Malappuram	106098
Calicut	75615
Wynad	25257
Cannore	78969
Kasargod	45537
Lakshadweep (Union Territory)	84
Pondicherry (Mahey) (Union Territory)	2493
Total	775783

**Khadi and Village Industries Commission
in Madhya Pradesh**

1585. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of village industries set up by the "Khadi Gramoudhyog" in the villages of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the number of persons working in the above industries;

(c) the details of registered village industries/institutions;

(d) the present position of such industries and the number of loss incurring industries;

(e) whether there is any scheme to provide assistance to the loss incurring industries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) and (b) As on 31.03.2001, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), has given financial assistance in the form of Margin Money to 15,709 projects in the State of Madhya Pradesh, generating 1.44 lakhs employment.

(c) The list of village industries and institutions registered with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) are attached at statement-I and II enclosed.

(d) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) provides one time financial assistance in the form of margin money for setting up such village industries. Information with respect to profit/loss of individual units is not maintained centrally.

(e) No, Sir

(f) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Village Industries in Madhya Pradesh State

S.No.	Name of the Industry
1	2
I	Mineral Based Industry
1	Cottage Pottery
2	Lime Manufacturing
II	Forest Based Industry
1	Cottage Match
2	Agarbatti
3	Handmade Paper
4	Shellac
5	Bamboo and cane
6	Katha
7	Gums & Resin
III	Agro Based and Food Industry
1	Bee-keeping
2	Ghani Oil
3	Canegur and Khandsari
4	Palmgur
5	Processing of Cereals and pulses
6	Medicinal plants
7	Fruit processing and preservation
8	Fibre
IV	Ploymer and Chemical Based Industry
1	Cottage Soap
2	Cottage Leather
3	Polymer

1	2
V	Engineering and Non-Conventional Energy
1	Bio Gas Rural Engineering
2	Aluminium Utensils
3	Electronics
4	Brass, Copper and Bell Metal
5	Textile Industry
6	Polyvastra
7	Other Textiles

VII Service Activities

Statement-II

Institutions registered with State KVIB/KVIC for implementing village industries programme in Madhya Pradesh

S.No.	Institutions
1	2
1	Kshetriya Shree Gandhi Ashram, Damoh
2	Madhya Bharat Sangh, Gwalior
3	MP Khadi Sanstha Sangh, Bhopal
4	Vinoba Gramodyog Pratisthan, Reewa
5	Bandhavgarh Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Reewa
6	Khadi Gramodyog Pratisthan, Bhopal
7	Khadi Udyog Sahakari Samiti, Lodhikheda, Chhindwara
8	Khadi Gramodyog Samiti, Lodhikheda, Tehsil Sausar, Chhindwara
9	Visarjan Ashram, Naulakha, Indore
10	Mahatma Gandhi Sewa Ashram, Jaura, Morena
11	Samagra Vikas Parishad, Dhar
12	Morena Jilla Khadi Gramodyog Sangh, Morena
13	Morena Jilla Khadi Gramodyog Sahakari Samiti, Sheopurkalan, Morena
14	Khadi Ashram, Tikamgarh

1	2
15	Malwa Bhil Sewak Sangh, Indore
16	Vanvasi Seva Mandal, Mandla
17	Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Mandal, Teliwara, Ujjain
18	MP Gramin Vikas Mandal, Khurmundi, Balaghat
19	Gramodyog Mandal, Chhota Talab, Chhindwara
20	Indore Khadi Sangh, Indore
21	Udyog Mandal, Goohara, Balaghat
22	Adarsh Sewa Sangh, Pohari, District-Shivpuri
23	Sarvodaya Mission, Indore
24	Bundelkhand Khadi Gramodyog Vikas Mandal, Rajakhedi, Sagar
25	Lalita Shastri Khadi Gramodyog Sansthan, Gwalior
26	Gramin Vikas Mandal, Kumha, District-Mandla
27	Lok Kalyan Gram Pratisthan, 172, C-sector, Indrapuri, Bhopal
28	Siddarth Gramin Seva Sansthan, Saket Nagar, Bhopal
29	New Life Centre, Ratlam
30	Gramodyog Sansthan, Maharajpur, Mundia
31	Samagra Vikas Parishad, Alirajpur, Distt. Jhabua
32	Gramin Khadi Gramodyog Sansthan, Bhopal
33	Bhagawati Gramodyog Sansthan, Arera Colony, Bhopal
34	Sona Khadi Gramodyog Sansthan, E-4/399, Arera Colony, Bhopal
35	Sai Baba Khadi Gramodyog Sansthan, Bhopal
36	Jai Ambe Gramodyog Sansthan, Jhansi
37	Gayatri Mahila Kamgar Sahakari Sansthan Ltd., Nisarpur, Khetiya, Badwani

Alleppey By-pass phase-2

1586. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the inordinate delay in the construction of Alleppey bypass phase-2;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation/proposal in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The work of Alleppey bypass phase-2 has been included in the Annual Plan 2002-2003. The proposal is yet to be received from the State Government of Kerala.

[Translation]

Repair and Improvement of National Highways

1587. SHRI MANSINH PATEL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Highway between Bharuch and Vapi is not traffic worthy due to dilapidation and needs repairs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of improvement made on the Highway between Ahmedabad and Mumbai during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) The National Highway section between Bharuch and Vapi is being maintained in traffic worthy condition, within available resources.

(c) The improvements on the National Highway No. 8 between Ahmedabad and Mumbai during the last two years are as under :

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Status
(i)	Construction of additional 2-lane bridge across river Narmada near Bharuch.	Completed.
(ii)	4-laning of Manor-Bassein Creek section.	Completed.
(iii)	Construction of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway (new alignment)	In progress.
(iv)	Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Surat-Manor section	In progress.

[English]

Telephone on Demand in Rural Areas

1588. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone connections are sanctioned to the applicants on demand in the rural areas of Kerala State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of infrastructural facilities for increasing the capacity of Telephone exchanges in Kerala State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There is a waiting list of

approximately 7.75 lakhs in Kerala. Hence, out of 793 rural telephone exchanges in Kerala state, telephone connections are sanctioned to the applicants on demand in only 29 rural exchanges.

(c) A net switching capacity of 563700 lines is planned for the year 2001-2002. The balance augmentation of capacity of telephone exchanges is planned for the year 2002-2003 subject to availability of funds.

[Translation]

Declaration of NH-12A

1589. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received the proposals in regard to declaring the State highway from

Pondi district Kavardha Chhattisgarh to Bilaspur under the National Highway 12A as the National Highway; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to declare this missing link of 100 kilometres between the National Highway from Jaipur in Rajasthan to Bhubaneswar in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal would be considered along with similar proposals received from other State Governments during the next consideration, after finalisation of the 10th Five Year Plan, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Review of Family Welfare Programme

1590. SHRI NAGMANI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the Family Welfare Programmes being implemented in the country;

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

(c) the future-plan made by the Government for the effective implementation of the programmes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Review of implementation of the Family Welfare Programmes has been done through various surveys. National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) conducted every six years provides information on a large number of health and family welfare indicators.

The National Family Health Survey-I was conducted during 1992-93 covering the population of 24 States and the NCT of Delhi to provide demographic and health data. A total of 88,562 households were covered in the survey.

The National Family Health Survey-II was conducted in 1998-99 covering 90,000 ever-married women aged between

15-49 years. It covered 26 States/UTs. (Except the State of Tripura).

The major findings of both the surveys at all India level are as follows :

Items	NFHS-I	NFHS-II
Infant Mortality Rate	78.5	67.6
Currently married women using any method	40.6	48.2
Percent of Births attended by health professional	34.2	42.5
Percent of children fully Immunized	35.4	42.0

A statement showing comparative picture of some of the indicators of NFHS-I and NFHS-II in respect of some States is enclosed at statement-I.

(c) Government has adopted a National Population Policy in February 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilisation within the country. The Policy affirms the commitment of government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services, and continuation of the target free approach in administering family planning services.

The National Population Policy, 2000 enumerates certain socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010, which will lead to achieving population stabilisation by 2045. The Policy also prescribes for an Action Plan for implementing the strategic themes listed in the Policy.

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 rates 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.

National Family Health Survey - A Comparative Statement

S.No.	Indicators/States	India		Andhra Pr.		Assam		Bihar		Delhi		Gujarat		Gua	
		I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
1	Neo-Natal Mortality	48.6	43.4	45.3	43.5	50.9	44.6	54.8	46.5	34.9	30.8	46.3	39.1	20.6	31.2
2	Infant Mortality Rate	78.5	67.6	70.4	65.8	88.7	69.5	89.2	73.0	65.4	47.9	73.5	62.2	31.9	36.7
3	Child Mortality Rate	33.4	29.3	22.4	21.0	58.7	21.4	42.0	34.6	19.0	9.3	32.7	24.0	7.2	10.5
4	Total Fertility Rate	3.40	2.85	2.59	2.25	3.53	2.31	3.98	3.47	3.02	2.42	2.97	2.70	1.89	1.77
	4a Crude Birth Rate	28.7	24.8	24.2	21.4	30.4	21.8	32.1	28.1	26.6	21.3	27.2	24.30	17.2	16.6
	4b % order of Birth>=3	48.6	45.2	42.1	31.5	58.2	43.8	56.4	54.6	44.3	39.3	42.0	41.1	32.2	24.9
5	% of mothers received ANC	44.0	65.3	86.8	92.7	48.9	59.8	36.3	36.0	81.8	82.0	75.4	86.3	95	99.0
6	% currently using any meth	40.6	48.2	47.0	59.6	42.8	43.3	23.1	24.5	60.3	63.8	49.3	59.0	47.8	47.5
	a) Sterilization	30.8	36.0	44.7	57.0	14.6	16.7	17.7	20.2	23.2	28.6	41.0	45.3	30.5	28.2
	b) Spacing method	5.5	6.8	1.8	1.8	5.4	10.0	3.2	2.2	31.2	27.7	5.8	8.1	7.3	7.7
7	% of children fully vaccinate	35.4	42.0	45.0	52.0	19.4	17.0	10.7	10.6	57.8	69.8	49.8	48.3	74.9	82.6
	a) B.C.G.	62.2	72.0	74.0	90.2	48.2	53.5	33.9	37.7	92.0	90.1	77.1	84.7	93.5	99.2
	b) D.P.T.3	51.7	55.0	66.1	75.9	31.0	37.5	29.1	24.2	71.6	79.9	63.8	64.1	86.7	93.4
	c) Polio 3	53.4	63.0	68.0	73.9	32.7	37.9	31.6	40.3	75.6	80.7	62.9	62.7	87.8	94.9
	d) Measles	42.2	51.0	53.8	64.7	25.8	24.6	14.6	16.8	69.6	77.5	55.9	63.6	77.8	84.3
8	Institutional Delivery (%)	26.0	33.6	33.0	50.0	11.1	17.6	12.1	14.7	44.3	59.5	35.6	46.4	86.8	91.5
9	Safe Delivery (%)	34.2	42.3	49.3	65.0	17.8	21.5	18.9	23.5	53.0	66.7	42.7	53.5	88.4	91.1
10	% of children with anaemia	NA	74.3	NA	68.0	NA	62.4	NA	79.1	NA	69.7	NA	70.0	NA	51.6
11	% of women with anaemia	NA	51.8	NA	50.0	NA	69.0	NA	63.6	NA	40.5	NA	46.0	NA	36.4

National Family Health Survey - A Comparative Statement

S.No.	Indicators/States	Orissa		Punjab		Rajasthan		Sikkim*	Tamil Nadu		Uttar Pradesh		West Bengal	
		I	II	I	II	I	II	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Neo-Natal Mortality	64.7	48.6	31.2	34.3	42.1	49.5	26.3	46.2	35.0	59.9	53.6	55.1	31.9
2	Infant Mortality Rate	112.1	81.0	53.7	57.1	76.3	80.4	44.0	67.7	48.2	99.9	86.7	81.0	48.7
3	Child Mortality Rate	21.3	25.5	15.01	15.9	33.8	37.6	28.3	20.1	15.9	46.0	39.2	28.6	19.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
4	Total Fertility Rate	2.92	2.45	2.91	2.21	3.58	3.73	2.70	2.48	2.18	4.75	3.96	2.89	2.27
	4a Crude Birth Rate	26.5	22.1	25.0	19.1	27.0	29.9	24.5	23.5	21.4	35.9	31.1	25.5	20.8
	4b % Order of Birth>=3	48.0	42.9	42.7	39.6	50.7	52.9	42.1	32.3	23.2	57.5	58.1	46.2	36.5
5	% of mothers received ANC	61.0	79.2	87.6	74.1	32.8	47.2	70.0	94.2	98.6	44.4	34.6	75.4	89.5
6	% currently using any meth.	36.3	46.8	58.7	66.7	31.8	40.3	53.8	49.8	52.1	19.8	28.1	57.4	66.6
	a) Sterilization	31.6	35.6	34.0	30.9	26.2	31.8	24.8	39.6	46.0	13.1	15.6	30.6	33.8
	b) Spacing method	10.0	4.7	17.4	23.0	3.3	5.8	16.6	5.8	4.3	5.3	6.4	7.0	13.5
7	% of children fully vaccinate	36.1	43.7	61.9	72.1	21.1	16.0	44.0	65.1	78.2	19.8	21.2	34.2	43.6
	a) B.C.G.	63.3	84.7	77.4	88.7	45.7	53.9	76.5	91.7	98.6	48.9	57.5	63.1	76.5
	b) D.P.T.3	56.3	61.9	73.6	82.0	29.7	26.1	62.5	86.5	96.7	34.1	33.9	51.9	58.3
	c) Polio 3	56.7	68.4	73.4	83.6	32.8	43.2	60.1	86.0	86.5	37.3	42.2	56.0	61.5
	d) Measles	40.2	54.0	64.8	76.5	31.2	27.1	58.9	71.5	90.2	26.4	34.6	42.5	52.4
8	Institutional Delivery (%)	14.1	22.9	24.8	37.5	11.6	21.7	36.4	63.5	79.8	11.2	15.7	31.5	40.4
9	Safe Delivery (%)	20.5	33.7	48.4	62.7	22.0	36.2	35.1	71.2	84.1	17.2	23.0	44.4	44.5
10	% of children with anaemia	NA	71.3	NA	74.7	NA	76.4	77.0	NA	66.1	NA	70.8	NA	75.8
11	% of women with anaemia	NA	63.1	NA	41.5	NA	48.7	62.0	NA	56.5	NA	48.7	NA	62.9

* Sikkim was covered only in NFHS II

National Family Health Survey - A Comparative Statement

S.No.	Indicators/States	Arunachal		Meghalaya		Nagaland		Manipur		Mizoram		Tripura	
		I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Neo-Natal Mortality	17.5	41.8	37.8	50.7	10.0	20.1	25.1	18.6	8.3	18.8	43.6	28.6
2	Infant Mortality Rate	40.0	63.1	64.2	89.0	17.2	42.1	42.4	37	14.6	37	75.8	44.2
3	Child Mortality Rate	33.3	37.4	24.3	36.2	30.6	22.7	20.2	19.9	14.9	18.4	31.2	7.4
4	Total Fertility Rate	2.44	2.52	3.73	4.57	3.26	3.77	2.76	3.04	2.3	2.89	2.67	1.87
	4a Crude Birth Rate	34.6	22.6	31.9	35.7	31.3	30.4	24.4	25.8	20.8	25.7	23.1	
	4b % order of Birth>=3	54.6	46.0	53.5	60.1	48.1	59.6	52.0	47.1	45.0	46.0	45.8	
5	% of mothers received ANC	48.9	60.9	51.1	53.1	38.5	59.4	63.5	80.1	86.3	90.3	64.4	70.9
6	% currently using any meth.	23.6	35.4	20.7	20.2	13.0	30.3	34.9	38.7	53.8	57.7	56.4	55.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	a) Sterilization	10.7	20.7	10.0	10.7	6.4	12.3	13.8	15.5	44.6	45.3	19.3	26.7
	b) Spacing method	8.5	12.2	5.1	9.1	6.2	12	10.3	10.3	8.3	11.7	9.5	16.8
7	% of children fully vaccinate	22.5	20.5	54.9	42.3	3.8	14.1	29.1	42.3	56.9	59.6	14.3	40.7
	a) B.C.G.	46.3	54.2	43.8	46.1	19.4	46.1	63.8	71	77.1	88.2	33.4	73.5
	b) D.P.T.3	45.6	41.8	22.9	25.4	12.5	29.5	43.3	59.1	71.6	69.5	27.6	51.7
	c) Polio 3	38.8	43.3	23.6	27.6	16.3	41.8	39.4	62.5	69.7	71.9	27.6	57.9
	d) Measles	27.5	33.6	13.2	17.7	10.0	19.6	37	45.8	65.1	71	20.8	44.6
8	Institutional Delivery (%)	19.9	30.9	29.6	17.5	6.0	12.1	22.9	34.5	48.8	57.9	30.6	45.2
9	Safe Delivery (%)	21.3	32.0	37.0	20.7	12.2	32.7	50.5	53.9	61.5	60.9	33.4	47.8
10	% of children with anaemia	NA	54.4	NA	67.7	NA	44.8	NA	43.5	NA	55.6	NA	63.6
11	% of women with anaemia	NA	62.5	NA	63.8	NA	38.9	NA	28.9	NA	48.2	NA	59.4

National Family Health Survey - A Comparative Statement

S.No.	Indicators/States	Haryana		H.P.		J & K		Karnataka		Kerala		M.P.		Maha.	
		I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Neo-Natal Mortality	38.4	34.9	34.2	22.1	31.9	40.3	45.3	37.1	15.5	13.8	53.2	54.9	26.4	32
2	Infant Mortality Rate	73.3	56.8	55.8	34.4	45.4	64.4	65.4	51.5	23.8	16.3	85.2	86.1	50.5	43.7
3	Child Mortality Rate	27.4	21.2	14.1	8.3	14.3	15.6	23.5	18.9	8.4	2.6	49.3	56.4	20.9	15
4	Total Fertility Rate	3.98	2.84	2.97	2.14	3.13	2.70	2.83	2.13	2.00	1.96	3.85	3.27	2.86	2.52
	4a Crude Birth Rate	32.9	23.1	28.2	19.9	27.9	23.1	25.9	20.4	19.6	18.8	31.6	26.7	26.3	23.0
	4b % order of Birth>=3	47.5	41.6	42.7	33.3	44.1	50.3	42.4	33.6	26.0	21.1	49.8	52.8	42.8	39.2
5	% of mothers received ANC	72.2	58.1	75.4	86.8	78.6	83.2	83.4	86.3	97.3	98.9	52.3	61.1	82.3	90
6	% currently using any meth.	49.7	62.4	58.4	67.7	49.4	49.1	49.1	58.3	63.3	63.7	36.5	44.3	53.7	60.9
	a) Sterilization	34.8	40.8	45.8	52.4	29.7	30.7	42.7	52.2	48.3	51.0	31.7	37.9	46.5	52.2
	b) Spacing method	9.6	12.5	8.5	8.4	10.0	11.1	4.8	4.4	6.1	5.1	4.0	4.7	6.4	7.6
7	% of children fully vaccinate	53.5	62.7	63.5	83.4	54.2	56.7	52.2	60.0	54.4	79.2	22.9	22.4	64.3	78.2
	a) B.C.G.	77.4	86.8	84.8	94.6	79.3	85.6	81.7	84.8	86.1	96.2	56.8	64.9	86.9	93.7
	b) D.P.T.3	66.8	71.1	78.5	88.8	74.6	72.3	70.7	75.2	73.7	88.0	43.7	37.0	83.1	89.4
	c) Polio 3	67.7	74.3	78.4	89.8	74	74.3	71.4	78.3	75.2	87.9	48.9	56.7	81.8	90.5
	d) Measles	60.9	72.2	71.8	89.1	58.3	68.9	54.9	67.3	60.5	84.6	40.7	35.5	70.2	84.3
8	Institutional Delivery (%)	16.7	23.2	16.0	29.0	21.9	35.9	37.5	51.1	87.8	93.0	15.9	20.4	43.9	52.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9	Safe Delivery (%)	30.3	42.0	25.6	40.4	31.2	43.1	50.9	59.2	89.7	94.0	30.0	30.1	53.1	59.7
10	% of children with anaemia	NA	78.0	NA	67.3	NA	68.7	NA	65.8	NA	44.2	NA	71.5	NA	72.2
11	% of women with anaemia	NA	47.2	NA	40.5	NA	58.7	NA	42.4	NA	22.6	NA	54.4	NA	48.6

[English]

Filling up of vacancies in PESB

1591. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacant posts at Board Level in various Government and Public Sector Undertakings as on December 31, 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that number of these posts have been lying vacant beyond the normal time limit as per the guidelines;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for not filling up such posts;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to revamp the Boards by selecting Board Level Posts in Public Sector Undertakings; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The number of vacant Board level posts in various Public Sector Undertakings as on 31.12.2001 is 104. The reasons for delay in filling these posts are mainly due to delay in receipt of vigilance clearance, the recommended candidates not joining the posts or the vacancy being unforeseen.

(d) and (e) As and when vacancies arise on the Board of Directors of a Public Sector Undertaking, action is taken by the Administrative Ministry/Department, Public Enterprises Selection Board and the Department of Public Enterprises to fill up such vacancies in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Government.

General Post Offices

1592. SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP SINGH : Will the

Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of General Post Offices proposed to be set up in the country during the current Financial year State-wise, particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh States;

(b) whether the building for the General Post Office is proposed to be constructed at Mahendragarh in Chhattisgarh which is predominantly inhabited by tribal people; and

(c) if so, the time by which the building is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) There is no proposal for setting up of new General Post Offices in the country including Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh States during the current financial year.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to construct building for the General Post Office at Manendragarh in Chhattisgarh.

Indo-Russia Ties

1593. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish better relations with Russia;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction;

(c) the areas in which Indo-Russia co-operation has been established; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) Indo-Russian relations are characterised by continuity, trust and mutual understanding and based on shared perceptions and mutuality of interests. These have been consolidated into a strategic partnership with the signing of the Declaration on

Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation in October 2000. The document defines the broad contours of Indo-Russian bilateral relations in the 21st century.

India's relations with the Russian Federation are multi-faceted and encompass cooperation in various fields including political, trade and economy, science and technology, defence, culture, and in the fight against international terrorism, separatism and organised crime. India and the Russian Federation are closely cooperating within the framework of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation and the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation.

Share of SSIs in Export

1594. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKAR : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the share of small scale industries in the total export of the country during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of facilities provided to promote the small scale industries during the last two years; and

(d) the details of employment opportunities generated by the small scale industries during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) During 1998-1999 and 1999-2000, the estimated share of Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in the total exports of the country is constant at 35%.

(c) The Government has announced a comprehensive policy package on 30th August, 2000 to promote the Small Scale Sector. The policy package contains provisions for easier access to credit, collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation, marketing support and improved infrastructure.

(d) During the last two years, it is estimated that SSIs have generated additional employment for 14 lakh persons.

MoU with Israel in IT

1595. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

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

(a) whether Government have signed Memorandum of Understanding with Israel for closer cooperation in Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Indian Industry for Information Technology are likely to be benefited by this?

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

(b) The scope of the cooperation includes promoting bilateral trade in Electronics and Information Technology through supporting research and development activities of mutual benefit to Israel and India to provide services as may be required to promote these programmes and to identify potential partners.

(c) Israel is known for its skills in developing hightech products whereas India is known for its skills in software development. The complementary skills of both countries would mutually benefit their IT industries.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange in Orissa

1596. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in each exchange in the Bolangir region of Orissa, at present; and

(b) the efforts made for providing telephone connections to those in the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of persons on the waiting list is 270 in Bolangir region. There are 47 exchanges in this region. 29 exchanges have no waiting list. Only 18 exchanges have waiting list. The exchange-wise detail is given in the statement.

(b) Efforts are being made to provide the connection to these applicants by 31st March 2002 either through landline or Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology.

Statement

Exchange-wise waiting list in Bolangir Region

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange	Waiting list
1.	B.M. Pur	105
2.	Belgaon	25
3.	Chanabhal	5
4.	Chatamkhana	3
5.	Chudapali	8
6.	Deogaon	2
7.	Chandabhati	3
8.	Khameswaripali	1
9.	Kudasinga	18
10.	Mahadepalli	2
11.	Tureikela	5
12.	Ullunda	6
13.	Behernal	6
14.	Bangamudh	25
15.	Belpara	15
16.	Saintal	25
17.	Salvata	8
18.	Sindhei kala	8
Total		270

[English]

Haj Quota

1597. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the quota of Haj pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh during each of the last five years;

(b) whether it was according to the proportion of the Muslim population of the State;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to increase the Haj pilgrims quota of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The quota of Andhra Pradesh State during the last five years is as under :-

Year	Quota of Andhra Pradesh
1998	3037
1999	3571
2000	3571
2001	3906
2002	3906

(b) Yes, Sir.

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

Wasteful Expenditure

1598. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Ministry of Finance have taken steps to minimize wasteful expenditures in Government Departments and have already identified that there are certain sectors in which wasteful expenditure is maximum in various Government Departments;

(b) if so, details of such sectors of his Ministry/ Departments under him, which have been identified by that Ministry for the purpose and quantum of wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years (as on December 31, 1.2001); and

(c) corrective steps taken so far by his Ministry to curtail/stop such wasteful expenditure, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Software Export Growth

1599. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the software export target during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the export growth during 2001-02;

(c) whether expected target have been achieved; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The export of software during the period April-December, 2001 was Rs.25500 crores, as compared to Rs.19500 crores during the corresponding period last year (April - December, 2000), registering a growth of about 31 %.

(c) and (d) The software export target for the year 2001-02 is expected to be achieved.

[Translation]

Development of SSI in Bihar

1600. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for the development of Small Scale Industries especially in backward and tribal areas of Bihar;

(b) whether the target has been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) The Central Government do not fix any target for setting up of Small Scale Industries. The Government of Bihar had, however, fixed a target of 7000 units to be registered in SSI/Tiny/Artisan sector in Bihar including backward and tribal areas of Bihar for the year 2001-02. As against this, 4072 SSI units including units in Tiny and Artisan sectors have been registered till 31.01.2002. The Directorate of Industries, Government of Bihar is trying its best to achieve the target till 31.03.2002.

[English]

Promotion of Agro and Rural Industries

1601. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to promote Agro and rural Industries in the country;

(b) whether any emphasis is being laid on promoting these Industries during Tenth five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the programme proposed thereon; and

(d) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) to (d) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country for the development of Khadi and Village Industries including agro and rural industries. It has been decided to continue the REGP during the 10th Plan period i.e. upto 31.3.2007. The target for the 10th Plan is to generate additional employment opportunities for 2.0 million persons. Besides REGP, the KVIC is continuing with its other promotional activities for the KVI sector during 10th Plan Period.

Moreover, for the development and promotion of Khadi sector, the Government of India has also announced a package on 14.05.2001. The main features of this package consist of a Rebate Policy for five years, option of rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance Cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc.

Telephone Facility to Panchayats in Karnataka

1602. SHRI A.VENKATESH NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Panchayats connected with telephone during the last two years in Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any proposal to connect all villages with telephones in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which these would be connected with telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) 271 Panchayats were connected with telephone facility during the last two years in Karnataka.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Out of total 27066 revenue villages, 27056 villages have already been provided with telecom facility in Karnataka. Remaining 10 villages are planned to be covered by December 2002 subject to availability of funds and equipment.

Change of Cadre

1603. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have received several requests from the State Governments of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir for change of cadre of some IAS/IPS Officers to their home State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of those cases where Government have allowed the change of cadre of IAS/IPS Officers to their home State in public interest, the criteria followed in this regard;

(d) whether the ratio of insiders and outsiders in the State to which a cadre change is allowed is taken into account for cadre change on ground of public interest/personal reasons; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not allowing the cadre change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Requests for change of cadres for 8 I.A.S. officers and for one I.P.S. officer have been received from the Governments of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir in the recent past.

(c) The extant policy on inter-cadre transfers came into force from 1995. Since then no inter-cadre transfer has been allowed in public interest to IAS/IPS officers.

(d) and (e) The requests for inter-cadre transfers are considered on merits of each case and after taking into account all relevant factors, in accordance with the extant policy on inter-cadre transfer.

HIV/AIDS

1604. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of International Conferences organized with help of W.H.O. and other International Agencies during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 to discuss HIV/AIDS rising cases in the country;

(b) whether some suggestions have been made in these conferences; and

(c) if so, the details thereof Conference-wise alongwith steps to be taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) NACO has not organized any International Conference with the help of W.H.O. and other agencies during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 to discuss HIV/AIDS rising cases in the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Radio Paging Service

1605. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the subscriber base for paging services has gone down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether paging is becoming an outdated service;

(d) if so, the total revenues generated ever year from paging services in 2000-2001 and the current year;

(e) whether DoT has any plans to reduce the rentals of paging services;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the profits or losses incurred in 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to reduction in tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, the popularity of Radio Paging Service has gone down.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The Radio paging operators are free to charge Tariff within the ceiling limit fixed by TRAI.

(f) Not applicable in view of (e) above.

(g) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Dental Colleges

1606. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

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

(a) the number of Dental colleges in the country as on July 1, 2001, State-wise;

(b) the number of colleges which have not been recognized by the Dental Council of India, State-wise;

(c) the names and number of Dental Colleges whose application for recognition are pending with DCI in respect of States of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh;

(d) whether students of one of the Dental College Baba Masth Nath Dental College, Asthal Bohar, Rohtak in Haryana have gone to the Court for recognition of their college; 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) A statement is enclosed.

(c) As per information furnished by Dental Council of India, no application from States of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, for recognition of BDS degree is pending with them.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The students of Baba Mastnath Dental College, Asthal Bohar, Rohtak have filed a C.W.P. No. 65.40/2001 in Punjab and Haryana High Court with a prayer to recognize the BDS degree to be awarded by the M.D. University, Rohtak, in respect of their college or alternately to relocate them to Government Dental College, Rohtak or any other recognized institution. The Dental Council of India and

the Government have filed their affidavit in the Court. The matter is subjudice.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of dental colleges as on 1.7.2001	No. of colleges which have not been recognized by Dental Council of India
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	3
2.	Assam	1	Nil
3.	Bihar	7	3
4.	Delhi	1	Nil
5.	Goa	1	Nil
6.	Gujarat	4	2
7.	Haryana	5	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4	2
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	Nil
10.	Karnataka	40	13
11.	Kerala	2	Nil
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3	2
13.	Maharashtra	16	3
14.	Orissa	2	1
15.	Pondicherry	1	Nil
16.	Punjab	10	6
17.	Rajasthan	4	3
18.	Tamil Nadu	14	4
19.	Uttar Pradesh	15	13
20.	West Bengal	2	Nil

[Translation]

Opening of New Post Offices

1607. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

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

(a) the total number of post offices opened in the country during the last three years, State-wise particularly West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir and Maharashtra;

(b) the number of the proposals for opening new post offices in the States pending with the Union Government and the line by which the post offices are likely to be opened in these States; and

(c) the number of the post offices upgraded in the afore said States during the last three financial years and those likely to be upgraded in the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of Post Offices opened in the country State-wise (including West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir and Maharashtra) during the last three years is given in statement-I.

(b) No proposal for opening of new Post Offices in the States is pending with the Union Government. The opening of new Post Offices is subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources.

(c) The number of Post Offices upgraded during the last three years in West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir and Maharashtra is given in statement-II. Upgradation of Post Offices depends upon fulfilment of prescribed norms. Hence, it would not be possible to intimate at this juncture the number of Post Offices likely to be upgraded in the next three years as this will depend upon the quantum of workload and financial position of the office.

Statement-I

Circle-wise number of Post Offices opened during the last three years

Sl. No.	Circle	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		BOs	DSOs	BOs	DSOs	BOs	DSOs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	2	4	3	6	2
2.	Assam	54	5	24	7	30	3
3.	Bihar	72	2	51	-	70	1
4.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	25	1
5.	Delhi	4	2	4	2	4	2
6.	Gujarat	31	2	28	2	8	4
7.	Haryana	13	3	12	1	2	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	7	1	2	1	2	1
9.	J & K	23	1	14	1	5	1
10.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	1
11.	Karnataka	12	4	21	3	21	2
12.	Kerala	12	3	4	2	4	1
13.	M.P.	50	5	40	4	15	3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Maharashtra	69	3	50	3	60	7
15.	North East	54	3	19	3	3	3
16.	Orissa	10	2	14	2	10	2
17.	Punjab	12	2	9	1	12	2
18.	Rajasthan	30	1	24	1	20	2
19.	Tamil Nadu	10	2	15	2	15	2
20.	U.P.	82	3	10	2	45	-
21.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	6	1
22.	W. Bengal	43	4	41	9		10
Total		598	50	386	49	363	52

DSOs - Departmental Sub Offices

BOs - Extra Departmental Branch Offices

Statement-II

*Number of Post Officers upgraded during
the last three years*

Sl. No.	Circle	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	West Bengal	4	9	11
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	1	1
3.	Maharashtra	Nil	Nil	1

Jaipur-Ajmer National Highway No.8

1608. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a continuous increase in the average number of accidents on Jaipur-Ajmer section of national highway no.8 due to the heavy rush of traffic on this road;

(b) whether this road is likely to be converted into a six lane road;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the construction work thereof is likely to be completed and the road opened for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No data is available with regard to cases of accidents on this section of National Highway due to heavy rush of traffic on the road.

(b) to (d) Jaipur to Kishangarh sub-section (from km.273.500 to km.363.885) of Jaipur-Ajmer section of NH-8 is proposed to be converted to 6-lanes divided carriageway facility, through private sector participation on Build, Operate and transfer BOT basis. The project is targeted to be completed within 30 months of the financial closure by the Concessionaire.

Complaint Against Officers in Rajasthan

1609. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the officers in Rajasthan against whom the members of Parliament have lodged complaints;

(b) whether any action has been taken against such officers; and

(c) the number of the officers of the Department of Telecommunications in Rajasthan against whom enquiry is being conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of officers in Rajasthan against whom the Members of Parliament have lodged complaints is 22.

(b) Yes, immediate necessary action has been taken after due investigation. Seven officers have been transferred and four officers have been warned suitably.

(c) The number of the officers of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in Rajasthan against whom enquiry is being conducted is 64.

**Pending Applications for STD/ISD/
PCO Booths in Maharashtra**

1610. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for STD/ISD/PCO booths in the Telecom Circles of Maharashtra pending with the Union Government for the last two years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The number of applications pending for S.T.D./I.S.D./P.C.O. booths in the Telecom Circles of Maharashtra during the last two years is as under :

S.L.	Name of Government Service Provider	Service area	No. of applications pending during the last two years
1.	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)	Maharashtra Telecom Circle	13,884
2.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL)	Mumbai Metro District	167

(b) Out of 167 cases pending with MTNL, Mumbai, 81 cases are pending due to subscribers' reasons. The balance 86 cases have been received recently.

BSNL is also regularly monitoring these cases, making the areas feasible by laying underground cables and provisioning of reliable media to the exchanges.

[English]

Cellular Services by BSNL in Rural Areas

1611. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) the details of the plan chalked out by the BSNL to tap rural demand of Mobile Telephone Services;

(b) the investment proposed to be made by the BSNL during 2002-2003 to tap the rural demand; and

(c) the cellular connections proposed to be provided by the BSNL during the year 2002-2003 to tap the demand in the rural areas of the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) The cellular network plans of BSNL cover all District Head Quarters, important stations and highways. Some adjoining rural areas or such areas falling enroute shall get covered. No separate plan exclusively for rural demand has been drawn up.

In addition Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) has also been planned for rural areas with fixed terminals. This WLL system has a capability to introduce limited mobility.

National Centre for Primate Breeding and Research

1612. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for setting up a National Centre for Primate Breeding and Research Centre at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said proposal/request has been acceded to;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. According to ICMR, Government of Andhra Pradesh has expressed its interest in having a primate breeding and research facility in Hyderabad under the aegis of ICMR.

However, at present this Ministry has no proposal to set up a primate breeding and research facility at Hyderabad.

[Translation]

Discretionary Grant to Poor Patients

1613. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received for treatment under the Health Minister's Relief Fund from June, 2001 till date;

(b) the number of applications approved and rejected;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the patients do not get amount in time due to the lengthy procedure of receiving assistance; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to simplify the procedure of seeking assistance from the Health Minister's Relief Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) 1628 applications have been received under the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant from June, 2001 to 8.3.2002.

(b) 690 were approved and 175 were rejected.

(c) The applications for financial assistance from the Health Minister's Discretionary Grant are processed expeditiously. However, certain cases due to incomplete applications/ medical reports, non-furnishing of income certificates by the applicant more time is taken in process.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Promotion of Stenographers Grade 'D'

1614. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state : .

(a) whether representations in view of restructuring and re-fixing the Cadre ratio of Railway Board Stenographers (Grade 'D') Secretariat Service (RBSSS) have been received from Ministry of Railways, seeking permission to stop direct recruitment in Stenographer Grade 'C' for three years with effect from 2001, diversion of unfilled direct recruit quota to seniority quota in Grade 'C' with immediate effect;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been initiated by the Government in favour of the Stenographers Grade 'D' employees who have put in service for 5 to 14 years but are still waiting for promotion;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) The proposals of Railway Board for stoppage of Direct Recruitment in Steno Grade 'C' in the Railway Board Stenographers Secretariat Service for three years w.e.f. 2001 onwards, in order to ease the stagnation of Stenographers Grade 'D' of Railway Board Stenographers Secretariat Service, and to grant in-situ promotion to Stenographers of Railway Board Stenographers Secretariat Service, were received in this Department under OMs dated 25.6.2001 and 26.6.2001 respectively. After examining their proposals, a reply to Railway Board was sent on 24.1.2002. The letters referred to above did not contain the proposal regarding diversion of unfilled Direct Recruit Quota to seniority Quota in Steno Grade 'C'.

Closing down of Pak High Commission

1615. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether demands have been made to shut down Pak High Commission at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the staff posted at Pak High Commission is linked with ISI agents; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Following the 13th December terrorist attack on Parliament by two Pakistan-based terrorist groups, Government announced a series of diplomatic steps against Pakistan including a reduction by 50% in the respective strengths of the High Commissions in the two countries. This step was announced on 27th December 2001.

(c) and (d) Several instances of officials in the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi indulging in activities incompatible with their official status, including smuggling and espionage, have come to light.

Improvement of Draught of Hooghly Estuaries

1616. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the draught of Hooghly estuaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has approved the proposal for execution of the River Regulatory Measures for improvement of draught in the Hooghly Estuary of Kolkata Port Trust (KoPT) at an estimated cost of Rs.350.84 crores. The scheme envisages the following items of work :

(i) Capital Dredging over Jiggerkhali Flat including construction of a dyke.

(ii) Trimming at the western face of the Nayachara Island.

(iii) Guide-wall at the southern end of the Nayachara Island.

(iv) Bank protection works between Sondia Column and the River Haldi.

(c) By the middle of the year 2003.

SKILL Upgradation for Surplus Employees

1617. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have plan for special skill upgradation programme for those employees who have been declared surplus under VRS;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make any provision for compulsory observance of such employees after skill upgradation;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of policies for surplus workforce and efforts being made for their skill upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Declaration of surplus staff is a need based activity to be decided by individual Ministries/Departments. Instructions for nominating surplus staff to a suitable course of training with a view to equip them with certain additional skills, wherever necessary, is already provided in the Central Civil Services (Redeployment of Surplus Staff) Rules, 1990.

(b) Instructions provide that action for redeployment of a surplus staff shall be deemed to have been concluded on the date on which he/she is relieved to join another post, wherever the staff has not requested for Resignation or Premature or Voluntary Retirement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Policy regarding Redeployment of surplus staff is laid down in the Central Civil Services (Redeployment of Surplus Staff) Rules, 1990. The Government has constituted a Group to monitor the progress of Redeployment and Retraining, including skill upgradation of surplus staff.

[Translation]

Terrorism related issues pending before UNO

1618. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have raised terrorism related issues before the United Nations Organisation and the same are pending consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such issues out of the above in regard to which the Government are specifically mounting pressure on the UNO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir. As a victim of cross border terrorism for many decades India has played an active role for many years in drawing the international community's attention to the need to prioritize the fight against terrorism through enhanced cooperation. Over the years we have repeatedly pointed out that terrorism is a global phenomenon, whose destructive reach and lethal potential has been enhanced by global networks of illicit

trafficking in drug, money laundering and arms smuggling. The horrific terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 in USA, on October 1, 2001 on the J&K State Legislature and on December 13, 2001 on the Indian Parliament, have further underscored the urgent need for a comprehensive, coordinated, international approach to combat terrorism. Against this background, India had taken the initiative to circulate a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to plug the loopholes and gaps that arose from the existing twelve sectoral UN Conventions on Terrorism. Four rounds of discussions have been held on this Convention in the UN so far. Considerable progress has been made on most aspects of the Convention but differences remain on a few issues. Discussions will resume in the UN from October 14-18, 2002. The UN Security Council Resolution 1373, adopted on September 28, 2001, has put in place comprehensive measures to combat terrorism which are mandatory on all States. India has consistently emphasised that to be effective, the fight against terrorism must be comprehensive, sustained and should cover not only the perpetrators of terrorist acts but also those who support them or provide safe havens.

[English]

Replacement of MARR Technology

1619. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have any plan to replace with WLL technology in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the new technology would be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is a plan to replace MARR based Village public Telephones (VPTs) with new technology WLL (Wireless on Local Loop) as well as wireline for the rural areas, subject to availability of funds.

(b) and (c) The new Technology (WLL) has already been introduced. Six lakh lines of WLL equipment consisting of 1200 Base Stations, each of 500 lines capacity are being procured. These have been allotted to various circles for providing VPT and DELs (Direct Exchange lines). Faulty MARR based VPTs falling under the coverage area of the above said equipments are planned to be replaced either by wireline or by WLL. Most of the equipment has been delivered and are under various stages of installation and commissioning and are likely to be commissioned by August 2002.

New Passport Application Collection Centres

1620. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to open new passport application collection centres in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating to open a new passport office in Karnataka, in view of the heavy rush in Bangalore passport office; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) The Government has decided to decentralize the passport services to bring these services closer to the people. Under the scheme, the passport applicants can deposit their filled passport application forms through the office of the District Magistrate/Superintendent of Police in every state throughout the country. The districts where the number of applications exceeds 10,000 per year will have dedicated District Passport Cells (DPCs). The forms will be scrutinized and documents checked by the DPCs and then forwarded to the Passport Office who will issue the passports. This scheme has already been launched in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Sikkim and Nagaland.

(c) There is no proposal to open a new Passport Office in Karnataka.

(d) Does not arise.

WLL Service in Rural Areas

1621. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning to connect the rural areas in the country through Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) service during the Coming years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of villages likely to be benefited through this plan; .
- (c) whether any programme has been drawn to accomplish this work within the stipulated time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will start benefiting the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BSNL has procured 6 lakh lines of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment for rural areas in the country during the current financial year for providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and rural telephones. 1,09,828 villages are planned to be provided with telecom facility using these systems.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Most of the equipment have been delivered and is in various stages of installation/ commissioning. These systems are planned to be commissioned by August 2002.

Visit of Sri Lankan Prime Minister

1622. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

SHRI B.VENKATESHWARLU :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stepped up humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India in December, 2001 and held discussions with the Prime Minister;

(d) if so, the outcome of discussions held;

(e) whether India has agreed to provide all help and assistance including wheat to Sri Lanka;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which Sri Lanka has accepted India's offer of help for resolving the ethnic problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (g) The Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe visited India from December 22-24, 2001. Wide-ranging discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere reflecting the close relations between the two countries. Substantive discussions were held with Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister.

India's commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka was reiterated and our consistent support to the peace process and to cooperating fully towards Sri Lanka's economic development and progress reaffirmed.

Given the close relations between the two countries and following a request from the Government of Sri Lanka, India will provide 300,000 tons of wheat to Sri Lanka on terms agreed to by both sides. A delegation from Sri Lanka visited India and held substantive discussions with officials in the Ministry of Finance on February 27, 2002.

The two sides also agreed to cooperate in a number of other areas with immediate priority for agriculture, power and information technology.

Both sides also agreed to work on commissioning a feasibility study on a land bridge between the two countries, keeping in mind the age old historical, cultural and social ties between the two nations.

Below Poverty Line

1623. MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN :

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people living below the poverty line in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh according to 1993-94 survey;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable increase in the number of people living below the poverty line in these States thereafter;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the assistance provided by the Government to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND

PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Using National Sample Survey (NSS) data on household consumer expenditure of the 50th Round (July 1993-June 1994), the Planning Commission has estimated the total number of people living below the poverty line as 493.35 lakhs in Bihar and 604.46 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh in 1993-94.

(b) No, Sir. The total number of people living below the poverty line in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, estimated from

the NSS data on household consumer expenditure of the 55th Round (July 1999-June 2000) is 425.64 lakhs in Bihar and 529.89 in Uttar Pradesh in 1999-2000.

(c) The financial performance in terms of Total allocation (Centre + State) and Total Expenditure under rural poverty alleviation programmes i.e. Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) in States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during last three years i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-01 is given at statement.

Statement

Financial Performance under Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes in the State of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during last three years i.e. 1998-99 to 2000-01

(Rs. Crores)

Bihar

Progs	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01 (Prov.)	
	Total Allocation	Expenditure	Total Allocation	Expenditure	Total Allocation	Expenditure
IRDP/SGSY	253.37	142.22	271.66	100.68	168.22	99.85
JRY/JGSY	479.26	418.51	407.06	353.24	219.68	170.06
EAS	232.45	284.69	449.39	324.67	175.80	184.44
IAY	342.76	271.91	514.64	358.52	397.77	267.10

Uttar Pradesh

Progs	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01 (Prov.)	
	Total Allocation	Expenditure	Total Allocation	Expenditure	Total Allocation	Expenditure
IRDP/SGSY	278.83	248.86	298.97	66.28	242.18	199.68
JRY/JGSY	527.43	555.07	447.98	358.05	393.37	432.38
EAS	439.42	588.17	494.55	408.46	296.79	333.12
IAY	377.21	371.51	314.20	279.58	284.64	279.26

Source : Ministry of Rural Development

IRDP : Integrated Rural Development Programme

SGSY : Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

JRY : Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

JGSY : Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana

EAS : Employment Assurance Scheme,

IAY : Indira Awaas Yojana

Loans to Weaker Section

1624. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission are granting loans to provide employment to persons from weaker section through Khadi Boards; and

(b) if so, the amount distributed and persons benefited during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has not been conceived as a financial institution. The institutions are encouraged to take loans from the banks.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Annual Growth Rate of SSI

1625. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the Government have assessed the annual growth rate of Small Scale Industries during the nineties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the contribution of the above growth rate in the annual industrial growth rate of the country during the above period;

(d) whether the annual growth rate of Small Scale Industries has been less than the targets set in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) The estimated annual growth rates of Small Scale Industries and of the total

industrial sector during the nineties are given in the statement enclosed. The contribution of Small Scale Industries in the total industrial production is estimated at 39% during this period.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Statement

Statement showing estimated annual growth rates of SSI sector and Industrial sector

Year	Annual growth rate of Small Scale Sector (%)	Annual growth rate of Industrial Sector (%)
1990-91	8.61	8.2
1991-92	3.1	0.6
1992-93	5.6	2.3
1993-94	7.1	6.0
1994-95	10.1	9.4
1995-96	11.4	12.1
1996-97	11.3	7.1
1997-98	8.43	6.7
1998-99	7.7	4.1
1999-2000	8.16	6.5

Telephone Facility in Villages in Valsad District

1626. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages, where telephone facility has been provided till now and the number of villages, where this facility has not been provided in Valsad district of Gujarat State;

(b) whether the Government are considering to provide telephone facilities to the remaining villages of Valsad district; and

(c) the time by which the said facility in the remaining villages would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) It has been reported that

telephone facility has been provided in 607 villages till now and 623 villages have not been provided with telephone facility in Valsad district of Gujarat State.

(b) and (c) The remaining villages are to be provided with telephone facilities by December, 2002.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Delhi

1627. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone connections in the Union Territory of Delhi under MTNL are provided within six months of the date of application;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applicants in Delhi as on date, whose applications are pending even after deposit of requisite security for such connections for the last six months and over one year, Zone-wise; and

(d) the reasons for such delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) New telephone connections are provided by MTNL, Delhi normally within 15 days. Only in few cases, there occurs delay in providing telephone connections due to non-availability of underground cable pairs of exchange capacity.

(c) The details of pending cases area wise are enclosed in the statement.

(d) The delay is due to non availability of underground cable pairs.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Zone/Area	No. of cases pending as on 28-2-2002	
		More than 6 months	More than one year
1	2	3	4
1	Central	Nil	-
2	East	15	-

1	2	3	4
3	Trans Yamuna	600	
4	North-I	501	
5	North-II	578	
6	South-I	132	
7	South-II	710	
8	West-I	1868	645
9	West-II	58	

[Translation]

Proposals from Jharkhand

1628. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals received from the Government of Jharkhand State in respect of development in every area which are under consideration of the Planning Commission;

(b) the details of the proposals which have been given approval and those under consideration; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in respect of the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) Sir, information is being collected and will be placed on the floor of the House.

[English]

Below Poverty Line

1629. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of people living below the poverty line in various States during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of the areas where more than 40 per cent people are living below the poverty line, State wise, and

(c) the guidelines proposed to the Tenth Five Year Plan for development of these areas on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The two latest such surveys were conducted in 1993-94 (NSS 50th Round) and 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round). The state-wise percentage and number of people living below the poverty line for the years 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are given in the statement.

(b) Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have more than 40 percent of the people living below poverty line in 1993-94. Whereas in 1999-2000, Bihar and Orissa were the only states which had more than 40 percent of the people living below poverty line.

(c) Tenth Five Year Plan is under preparation.

Statement

Number and Percentage of People Below Poverty Line

		1993-94		1999-2000	
		No. of persons (Lakhs)	% of persons	No. of persons (Lakhs)	% of persons
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	153.97	22.19	119.01	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.73	39.35	3.98	33.47
3.	Assam	96.36	40.86	94.55	36.09
4.	Bihar	493.35	54.96	425.64	42.60
5.	Goa	1.91	14.92	0.70	4.40
6.	Gujarat	105.19	24.21	67.89	14.07
7.	Haryana	43.88	25.05	17.34	8.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.86	28.44	5.12	7.63
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20.92	25.17	3.46	3.48

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Karnataka	156.46	33.16	104.40	20.04
11.	Kerala	76.41	25.43	41.04	12.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	298.52	42.52	298.54	37.43
13.	Maharashtra	305.22	36.86	227.99	25.02
14.	Manipur	6.80	33.78	7.19	28.54
15.	Meghalaya	7.38	37.92	8.23	33.87
16.	Mizoram	1.94	25.66	1.85	19.47
17.	Nagaland	5.05	37.92	5.49	32.67
18.	Orissa	160.60	48.56	169.09	47.15
19.	Punjab	25.11	11.77	14.49	6.16
20.	Rajasthan	128.50	27.41	81.83	15.28
21.	Sikkim	1.84	41.43	2.05	36.55
22.	Tamil Nadu	202.10	35.03	130.48	21.12
23.	Tripura	11.79	39.01	13.02	34.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	604.46	40.85	529.89	31.15
25.	West Bengal	254.56	35.66	213.49	27.02
26.	A & N Island	1.06	34.47	0.82	20.99
27.	Chandigarh	0.80	11.35	0.51	5.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.77	50.84	0.33	17.14
29.	Daman & Diu	0.18	15.80	0.06	4.44
30.	Delhi	15.51	14.69	11.49	8.23
31.	Lakshadweep	0.14	25.04	0.11	15.60
32.	Pondicherry	3.31	37.40	2.41	21.67
All India		3203.68	35.97	2602.50	26.10

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Terrorists

1630. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Group- 7

countries have prepared an action plan to check the flow of financial assistance to international terrorists;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of international efforts being made to check the transfer of illegal funds of the terrorists in foreign banks; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Government have not been informed by the Group-7 countries about any such action plan.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Population Control

1631. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to shortage of funds and lack of Central assistance the population control programme is pushed to the back seat by the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to bear the total cost of the programme as a Central Plan Project during the Tenth Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the list of States in order of their position on the

basis of their achievement percentage in this regard during the years of 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (up to end of December, 2001)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) National Family Welfare Programme continues to be centrally sponsored programme. The allocation of funds for the programme has increased significantly over the last five years. Accordingly, the releases to the States also have been increasing. From the first year of the Tenth Plan i.e. 2002-03 all the sub-centres in the country (137311) will be funded by Department of Family Welfare in lieu of Rural Family Welfare Centres transferred to the States. This will help enormously in improving the Family Welfare activities. The year-wise allocation of funds to the Department of Family Welfare is as under :-

Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate
1997-98	1829.35	1829.35
1998-99	2489.35	2253.00
1999-2000	2920.00	3120.00
2000-2001	3520.00	3200.00
2001-2002	4210.00	3700.00
2002-2003	4930.00	

(d) A statement indicating State-wise demographic indicators on important aspects like population growth rate, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Total Fertility Rate and Couple Protection Rate is enclosed.

Statement

Demographic Indicators

Sl. No.	State/UT	Population (in 000) 2001	Annual Exponential Growth Rate (%) 1991-2001	Literacy Rate % Female (7 yrs & above)	Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males) 2001	C.B.R. (Crude Birth Rate 1999)	C.D.R. (Crude Death Rate) 1999	Natural Increase (CBR- CDR) 1999	I.M.R. (Infant Mortality Rate) 1999	T.F.R. 1998	Mean age at effective marriage (females 1998)	CPR (in %) 31.3 2000 (Prov)	
												By all Meth	By Ster
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	India	1,027,015	1.93	54.16	933	26.1	8.7	17.4	70	3.2	19.5	48.2	29.0
I. Major States													
1	Andhra Pradesh	75,728	1.30	51.17	978	21.7	8.2	13.5	66	2.4	16.7	52.8	44.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
2	Assam	26,638	1.73	56.03	932	27.0	9.7	17.3	76	3.2	20.3	15.2	12.3
3	Bihar	82,879	2.50	33.57	921	31.5	8.9	22.6	63	4.3	18.8	21.2	16.7
4	Gujarat	50,597	2.03	58.60	921	25.4	7.9	17.5	63	3.0	20.2	52.8	35.4
5	Haryana	21,083	2.47	56.31	861	26.8	7.7	19.1	68	3.3	19.1	49.4	32.3
6	Karnataka	52,734	1.59	57.45	964	22.3	7.7	14.6	58	2.4	19.5	56.3	44.8
7	Kerala	31,839	0.90	87.86	1058	18.0	6.4	11.6	14	1.8	23.6	39.6	34.5
8	Madhya Pradesh	60,385	2.18	50.28	920	31.1	10.4	20.7	90	3.9	18.8	45.9	28.0
9	Maharashtra	96,752	2.04	67.51	922	21.1	7.5	13.6	48	2.7	19.2	49.3	40.0
10	Orissa	36,707	1.48	50.97	972	24.1	10.7	13.4	97	2.9	19.8	37.6	26.5
11	Punjab	24,289	1.80	63.55	874	21.5	7.4	14.1	53	2.6	21.0	65.5	35.2
12	Rajasthan	56,473	2.49	44.34	922	31.1	8.4	22.7	81	4.1	19.0	36.1	22.9
13	Tamil Nadu	62,111	1.06	64.55	986	19.3	8.0	11.3	52	2.0	20.9	50.4	39.3
14	Uttar Pradesh	166,053	2.30	42.98	898	32.8	10.5	22.3	84	4.6	19.8	38.0	17.3
15	West Bengal	80,221	1.64	60.22	934	20.7	7.1	13.6	52	2.4	19.6	32.2	27.2
II. Smaller States													
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1,091	2.33	44.24	901	22.3	6.0	16.3	43	2.8	NA	14.0	9.7
2	Chhattisgarh	20,796	1.66	52.40	990	26.9	9.6	17.3	78				
3	Delhi	13,783	3.81	75.00	821	20.3	4.8	15.5	31	1.6	NA	27.0	17.0
4	Goa	1,344	1.39	75.51	960	14.3	7.2	7.1	21	1.0	NA	23.9	21.1
5	Himachal Pradesh	6,077	1.62	68.08	970	23.8	7.3	16.5	62	2.4	20.8	46.9	34.8
6	J & K	10,070	2.55	41.82	900	NA	NA	0.0	NA	NA	NA	14.4	12.1
7	Jharkhand	26,909	2.09	39.38	941	26.3	8.9	17.4	71				
8	Manipur	2,389	2.63	59.70	978	18.6	5.4	13.2	25	2.4	NA	17.8	11.3
9	Meghalaya	2,306	2.62	60.41	975	28.7	9.1	19.6	56	4.0	NA	4.7	2.8
10	Mizoram	891	2.56	86.13	938	17.0	5.5	11.5	19	NA	NA	34.3	28.9
11	Nagaland	1,989	4.97	61.92	909	11.8	2.3	NA	NA	1.5	NA	8.2	6.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12 Sikkim	540	2.85	61.46	875	21.6	5.8	~ 15.8	49	2.5	NA	21.5	14.8
13 Tripura	3,191	1.46	65.41	950	17.0	5.7	11.3	42	3.9	NA	23.4	17.0
14 Uttaranchal	8,480	1.76	60.26	964	19.6	6.5	13.1	52				
III. Union Territories												
1 A & N Islands	356	2.39	75.29	846	18.1	5.5	12.6	25	1.9	NA	38.4	32.2
2 Chandigarh	901	3.39	76.65	773	17.9	3.9	14.0	28	2.1	NA	33.5	23.3
3 D & N Haveli	220	4.65	42.99	811	34.2	6.6	27.6	56	3.5	NA	27.5	25.8
4 Daman & Diu	158	4.42	70.37	709	26.9	7.1	19.8	35	2.5	NA	29.3	23.0
5 Lakshadweep	61	1.59	81.56	947	25.1	4.7	20.4	32	2.8	NA	7.2	3.3
6 Pondicherry	974	1.87	74.13	1001	17.7	6.9	10.8	22	1.8	NA	58.4	51.2

Source : 1. Col 2 = 2001 census

2. Col. 6-11 = SRS Estimates

3. Col. 12 = Dept. of Family Welfare

Col. 3, 4, 5 = 2001

N.A. Not Available

9.Excludes J&K and Nagaland

Note 1. TFR for Smaller States and UTs are three year moving average, 1995-97

2. Infant mortality rates for Smaller States and Union Territories are for the period 1997-99

Violation of MRTP Act by Kendriya Bhandar and Super Bazar

1632. SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instruction to Government offices to purchase stationery and other items only from Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF;

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

(c) whether the CAG in its report 8 of 1999 has adversely criticized this and asked for the review of the instructions;

(d) whether those instructions have not been reviewed so far;

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith action taken/propose to be taken in this regard;

(f) if not, reasons therefor; and

(g) the measures being taken to check rates and encourage competition in the field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As per DOPT's OM NO.14/14/80-Welfare dated 14.7.81 (as amended from time to time), Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF are the approved agencies for supply of stationery and other items to the Central Government offices etc. located in Delhi/New Delhi and for Government office located outside Delhi, the approved agencies are the local Central/wholesale consumer cooperative Societies and branches of Kendriya Bhandar/ NCCF located in such areas.

The above instructions were issued keeping in view the then policy of the Government of India to encourage cooperative movement. A copy of the OM dated 14.7.81 (as amended) is enclosed as statement.

(c) to (f) CAG in its report No.8 of 1999 Union Government (Defence Services Air Force and Navy) has inter alia observed that Government should review the existing

instructions on the subject and lay down the items to be purchased from the cooperative without tender. Since the said OM has wider implications, this is being reviewed in consultation with all concerned including Ministry of Finance. A final decision is expected to be taken shortly.

(g) Generally the prices of most of the items in these cooperatives are found to be lower than market price. Kendriya Bhandar encourages manufacturers/authorised distributors to compete in rate contract tenders in order to get the best possible rates for its consumers.

Statement

No. 14/14/80 Welfare

Government of India

Department of Personnel & A.R.

(Ministry of Home Affairs)

New Delhi, the 14th July, 1981.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Local purchase of stationery and other articles from the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's Office Memorandum No.14/14/80-Welfare dated the 20th June, 1980, on the subject mentioned above in which it was stated that all local purchases of official requirements of articles of stationery, sanitary, electrical and other items be made through the Central Government Employees Consumer Co-operative Society Limited, New Delhi without going through the elaborate procedure of calling for quotations and/or rate list. Subsequently it was clarified vide this Department's Office Memorandum of even number dated the 16 May, 1981 that while purchase upto Rs. 250/- can be made from the Co-operative Society without calling for tenders, where purchases are in excess of this limit, the provisions of the General Financial Rules will apply and tenders are to be invited as laid down in chapter 8 of the General Financial Rules, 1963.

2. The matter has since been reviewed. It is one of the avowed objectives of the co-operative movement to ensure supply of goods and services to the consumers at the most economical and competitive prices. Taking note of this commitment, the Department of Cooperation had issued general guidelines as early as 1968 to all State Governments and Union Territories to the effect that Government offices should patronize consumer cooperative stores while making purchases of their requirements. This was reiterated in another circular letter addressed to all State Governments etc. in March, 1972, by the Department of Cooperation. It has been

stated in that letter that consumer cooperatives, especially departmental stores, which have received substantial financial assistance from Government and are subject to statutory supervision and control by the registrars of Cooperative Societies and State Governments are the most suitable agencies for supply of consumer goods at fair and reasonable prices and that while rendering honest and efficient service, their dealings are free from malpractices often indulged in by private traders such as profiteering, adulteration, sale of spurious and sub-standard goods, underweighting and tax evasion. This Department, therefore, felt that there was no reason why guidelines issued by the Central Government to State Governments and Union Territories should not be made applicable to the Central Government Departments in the matter of purchases made by them.

3. The Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Limited, New Delhi, which was set up in 1963 as a well measure to provide articles of daily necessities to Government employees at reasonable prices, functions under the supervision and control of the Department of Personnel and A.R. Besides substantial investments made in the share capital of the Society, the Government have been providing financial assistance to it from time to time by way of subsidy, loans, collateral guarantee against borrowings etc. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society is a Joint Secretary of the Department of Personnel & A.R. who exercises direct and close control over its activities.

4. Keeping the background set out in paragraph 2 and 3 above, the Ministry of Works & Housing and Department of Supply who were consulted, have agreed that it may be made incumbent on all Central Government Departments, their attached and subordinate offices and other organizations financed and/or controlled by the Government located at Delhi/New Delhi to make all local purchases of stationery and other items required by them only from the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Limited, New Delhi. Only if the society is not able to supply, a particular item, will it be permissible for them to make local purchase from other sources.

5. The prices of the various articles sold through the outlets of this Society are, by and large, less than obtaining in the market. Keeping this aspect in view, the Ministry of Finance have agreed to waive the procedure laid down in chapter 8 of the General Financial rules regarding calling of tenders for such purchases as are made from the Central Government Consumer Co-operative Society Limited. However, with a view to provide a safeguard for ensuring quality as well as fair price, it has been decided that articles as are generally indented for by Government Departments etc. will be fixed by a Committee consisting of a representative

each of the Department of Supply, Works and Housing and the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society and the prices so fixed will remain in force for a period of three months. The General Manager of the Society will send to the indenting organizations from time to time the detailed list of articles available with the Society.

6. It is requested that the instructions contained in this Office Memorandum may kindly be noted carefully and complied with in respect of local purchases to be made by Government Departments etc., hereafter, Ministries/ Departments are also requested to instruct their attached and subordinate offices as well as autonomous bodies and public sector undertakings under their control to allow the same procedure for obtaining their requirements of stationery and other items from the society.

7. This issues with the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance Department of Expenditure vide their V.O. No. 4747/ JS (per) dated 14th July, 1981.

(Hindi version will follow)

Sd/-

T. Ramaswami

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

To

All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

No. 14/6/87-Welfare

Government of India/Bharat Sarkar

Department of Personnel and Training

(Karmik aur Prashikshan Vibhag)

New Delhi, the 19th August, 1987

OFFICER MEMORANDUM

Subject : Local Purchase of stationery and other articles from the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd., New Delhi.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's O.M. No. 14/14/80-Welfare dated the 14th July, 1981 on the subject mentioned above wherein it was stated that all local purchases of official requirements be made through Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd., New Delhi.

2. The matter has since been reviewed while instruction's contained in this Department's O.M. dated

14.07.81 referred to above will continue to be followed. It has been decided that all Central Government departments and their attached and subordinate offices and other organizations financed and/or controlled by the Government located at Delhi/ New Delhi may with effect from 01.01.88 make all local purchase of stationery and other items required by them either from the Kendriya Bhandar or the Super Bazar, Delhi. Only if the Society or Super Bazar is not able to supply a particular item, such purchases should be made from other sources as per rules after obtaining a 'No Objection Certificate' from them.

3. All Ministries/Departments are requested to ensure compliance of these instructions and also bring to the notice of their attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and public sector undertakings, etc. under their control located at Delhi/New Delhi for strict compliance.

(HARSH BARDHAN)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

To

All Ministries/Departments of Government of India etc. etc.

No. 14/1/88-Welfare (Vol.II)

Government of India

Ministry of Personnel, P.G. and Pensions

(Department of Personnel and Training)

Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi, the 11.4.94

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Local purchase of stationery and other articles by the Central Government offices located in Delhi/ New Delhi and outside Delhi-Instructions regarding.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's Office Memorandum No.14/3/88-Welfare dated 4.2.88 and No.14/2/89-Welfare dated 28.2.89 wherein it has been stated that Central Government Departments and their Attached and subordinate offices and other organisations financed and/or controlled by the Government located in Delhi and outside Delhi may make all local purchases of stationery and other items required by them either from the Kendriya Bhandar or the Super Bazar, Delhi and offices located outside Delhi shall made such local purchases from the local Central/Wholesale Consumer Cooperative Societies. Kendriya Bhandar located therein. Only if they not able to supply a particular item, such purchases should be made from other sources as per rules after obtaining a 'NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE' from them.

2. It was also stated therein that the Central Government offices etc. located in Delhi and outside Delhi may make purchases of file cover from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission/Khadi and village Industries Commission units or products of KVIC from Super Bazar/ Kendriya Bhandar.

3. The matter relating to inclusion of National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited (NCCF) for the purpose of local purchase of stationery by the Central Government offices was under consideration for some time in this Department. It has now been decided to include NCCF as an agency for supplying of stationery and other items required by the Central Government offices located in Delhi and New Delhi and outside Delhi. In view of this, all Central Government Departments and their attached and subordinate offices and other organizations financed and/or controlled by the Central Government, located in Delhi/New Delhi may also w.e.f. 1.4.1994 make all local purchase of stationery and other items required by them from the NCCF.

4. All Ministries/Departments are required to ensure compliance of these instructions and also bring them to the notice of their attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and Public Sector Undertakings etc. under their control located in Delhi/New Delhi and outside Delhi for strict compliance.

(S.K. Dasgupta)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

All Ministries/Departments of
Government of India etc. etc.

No. 14/3/88-Welfare

Government of India

Department of Personnel and Training

New Delhi, the 4th February, 1988.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Local purchase of stationery and other articles by the Government offices outside Delhi.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's O.M. No. 14/6/87-Welfare dated the 19th August, 1987 wherein it has been decided that all Central Government departments and their attached and subordinate offices and other organizations financed and/or controlled by the Government located at Delhi/New Delhi may with effect from 1-1-88 make

all local purchase of stationery and other items required by them either from the Kendriya Bhandar or the Super Bazar, Delhi.

2. The matter has further been reviewed. It has been decided that all Central Government Departments and their attached and subordinate offices and other organizations financed and/or controlled by the Central Government, located outside Delhi/New Delhi may with effect from 1.1.88 make all local purchase of stationery and other items required by them from the local Central/Wholesale Consumer Cooperative Society, Kendriya Bhandar (Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd.) located therein, if any. Only if the Society is not able to supply a particular item, such purchases should be made from other sources as per rules after obtaining a 'No Objection Certificate' from them.

3. All Ministries/Departments are requested to ensure compliance of these instructions and also bring them to the notice of their attached and subordinate offices, autonomous bodies and public sector Undertakings, etc. under their control located outside Delhi/New Delhi for strict compliance.

(HARSH BARDHAN)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

To

All Ministries/Departments of
Government of India etc. etc.

Sankhavahini Project

1633. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to close down 'Sankhavahini Project' initiated to establish a high speed data network in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of amount spent so far by the Government against the estimated cost of the project;

(d) whether any alternative project is contemplated in its place; and

(e) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sankhya Vahini India Ltd. was proposed Joint Venture with IUNet, a wholly owned subsidiary of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), USA. The CMU decided to opt out of Joint Venture citing delay in the launch of the Project and the pending Public Interest Litigation in Delhi High Court as reasons.

(c) The Project did not take off. Hence no expenditure on the project has been incurred.

(d) and (e) The Government will proceed with its original plan of providing bandwidth through Sanchar Sagar Projects. Phase-I and Phase-II of Sanchar Sagar Project will be followed by induction of Dense Wave Division Multiplexing systems (DWDM) to cater to higher bandwidth requirements. Sanchar Sagar Phase-I has been completed covering 33 cities and Phase-II will cover 150 additional cities. In addition, Private Sector Companies as well as some PSUs are also executing Optical Fibre links for providing bandwidth in the country.

Assault on Indians in Durban

1634. DR. RAJESHWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been certain cases of assault on Indians in Durban in South Africa;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken up the issue with the Government of South Africa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inferior/Non-Availability of Medicines in Dispensaries

1635. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about the functioning of C.G.H.S. dispensaries and supply of inferior quality drugs and non-availability of medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a task force has been constituted to conduct surprise inspections of C.G.H.S. dispensaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of dispensaries so far inspected by this task force;

(f) whether the task force has submitted its report; and

(g) if so, the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the task force?

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

(b) The information is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Task Force has been constituted comprising five members which includes one SAG rank officer, one CMO (NFSG) level officer, two CMO level officers and one Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(e) The following CGHS dispensaries have so far been inspected :-

1. Sarojini Nagar Market
2. Chanakya Puri
3. Lodhi Road No.10
4. Pandara Road
5. Dr. Z.H. Road

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Action is being taken on the recommendation made by the Task Force.

Statement

S.No.	Complaint Against	Nature of Complaint	Action taken
1.	CGHS Disp., Sector-12, R.K. Puram (Ayurvedi)	Improper Functioning	Necessary instructions have already been given to the CMO I/C for proper functioning of dispensary.
2.	Storekeeper of CGHS dispensary, Kalkaji - I	Supply of Inferior quality of drugs	Grievances unfounded.
3.	CGHS dispensary, Kalkaji-II	Supply of Inferior quality of drugs	Allegations are unfounded.
4.	CGHS dispensary R.K. Puram-VI	Supply of Inferior quality of drugs	It was informed that the medicines supplied to her in generic name are of standard quality having same salt and same chemical composition.
5.	CGHS Dispensary, Munirka	Supply of Inferior quality of drugs	The beneficiary was informed about the policy of the Government.
6.	CGHS Dispensary, Pushpvihar	Supply of Inferior quality of drugs	it was informed that the medicines supplied to him in generic name are of standard quality having same salt and same chemical composition.
7.	CGHS Dispensary, R.K. Puram-I	Supply of Inferior quality of drugs	Complaint has already been suitably informed.
8.	Medical Superintendent/CGHS disp., Kalkaji-I	Improper Functioning	Action is being taken.
9.	CMO I/C/CGHS disp., Hauzkhas	Improper Functioning	The complainant did not mention his address or his CGHS Card No. and hence identity could not be established and hence the complaint should not proceed.
10.	CGHS disp., Laxmibai Nagar	Improper Functioning	Under Process.
11.	CGHS Disp., Kalkaji-I	Improper Functioning	Under Process.
12.	Janakpuri (Ayurvedic) CGHS dispensary	Mismanagement	Surprise visit done by A.D.(NZ) CGHS and found every thing in order. Reply to the complainant informed accordingly.
13.	Ashok Vihar, CGHS dispensary	Various Problems	CMO I/C organized the meeting with the beneficiaries. They were satisfied and expressed thanks.
14.	Rohini, CGHS dispensary	Punctuality	Circular issued and CMO I/C advised suitably.
15.	Subzi Mandi, CGHS dispensary	Punctuality	Circular regarding punctuality has been issued and also carried out by Zonal Director to ensure punctuality.

[Translation]

National Highway-14

1636. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received a proposal to link Palanpur with National Highway-14;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) The proposal received from the Government of Gujarat in the year 2000 was duly considered along with similar proposals received from other State Governments but could not be acceded to, keeping in view the traffic needs, inter-se priority of such proposals and overall availability of funds.

[English]

Setting up of Cyber Parks

1637. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of places in the country where cyber parks have been set up as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the facilities available in each park alongwith charges fixed for each facility;
- (c) the criteria laid down for setting up of such cyber parks; and
- (d) the names of places where these parks are likely to be set up during next financial year, State-wise particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), an autonomous society under the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology have set up 35 Centres all over the country. A list of STPI Centres, statewide, is enclosed as statement-I.

- (b) The facilities available in each park alongwith charges fixed for each facility are given in statement-II.

(c) For setting up a STPI Centre, the State Government is required to identify a potential location for the IT industry, provide 3 acres of land and 3000 sq. ft. of built-up space and give a grant-in-aid of Rs. 100 lakhs to partially defray the total project cost. The Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology also provides a grant-in-aid of Rs. 50 lakhs towards setting up of High Speed Data Communication facilities in these centers.

(d) The places where STPI Centres are likely to be set up during the next financial year, state-wise, including Maharashtra are given in statement-III.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	STPI Centres	States
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore	Karnataka
2.	Manipal	Karnataka
3.	Mysore	Karnataka
4.	Mangalore	Karnataka
5.	Hubli	Karnataka
6.	Bhubaneshwa	Orissa
7.	Rourkela*	Orissa
8.	Pune	Maharashtra
9.	Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra
10.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra
11.	Nagpur	Maharashtra
12.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
13.	Vizag	Andhra Pradesh
14.	Vijayawada*	Andhra Pradesh
15.	Warangal*	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Thirupati*	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Noida	Uttar Pradesh
18.	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
19.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3
20.	Dehradun*	Uttaranchal
21.	Gandhinagar	Gujarat
22.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
23.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
24.	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu
25.	Trichy*	Tamil Nadu
26.	Madurai*	Tamil Nadu
27.	Mohali	Punjab
28.	Jaipur	Rajasthan
29.	Guwahati	Assam
30.	Kolkatta	West Bengal
31.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
32.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir
33.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
34.	Bhilai	Chhattisgarh
35.	Pondicherry*	Pondicherry

(*) These centres are recently completed and ready for operation.

Statement-II

Statutory Services

Software Technology Park Scheme

Software Technology Park (STP) is a 100% export oriented scheme for the development and export of computer software using communication links or physical media and including export of professional services. This scheme is unique in its nature as it focuses on one product/sector i.e. computer software. The scheme integrates the concept of 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) of the Government of India and the concept of Science Parks/Technology Parks as operating elsewhere in the World.

Highlights of STP Scheme

Approval under single window clearance mechanism.

- 100% foreign equity permitted.
 - Imports in the STP units are completely duty free.
 - Second hand capital goods may also be imported.
 - Exemption of local taxes for domestic purchases.
- The sales in the domestic market are permissible upto 50% of the export.
- Exemption from corporate income tax upto March 2010.

High Speed Data Communication Services

The most important contribution of STPI to the software-exporting sector is that of providing High-Speed Data Communication (HSDC) services. STPI has designed and developed state-of-the-art HSDC Network called SoftNET, which is available to software exporters.

Local access to International Gateways at STPI centres is provided through Point-to-Point and Point-to-Multipoint microwave radios for the local loop which has overcome the last mile problem and enabled STPI to maintain an up time of nearly 99.9%. The terrestrial cables (fibre/copper) are also used wherever feasible. These communication facilities are the backbone of the success in the development of offshore software activities.

STPI provides the following HSDC services through this network :-

SoftPoint : (International Digital Private Leased Lines) are provided for connecting customer in India to any country in the world. SoftPoint services act as the lifeline for business applications in global enterprises networking and building virtual organisations.

SoftLink : SoftLink is a TCP/IP based Internet service developed specially to cater to the enterprise and the ISP segment of the business and also provides the best compression rate.

The STPI current tariff is enclosed.

No	Speed	One time charges			Recurring charges				
		Registration Charges	Installation Charges		Local Loop Charges			Internet access charges 1:3	Internet access charges 1:4
			Option I	Option II	Option I	Option II	Option IIi		
			Radio link	BSNL	Radio link	BSNL	STPI N/w*		
		(in Rupees)	(in lakhs)	(in lakhs)	(in lakhs)	(in lakhs)	(in lakhs)	(in lakhs)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	64 K	20,000	2.0	2.0	1.0	As per actuals	1.0	3.4	2.4
2.	128 K	20,000	2.0	4.0	1.8		1.8	5.2	3.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	256 K	40,000	2.0	4.0	2.5		2.5	7.2	5.2
4.	512 K	40,000	4.0	4.0	4.0		4.0	10.4	6.85
5.	1 Mb	40,000	4.0	4.0	5.0		5.0	17.2	10.10
6.	2 Mb	50,000	4.0	4.0	6.0		6.0	28.4	21.30

The above tariff applicable for all locations except Mumbai, Cochin and Pune.

NA - Not Applicable

* STPI Network on Fiber and Copper

3. ISDN Leased Service charges (64 & 128 Kbps)

Bandwidth	Installation charges (in Rupees)	Static IP Charges (in Rupees per annum)	Internet access charges (in lakhs)
64 Kbps	20,000	20,000	1.6
128 Kbps	20,000	20,000	2.9

4. Co-location services

Date Transfer	Annual tariff (in Lakhs per annum)	Incremental data transfer Charges (Rs. per month per GB)
10 GB	2.00	2000
25 GB	2.75	1500
50 GB	3.50	1000
75 GB	4.75	750
100 GB	6.00	500

Tariff of STPI-Mumbai/Cochin

IPLC Tariff : (Amount in Rupees)

Data Rate	Reg. Charge	Installation Charges		Annual Maintenance Charge (Radio)	Annual Charge (Indian Half Circuit)
		Radio	MTNL		
64 Kbps	10,000	2,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	360,000
128 Kbps	10,000	2,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	6,50,000
256 Kbps	10,000	2,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	11,30,000
512 Kbps	10,000	4,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	On Request
1024 Kbps	10,000	4,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	On Request
2048 Kbps	10,000	4,00,000	1,00,000	1,00,000	On Request

5% service tax is extra

Internet Tariff : (Amount in Rupees)

Data Rate	Reg. Charges	Installation Charges		Port Charges	Annual Maintenance Charges (Radio)
		Radio	MTNL		
64 Kbps	20,000	2,00,000	1,00,000	2,00,000	1,00,000
128 Kbps	20,000	2,00,000	1,00,000	3,00,000	1,00,000
256 Kbps	40,000	2,00,000	1,00,000	4,00,000	1,00,000
512 Kbps	40,000	4,00,000	1,00,000	5,00,000	1,00,000
1024 Kbps	40,000	4,00,000	1,00,000	7,01,000	1,00,000
2048 Kbps	50,000	4,00,000	1,00,000	12,50,000	1,00,000

5% service tax is extra.

Pune Tariff (Annual)**1. Leased Internet**

(Rs. in lakhs)

B/W	Tariff
64 Kbps	2.50
128 Kbps	4.00
256 Kbps	5.60
512 Kbps	7.40
1 MB	11.00
2 MB	20.00

2. IPLC Half Circuits

(Rs. in lakhs)

B/W	Tariff
64 Kbps	4.00
128 Kbps	7.4
256 Kbps	12.80
512 Kbps	20.00
1 MB	34.00
2 MB	50.00

Statement-III

Sl.No.	STPI centres	State
1	2	3
1	Nasik	Maharashtra
2	Kolhapur	Maharashtra
3	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3
4	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
5	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
6	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh
7	Roorkee	Uttaranchal
8	Ranchi	Jharkhand
9	Jamshedpur	Jharkhand
10	Patna	Bihar
11	Durgapur	West Bengal
12	Kharagpur	West Bengal
13	Jalandhar	Punjab
14	Shilong	Meghalaya
15	Salem	Tamil Nadu
16	Thirunavelli	Tamil Nadu

Four Lane Bangalore-Mysore Highway

1638. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has set a deadline for the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises to begin work on the much-delayed four-lane Bangalore-Mysore Expressway;

(b) if so, whether the work on the four-lane Bangalore Mysore Expressway has been started;

(c) if not, the main reasons for inordinate delay in commencement of the work;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the NICE was facing problems in raising loans from the UTI, ICICI and other financial agencies; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (e) Bangalore-Mysore Expressway Project is not a National Highway Project. This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways.

Conversion of Telephone lines into OFC system

1639. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the existing telephone lines which have been converted into Optical Fibre Cable System, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) the total amount spent thereon;

(c) the total estimated money likely to be needed for the conversion of remaining telephone lines; and

(d) the time by which all the telephone lines will be converted into Optical Fibre Cable System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (d) Optical fibre is not being used for conversion of telephone lines into optical fibre system. However, Optical Fibre Cable System are being used mostly to interconnect different towns for long distance transmission and also to interconnect different exchanges in the same city or district. Out of total 2573 exchanges in Karnataka circle, 2149 exchanges are connected on Optical Fibre as on 28.2.2002.

Availability of Condoms

1640. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the

rural people are still unaware of the use of contraceptive to check population growth in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure easy availability of contraceptives (condoms) to the rural people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Lack of awareness/knowledge of contraceptive can be a major obstacle to their use. As per National Family Health Survey Phase-II, there is a large difference in the level of knowledge on spacing methods between rural and urban women. 75% of the rural women know about contraceptive pills whereas 92% of urban women know about them. In case of IUD and condoms 88% urban women and only 65% rural women know about it. As far as male sterilization is concerned only 88% rural women and 94% urban women have a knowledge of the same.

(b) (i) There is a system of procurement of condoms centrally and supplying of these to the State Governments under free supply scheme. The supply of condoms throughout the country is the responsibility of State Governments. State Governments supply them through health care infrastructure namely, Sub-Centres, PHCs and CHCs.

(ii) Department of Family Welfare also makes available condoms at highly subsidized prices through social marketing organizations.

(iii) A Community Based Distribution (CBD) system is created at village level to address 100% need of condoms in the demographically weak states.

[Translation]

OFC in Delhi

1641. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the work relating to laying of optical fibre cable in Delhi for improving the basic telephone service is likely to be completed and the expenditure likely to be incurred on it; and

(b) the details about the benefit to the common customers on account of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) In MTNL, Delhi as on date all the Junction (Inter exchange) Network is on Optical Fibre cables. To improve the services to customers, MTNL has also laid OFC in Access Network. Most of the localities have already been covered with OFC. However, to expand and provide better services to customers, opening of new Telephone Exchanges is a continuous process for which laying of OFC is always required.

Likely expenditure to be incurred for this year is Rs. 60 crores and for next year Rs. 120 crores.

- (b) 1. Subscribers getting better services.
2. Call completion rate is high.
3. High Band width is provided to subscribers on demand.

Selling of Credit Cards

1642. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Postal Department have decided to sell credit cards of Standard Chartered Bank;

(b) if so, the profits likely to be earned by the Postal Department from this scheme; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The Department of Posts and Standard Chartered Bank have signed MOU with the intention of development and introduction of the following services for mutual benefit.

- (i) Usage of Speed Post by Standard Chartered Group at the all India level.
- (ii) Marketing of Standard Chartered Cards and other products through Post Office network.
- (iii) Collection of cheques relating to credit cards through post office.

(b) and (c) Detailed operational agreement based on the MOU is yet to be finalized on the precise nature of service, accounting and pricing matters.

[English]

Sale of Stationery

1643. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

SHRI SHEESHRAM SINGH RAVI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for monopolising the sale of stationery and other items by the Kendriya Bhandar etc. on the ground of DOP and AR dated July 14, 1981;

(b) the procedure adopted in this regard before the issue of the said O.M.;

(c) whether there is any proposal to withdraw the said OM to bring in competition in the purchases; and

(d) if so, the time by which the OM. is likely to be withdrawn into?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) To give boost to Co-operative movement Department of Personnel & Training issued an O.M dated 14.7.1981 outlining the guidelines to various Central Government Departments/ Offices etc. to make purchases of stationery and other items from the Consumer Cooperative Society namely Kendriya Bhandar, Super Bazar and NCCF which are subject to statutory supervision and control by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies etc. it was felt that these Cooperative Societies were the most suitable agencies for supply of consumer goods etc. at fair and reasonable prices. There is no monopoly as the Government Departments/Offices have the choice to purchase their requirements from one of these three Consumer Cooperative Stores.

Prior to issue of this O.M. the Government Departments/ Offices were following the procedure laid down in the General Financial Rules.

(c) and (d) The O.M. dated 14.7. 1981 (as amended) is being reviewed and final decision is expected to be taken shortly.

Telephone Facility

1644. SHRI Y. V. RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Government plan to provide 100 million telephones by 2004; and

(b) if so, the strategy being chalked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Government has planned to have a status of approximately 651 lakh telephones both fixed and mobile by 2004 as per Perspective Plan 2000-2010 including the contribution of Private Sector.

(b) As enunciated in New Telecom Policy '99', Government has already opened up the Telecom Sector to the Private Sector and licences have been issued for 'Basic Services' and 'Cellular Services'.

Licences to Companies

1645. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the Department of Telecom to issue licences for various telecom services being offered by State owned Telecom Companies;

(b) whether there has been delay in granting licences to those State-owned companies;

(c) if so, the steps taken to reduce the delay; and

(d) the details of the public as well as private companies offering various telecom services at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has not prescribed any separate norms for issue of new licences for various telecom services to be offered by State owned Telecom companies. These companies have to fulfil various eligibility criteria in respect of net-worth, paid-up equity, roll out conditions etc. including that competition is not compromised in a service area.

(b) Within the policy framework, no delay has come to the notice in granting licences to those State owned companies which were eligible.

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

(d) The details of licence granted to various public and private companies are given in the statement.

Statement

Details of Licence Granted for various Telecom Services

Type of Service	Number of licenses granted to various public and private companies
Basic Telephone Service	33
Cellular Mobile Telephone Service	80
National Long Distance Service	4
International Long Distance Service	2
Radio Paging Service	137
Public Mobile Trunk Radio Service	279
Internet Service	509
V-SAT Service Provided	10

[Translation]

Budget Amount on Health Service

1646. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :

SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA :

SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO :

SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :

SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI :

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :

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

(a) whether Government are spending only one percent of the total budget on health services;

(b) whether a demand has been made to the

Government to spend one tenth amount of the budget on the health services;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered this demand;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Central Government has been spending about 1.3% of the total budget on health care services.

(b) to (e) No such specific demand has been made. However, there is always a general demand to increase public expenditure on all social sectors including health care. Budgetary allocation on different sectors is decided keeping in view the availability of the overall budgetary resources and sectoral priorities. The health expenditure in the country as a percentage of GDP has been approximately 5.2% around 1997. The Central Government has been making every effort to increase its contribution to the public health expenditure. The overall Plan outlay in the health sector in the 9th Five Year Plan has been 4.01% of the total plan outlay as compared to 3.24% during the 8th Five Year Plan. The resources for public investment in health sector are also being augmented by securing assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for implementation of various disease control programmes. Health infrastructure in certain States has also been upgraded with World Bank assistance.

The draft National Health Policy, 2002 envisages increasing the Central and State Governments' contribution from the existing 15 percent and 5.5 percent to 25 percent and 8 percent respectively of the total spending in the health sector by 2010.

[English]

Commonwealth Ministerial Conference on Terrorism

1647. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are intensifying their diplomatic engagement on the anti-terrorism front;

(b) if so, whether he visited U.K to take part in a

special one-day Commonwealth Ministerial Conference on Terrorism recently; and

(c) if so, the main decisions taken in the conference?

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

(b) The Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs attended the first ministerial meeting of the Commonwealth Committee on Terrorism in London on 29 January 2002.

(c) The Committee on Terrorism endorsed the Commonwealth Plan of Action to implement the Commonwealth Statement on Terrorism issued on 25th October 2001. It agreed that any member state that aided, supported, financed, instigated or harboured terrorists or permitted such activities within its jurisdiction, violated the fundamental values of the Commonwealth and should have no place in it. The Plan is designed to assist member states in complying with their obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 1373 particularly in areas where the Commonwealth has comparative advantage.

Staff Strength of IFS

1648. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs has not reached the level of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively reserved for them in Indian Foreign Service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of 'sanctioned posts' in respect of Indian Foreign Service, (including those posts of IFS which are conferred on officers on promotion to certain grades in this Ministry);

(d) the number of persons belonging to (i) SC, (ii) ST, (iii) OBC and (iv) General categories working against such posts including their respective percentage to such posts as on July 2, 1997 as ascertained as per the instructions contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt. (Res.) dated July 2, 1997; and

(e) the vacancies occurred during 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and year-wise number of such vacancies/posts filled by persons from SCs, STs, OBCs and General Categories?

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

representation of SCs, STs and OBCs, at present in Indian Foreign Service is 15.95%, 7.64% and 4.58% respectively.

(b) Reservation for OBCs was introduced in 1993 and recruitment of officers belonging to OBC category commenced from the Civil Services Examination 1994. Thus, representation of officers belonging to OBC category has not yet reached the prescribed percentage of 27%.

(c) The total number of 'sanctioned posts' in respect of Indian Foreign Service is 617.

(d) As on 2nd July 1997, the figures are as follows : (Total : 582)

(i)	SC	89 (15.29%)
(ii)	ST	38 (6.52%)
(iii)	OBC	8 (1.37%)
(iv)	General	447 (76.80%)

(e) The figures are as follows :

Year	Fresh vacancies occurred				Posts filled			
	SC	ST	OBC	General	SC	ST	OBC	General
1997	3	1	3	7	3	1	3	6*
1998	3	1	4	8	3	1	4	8
1999	1	1	3	5	1	1	2*	5
2000	-	1	3	4	-	1	3	4
2001	-	2	7	9	-	2	7	9

*One candidate both in 1997 and 1999, who were selected, did not ultimately join the Service.

Ignorance of Patients in Hospitals

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that poor patients are being ignored by the premier hospitals like AIIMS, New Delhi for their assistance in hospitalization and treatment;

(b) the number of poor patients have been given financial assistance in AIIMS in the year 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(c) the details of funds allocated to the AIIMS for assistance to poor patients during the above period; and

(d) the action being proposed by the Government to implement it properly by the AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) So far as the AIIMS is concerned, all life saving emergency medicines and surgical sundries are procured and stocked by the Hospital and are available for use in the inpatient wards in hospital. In addition, poor and indigent patients are provided financial assistance from National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF). Poor and indigent are also helped in getting the specialized medicines prescribed in the OPD by the Medical Social Service Officer and clinical faculty. The medicines for diseases like Tuberculosis, leprosy and other national programmes are given free as per availability of such medicines in the hospital. AIIMS has received Financial assistance of Rs. 1,31,47,200/- W.e.f. 27.1.98 to 30.9.2001 under National Illness Assistance Fund out of which a sum of Rs. 1,26,50,031/- has been disbursed to 362 patients till date.

[Translation]

Conversion of Gurudwaras in Pak

1650. SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :

DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any report to the effect that Pakistan has converted the Gurudwaras located there in to Madarasas and residential premises for the Muslim families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have sent any letter of protest to the Pakistan Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) Government are aware of the reports that Sikh religious shrines in Pakistan are not being maintained properly and their sanctity is not being preserved. Under the Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines signed between India and Pakistan in September, 1974 it is the obligation of the concerned country to make every effort to ensure that the places of worship in the agreed list are properly maintained and their sanctity preserved. Government of Pakistan has been apprised of the complaints received from time to time regarding proper

maintenance of the religious shrines and the preservation of their sanctity.

[English]

**Public Health Projects funded
by International Agencies**

1651. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of major projects in the area of public health to be undertaken in coming years with the assistance of International agencies, State-wise;

(b) whether any of these projects will be undertaken in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The project proposals in the area of public health are formulated by the State Governments and then posed to International Agencies by Government of India for assistance. So far as major projects are concerned, State Government of Rajasthan, Tamilnadu and Assam have submitted proposals for State Health System Development Project and some more are likely to submit.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal for strengthening the secondary level hospitals in Kerala. This proposal was circulated to the appraising agencies and on the basis of comments of these agencies, Government of Kerala is getting the proposal redrafted through Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad.

Setting up of Maritime Board

1652. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up Maritime Boards in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Indo-Sino Border Talks

1653. SHRI Y.S.VIVEKANANDA REDDY :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of the Indo-Sino Joint Working Group on boundary question held so far to solve the border dispute between the two countries;

(b) the results achieved so far through these meetings; and

(c) the issues which are yet to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question has met thirteen times.

(b) and (c) India and China seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful consultations. We signed an agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India- China Border Areas in 1993 and a second agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India- China Border Areas in 1996. These two Agreements provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas. The maps of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Middle Sector have been exchanged. Both sides have agreed to expedite the process of LAC clarification within existing mechanisms.

Visit of MPs Delegation to various countries

1654. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

SHRI RAMSHAKAL :

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI :

SHRI DINSHA PATEL :

SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had sent delegations consisting of Members of Parliament to different countries to project New Delhi's position on terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the countries visited;

(c) the criteria adopted for the selection of Members of Parliament; and

(d) the success achieved by these delegations in their purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) to (d) Seven high level delegations comprising members from both Houses of Parliament, distinguished scholars and former diplomats visited selected countries in Europe, West Asia, Gulf, South East Asia and Africa. One delegation also met with Members of the European Parliament in Brussels. The countries visited included Brunei, Indonesia, Nigeria, Belgium, South Africa, Kuwait, Jordan, Qatar, Tunisia, Oman, Egypt, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

The visiting delegations appropriately and effectively highlighted the fact that despite professing support to the international coalition against terrorism, Pakistan continues to sponsor cross border terrorism in India, and that this is the main cause for tensions between India and Pakistan. The delegations also effectively conveyed that the December 13 attack on India's Parliament has once again highlighted the fact that Pakistan is the real epicentre of terrorism in the region, and that its policy of sponsoring terrorism can have grave consequences for both regional and international security. The delegations also conveyed India's desire for peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan and emphasized that Pakistan must end its use of terrorism as an instrument of policy towards India, so that appropriate conditions for the resumption of a meaningful dialogue are created.

All delegations were very well received by the hosts, and held meetings at high levels of government in the countries that they visited.

[Translation]

Eradication of AIDS

1655. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Non-Governmental Organisations getting aid from the Government during the last two years in view of increasing AIDS menace;

(b) whether the Government have developed an allopathic medicine to check AIDS;

(c) whether some Ayurvedic Organisations and some specialists hospitals have claimed to have found Ayurvedic medicine for the AIDS;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds likely to be allocated in the current year to check the AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The number of Non-Governmental Organisations in HIV/AIDS Control Programme are :

2000-2001 - 475 NGOs

2001-2002 - 570 NGOs

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) Rs. 229.70 lakhs has been provided under RE 001-2002 for National AIDS Control Programme, Phase- II.

[English]

Acquisition of Land for Kundankulam Atomic Power Project

1656. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the area of land acquired/proposed to be acquired for the Kudankulam Atomic Power Project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether compensation has been paid to the land oustees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Land, admeasuring about 1053 Hectares (Ha.) for the plant and its exclusion zone, 167 Ha. for township and 5.5 Ha. for the approach roads has already been acquired in the year 1989. There has been no displacement of population.

(b) and (c) The land was acquired by Government of Tamil Nadu. The funds for acquisition amounting to Rs.1.80 crore were made available to Tamil Nadu Government by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Hovercraft Service between Mumbai and Mandovi

1657. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for introduction of hovercraft service on Mumbai-Kutch-Mandovi-Mumbai sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Shipping, Government of India is not aware of any such proposal.

[Translation]

Funds for Family Planning Programmes

1658. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the targets fixed for family planning programme during the last three years have been achieved; and

(b) if so, the details of the financial allocation, the targets fixed and the achievements made by each State during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) There has been a paradigm shift in the Family Welfare

Programme under which fixing of targets has been abandoned. Instead the 'Target Free Approach (TFA)' has been adopted since 1st April, 1996 all over India and the system of decentralized participatory planning is brought in place. TFA has been renamed as Community Needs Assessment Approach (CNAA) from 1997. Under the new approach i.e. CNAA attention is being paid towards proving quality of care in respect of basic and essential family welfare services. This serves to shift the emphasis from quantitative or numerical targets in the achievement of family planning acceptance to the qualitative aspects of integrated service delivery. Another important aspect of the new approach is to ensure community participation in the implementation of the Family Welfare Programme at the grass-root level.

Since October, 1997 Government of India (Department of Family Welfare) has introduced Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme which is being implemented under the new approach i.e. decentralized participatory planning under which annual action plan is oriented from the grass root level giving adequate attention to the care of health of pregnant women, infants and children including acceptance of contraceptive method according to voluntary choice for using any method.

The requirement of Total Fertility rate (average number of children per couple) of 2.1 towards achieving population stabilization has already been achieved in 9 States and Union Territories, i.e. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Nagaland, Delhi, Pondicherry, A&N Islands, Chandigarh and Mizoram.

The 12 States and Union Territories which have total fertility rate of more than 2.1 but less than 3.0 are Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshasweep, Daman and Diu and Sikkim. Many of these States have made strenuous efforts to improve their indicators in respect of fertility regulation and are succeeding in achieving this objective.

There are 11 States and Union Territories that have total fertility rate of over 3. They are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Assam, Haryana, Gujarat, Tripura, Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir, Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Central and State Governments are making strenuous efforts for improved coverage and outreach with an enhanced package of services.

Details of financial assistance provided to the States under the National Family Welfare Programme during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Grants in Aid (Cash and Kind) including arrears under F.W. Programme during last three years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of State/UT	1998-99			1999-2000			2000-2001		
		In Cash	in Kind	Total	In Cash	in Kind	Total	In Cash	in Kind	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	11652.79	2961.41	14614.20	16609.39	3023.31	19632.70	17363.99	3458.96	20822.95
2	Arunachal Pradesh	144.06	75.75	219.81	231.20	103.35	334.55	256.18	130.72	386.90
3	Assam	3260.45	1177.35	4437.80	7071.23	1421.68	8492.91	6466.42	1817.62	8284.04
4	Bihar	8792.62	4025.28	12817.90	28435.89	4868.39	33304.28	13087.72	5957.71	19045.43
5	Goa	184.83	58.94	243.77	243.44	82.50	325.94	269.68	125.61	395.29
6	Gujarat	10503.85	2108.13	12611.98	14612.87	2600.21	17213.08	7201.05	3335.35	10536.40
7	Haryana	2746.01	906.66	3652.67	3388.16	1019.59	4407.75	3878.80	1420.10	5298.90
8	Himachal Pradesh	1973.97	399.57	2373.54	2066.01	338.33	2407.34	2778.77	470.20	3248.97
9	Jammu & Kashmir	1600.73	455.77	2058.50	1803.64	458.21	2261.85	1913.98	539.43	2453.41
10	Karnataka	7681.02	2111.95	9792.97	18978.35	2107.70	19086.05	13002.34	2640.17	15642.51
11	Kerala	4190.43	1313.51	5503.94	5487.87	1376.24	6864.11	5478.14	1575.88	7054.02
12	Madhya Pradesh	8586.08	4587.46	13153.54	11373.95	4988.02	16361.97	10820.86	5477.07	16297.93
13	Maharashtra	11164.04	3872.20	15036.24	11971.24	3924.85	15896.09	13758.03	4423.30	18181.33
14	Manipur	622.26	108.80	731.06	907.39	147.96	1055.35	978.87	118.94	1097.81
15	Meghalaya	328.75	140.78	469.53	598.21	152.50	750.71	641.79	139.93	781.72
16	Mizoram	239.11	68.77	307.88	368.47	75.80	444.27	456.13	70.32	526.45
17	Nagaland	247.96	90.31	338.27	402.78	97.73	500.51	457.72	90.13	547.85
18	Orissa	4710.89	1773.73	6484.62	6053.65	1765.56	7819.21	6742.34	1630.78	8373.12
19	Punjab	2558.65	1125.51	3684.16	2941.14	1246.95	4188.09	3122.93	1284.48	4407.39
20	Rajasthan	8492.29	2688.55	11180.84	14307.20	3238.37	17545.57	14506.55	4039.05	18545.60
21	Sikkim	307.72	41.68	349.40	416.73	68.33	485.06	653.55	38.73	692.28
22	Tamil Nadu	9197.30	2582.39	11779.69	21270.03	1833.16	23103.19	21195.98	1708.95	22904.93
23	Tripura	1781.61	193.98	1975.59	823.48	177.00	1000.48	1683.73	211.06	1894.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24	Uttar Pradesh	42482.52	8773.56	51256.08	26295.63	10356.72	36652.35	22669.33	11338.42	34007.75
25	West Bengal	11122.85	3172.95	14295.80	9003.46	2944.78	11948.24	10813.82	3140.07	13953.89
Total States		154552.79	44814.99	199367.78	203664.41	48417.24	252081.65	180198.70	55182.98	235381.66

[English]

Setting up of Atomic Plant in West Bengal

1659. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accorded the approval of setting up of Atomic Power Plant in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Not Applicable in view of (a) above.

Harassment to Passport Applicants

1660. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by the Government during the last three years regarding harassment caused by the Regional Passport Offices in issuing the passports to the genuine applicants;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the passports are issued to the genuine applicants without any hindrance and harassment; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The number of complaints received by the Government during the last three years regarding harassment caused by the Regional Passport Offices and petitions/requests for expeditious issue of passports is as follows :-

1999	-	498
2000	-	1047
2001	-	1350

(b) and (c) The Government has set up a Public Grievances Cell at the headquarters of the Central Passport Organisation. Most of the complaints received from the applicants either relate to delay in issuance of passports or are requests for issuance of passports on urgent basis. The delays generally occur either due to some deficiencies in the applications or non-receipt of Police Verification Reports. In case of deficiencies in applications or non-compliance of certain requirements by the applicants, the applicants are contacted to do the needful and to complete all necessary requirements. In cases where Police Verification Reports are not received, the concerned police authorities are contacted to expedite Police Verification Reports.

Safety of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-1

1661. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulation Board has reviewed the safety status of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Station-1 (RAPS-1);

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

(c) whether the Safety Review Committee for operation plants has submitted any report in respect of the safety status of any other Atomic Power Stations in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) Unit-1 commenced commercial operation in December 1973. The present operating licence [issued by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)] is for 7 Effective Full Power Years (EFPYs) out of which the unit has already seen 6.8 EFPYs. At current level of operations, the operating licence is expected to terminate sometime in April,

2002. The Safety Review Committee of AERB for operating plants has also decided that as a measure of abundant caution, the operation of RAPS-1, in its present condition will be allowed only up to 30.04.2002. The shutting down of the plant is due to the expiry of the licence and the requirement of upgradation before application for renewal of the licence by AERB.

(c) and (d) Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants of AERB monitors the safety status of all operating units of the Department of Atomic Energy, including all nuclear power stations on a continuous basis. The committee submits quarterly reports to the Board. These reports are discussed at every meeting of the Board and form an important input to the Board in arriving at regulatory decisions.

The present operating licence in respect of [TAPS 1&2 (a 32 year, old plant)] is valid till 31.5.2002. The Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants is presently reviewing the safety status of TAPS 1&2 for its continued operations beyond May 2002.

Anti-India Activities from Foreign Soil

1662. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some extremists are operating from foreign countries, particularly Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malaysia and Philippines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent extremists and their families from taking refuge in or using the hospitality of these countries for anti-India activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Government of India has been receiving reports that some North-East extremists are operating from some of the foreign countries which include Bangladesh, Bhutan, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

(c) There is an institutional mechanism between Government of India and Government of Bangladesh, which inter alia addresses the problem of cross border terrorism. The Governments of Bangladesh and Bhutan have assured us that they would not allow undesirable elements to use their territories for activities prejudicial to our interests. Although there is no similar mechanism established with the Philippines and Malaysia so far, we have been getting their Governments' cooperation from time to time whenever it was needed.

Garuda Cellular Scheme

1663. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are making plans to ensure that 'Garuda' service retains its price competitiveness in the telecom sector;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reduce costs of operation of its telecom services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) MTNL plans to retain the price competitiveness within the regulatory frame work.

(b) and (c) As system grows, the cost of operations per line is expected to come down. MTNL plans, to expand from 50,000 lines each in Delhi and Mumbai to 1,50,000 lines in each of these cities.

Introduction of Electronic Money Transfer System

1664. SHRI P. D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce electronic money transfer system to facilitate business people and traders in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to effect speedy and safe transfer of money by Indian Postal Services;

(d) whether the Government have any tie-up with Nationalised Banks in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (e) The Government has introduced Electronic Fund Transfer system to facilitate speedy and safe transfer of money for all categories of people. The Electronic Funds Transfer system is enabled to transmit funds throughout the country at major cities and towns. As the system operates through a dedicated VSAT network, it is completely secure. The Government has no tie up with any Nationalised Bank in this regard as yet.

Blindness Control Programme

1665. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Blindness Control Programme has not been revised for a long time;

(b) if so, the last time, when such a revision took place;

(c) whether it is also a fact that our country tops the list of countries where a high percentage of blinds live;

(d) whether some States and particularly the State of Karnataka have proposed in order to combat this problem of blindness;

(e) if so, the details thereof with total fund requirement, State-wise; and

(f) the action taken by the Union Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The pattern of assistance under National Programme for Control of Blindness was last revised in 1998-99 after mid term evaluation of the World bank assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) A project assisted by the Danish Government is already under implementation since 1997 to control Blindness in Karnataka. No proposal for revision of the programme has been received.

East Coast Road

1666. SHRI A.K.MOORTHY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allot more funds for the development of East Coast Road which connects all important ports in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the amount earmarked for the development of this road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) East Coast Road in Tamil Nadu connects Chennai and Tuticorin passing through Pondicherry, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam. The portion from Pondicherry

to Nagapattinam has been declared as National Highway No.45A in January 1999, and improvement works amounting to Rs.15.85 crore have since been sanctioned on this NH. Four works costing Rs.12 crore have been included in Annual Plan 2002-03 for improvement of this portion of East Coast Road (NH-45A). The remaining portion of East Coast road is under the purview of the State Government.

[Translation]

National Highway in Rajasthan

1667. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given the final shape to the projects for the development of further infrastructural facilities on the National Highways in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of foreign investment likely to be invested therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Development of National Highways is a continuous process.

(b) Presently, there is no proposal for foreign investment.

[English]

Breast Cancer

1668. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one, out of eight, women would develop breast cancer in her life time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that every three minutes, one new breast cancer are diagnosed and that every 12 minutes one women dies due to breast cancer;

(c) whether it is also a fact that one, of the causes of breast cancer death is because of high on cost of treatment; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to bring down the cost of cancer treatment and to provide such treatment facilities in all the Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c)
No. Sir.

(a) The Government Institutions are providing treatment by Surgery, Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy to cancer patients. There are about 180 Institutions across and country including the charitable NGOs and Government institutions where Radiotherapy treatment is available, while the surgery and chemotherapy is done at district level hospitals and medical colleges etc.

In the Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges/ Government supported Regional Cancer Centres, a large number of poor patients are either being treated free of cost or at nominal charges for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures involved in cancer treatment.

In addition to above this Ministry has a scheme namely National Illness Assistance Fund under which financial assistance is provided to people living below the poverty line suffering from serious diseases such as Cancer, Cardiac problems, Renal Disorders or other such diseases.

Rubberisation of Roads in Kerala

1669. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from any State Governments regarding the rubberisation of the roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) Proposals for adoption of rubber/polymer modified bitumen in surfacing for a total length of 1527 Kms. had been received from various State Governments during the year 2001-02 and proposals for a total length of 1499 Kms. have been sanctioned.

Disruption of STD in Shillong

1670. SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the S.T.D. facilities and the DoT Mobile telephones in the entire Shillong telecom district are under disruption since January 12, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the restoration of these services and to ensure that such disruption does not reoccur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) STD services were affected from 0430 Hrs. of 12.01.2002 to 0000 Hrs. of 13.01.2002. However, STD services were partially restored by 1400 Hrs. of 12.01.2002. At present, DoT (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) does not operate mobile telephones in Shillong Telecom District.

(b) STD services were affected due to technical snag developed during expansion of trunk automatic exchange (TAX) at Shillong.

(c) A technical team made its best efforts to fix the technical snag in consultation with the manufacturer of the equipment. The exchange equipment is considered to be highly reliable but chances of failure, though remote, cannot be entirely ruled out. In such situations, relevant technical snag removal procedures are proposed to be followed.

Shifting of Telephone Connection

1671. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued any instructions specifying the period within which a telephone should be shifted from one place to the other within the same exchange area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made to know how far these instructions are being followed by the concerned authorities;

(d) if so, the number of cases as on date, where shifting of telephones within the same exchange are pending over and above the prescribed time limit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, Quality of Service parameters are laid down and monitored by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in terms of TRAI Act, 1997 as amended vide TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000. The

instructions specifying the period within which a telephone should be shifted from one place to other has been issued vide TRAI regulation (No.2 of 2000) on Quality of Service (QoS) of Basic and Cellular Mobile Service, 2000 dated 5th July, 2000. As per the regulation, the parameter presently applicable is "95% of requests for shift to be completed within 5 days".

(c) TRAI has engaged M/s. Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB) to monitor the QOS parameters (including shifting of telephone) on sample basis.

(d) As per information provided by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL), the number of cases pending beyond 7 days due to non-availability of cable pairs (technically non-feasible cases) and subscriber reasons are as below :-

Delhi - 271

Mumbai - 3065

The information on number of cases relating to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) as on date where shifting of telephones within the same exchange area are pending over and above prescribed time limit is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) The Quality of Service parameters including execution of requests for shifting of telephones are monitored by TRAI in terms of TRAI Act, 1997 and TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000.

Veraval Port

1672. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to include Veraval Port as one of the free port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) Veraval is a Minor Port in Gujarat and as per the provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility of Minor Ports lies with the State Government concerned who have administrative control on such ports. This Ministry does not notify any port as a free port.

Salaya Minor Port

1673. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat had denotified part limits of Salaya Minor Port and transferred the same to Kandla Port Trust;

(b) if so, whether the Kandla Port Trust has given permission to put up SBM in vadinar area for crude import by Essar refinery;

(c) whether the Government are considering to transfer the revenue that may be generated through SBM for Essar Refinery to the Gujarat Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) Government of Gujarat had denotified Vadinar portion from limits of Salaya minor port and by another notification issued by the Government of India on the same day, the denotified Vadinar area was included in the limits of Kandla Port.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Vadinar area is a part of Kandla Major Port and revenues earned by major ports are not shared with the State Governments. Therefore, Government of Gujarat is not entitled to receive any revenue generated through SBM for Essar Refinery

Kashmir Issue

1674. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether China has described the Kashmir as a core issue in Indo-Pak relations as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December 25, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined it;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the issue with the China; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) Government has seen the report in Hindustan Times of 25th December, 2001.

(b) to (d) Chinese Premier Mr. Zhu Rongji visited India from 13-18 January, 2002. With regard to the dispute between India and Pakistan, Premier Zhu said that China would like it to be resolved through negotiations and consultations by peaceful means between the two countries.

National Highway-47

1675. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present stage of widening of two lane road of Harippad Krishnapuram in NH-47 in Alleppey District of Kerala;

(b) the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the estimated cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) The work of widening of single lane to two lanes of Haripad-Krishnapuram Section of NH-47 in Kerala is substantially complete except some minor miscellaneous works which will be completed shortly.

(c) The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 17.75 crores.

Shifting Charges for Telephone

1676. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the shifting charges of a telephone is higher than the installation charges;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering to reduce the shifting charges; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The normal installation charges for a new telephone connection are Rs.800/-. A rebate of Rs.500/- and Rs.250/- is allowed for provision of telephone instrument and internal wiring respectively by the subscriber.

The shifting charges for the existing telephone are

Rs.600/-. The subscriber is allowed a rebate of Rs.300/- for internal wiring.

The two charges are not comparable as the efforts involved in case of shifting are much more in the form of disconnection, transfer and reconnection at a new place.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to reduce the shifting charges.

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

Garuda Cellular Phone Service

1677. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of connections given by MTNL's Garuda Cellular Phone Service as on date;

(b) the number of cases in which handset theft complaint have been received;

(c) the total cost of a handset and the amount recovered from each subscriber who have lost the handset; and

(d) the steps taken to bridge the gap between cost of handset and the amount recovered from subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The number of connections given and the number of complaints regarding theft of handset received in Delhi and Mumbai as on 28th February, 2002 were as under :

	Delhi	Mumbai
i) Connections given	23029	4682
ii) Complaints regarding theft of handset	171	09

(c) The price of a handset is Rs. 17,288/- whereas the amount recovered from a : subscriber for loss of handset is Rs. 10000/-

(d) The security deposit has been kept low compared to the cost of the handset in order to make the service affordable to the common man. The price of handset is expected to come down due to high volume of demand generated by widespread use of this technology in future.

Setting up of Bases by Maoists

1678. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Maoists from Nepal have set up their bases in India particularly in the border States;
- (b) if so, whether the Government of Nepal has urged the Indian Government to prevent Maoists from making Indian territory as their base or transit corridor; and
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The Government has no evidence that the Maoists have set up their bases in India.

(b) and (c) Government of India is firmly opposed to the recourse to violence and extremism in the pursuit of political objectives. We have condemned the widespread violent attacks by the Maoists in Nepal after unilaterally withdrawing from negotiations last November. We have extended support to the Government of Nepal in its effort to restore peace and security in the country.

Measures have been taken to enhance co-operation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. A bilateral institutional mechanism has also been evolved which includes a joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary Level Talks to jointly address issues relating to maintenance of peace and security and prevention of criminal activities in the India-Nepal border areas. The Special Service Bureau is being deployed along the border with Nepal to strengthen security in the border areas.

Corruption Cases

1679. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) the status of pending corruption cases against various officials of the Ministry and the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government have decided to constitute National Drug Authority;
- (c) whether the Government have decided to appoint an IAS Officer as head of National Drug Authority; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Cases against officials in the attached and subordinate offices of the Ministry include 12 cases of regular departmental inquiry involving 9 officials of the MSO, 7 cases involving 26 CGHS officials, 4 cases related to 5 doctors of the Central Health Service working in various Hospitals and a case related to the Former DCGI. In these cases charge sheets have been issued and the regular inquiry is at various stages of processing. Further, there are 10 cases of prosecution initiated by CBI after investigation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Review of the Pension Scheme

1680. SHRI RAJAJIAH MALYALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a High Level Expert Group on pensions to review the existing pension system and provide a road map for the next steps to be taken by the Government in respect of a new pensions programme based on defined contributions has been set by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Expert Group has submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the main recommendations made by the Group; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) The High Level Expert Group on New Pension System submitted its report on 22nd February, 2002. The Group has recommended, inter alia, a scheme that combines contribution from employees and the Union Government on a matching basis, while committing to the employees a defined benefit as pension and a Voluntary Savings Scheme to which an employees may contribute at his option. The implications of the various recommendations are currently being studied.

Cut in Financial Assistance to States

1681. SHRI R.S. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have decided to cut 15 percent in the Central Financial Assistance to States;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the State Governments particularly Karnataka thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Number of Applications received under PMRY

1682. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of applications received by the Government under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana from

Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the last two years;

- (b) the target fixed during the last two years for above States and the extent to which target were achieved, State-wise;
- (c) whether the achievement of targets has not been satisfactory; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) As per the reports received from the State Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, 57,298 applications were received in Bihar (including Jharkhand) and 2,34,179 in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years i.e. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY).

(b) and (c) Based upon the reports received from the Reserve Bank of India, details of the targets and achievements for Bihar (including Jharkhand) and Uttar Pradesh during the last two years i.e. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 under the PMRY is at statement-I.

(d) While achievement under the Scheme in Uttar Pradesh State during the said years is satisfactory, there is still scope for improvement in Bihar (including Jharkhand). This issue has been taken up with the State Governments, the Reserve Bank of India and the implementing banks.

Statement

State-wise target fixed, cases disbursed by banks and percentage achievement in Bihar (including Jharkhand) and Uttar Pradesh during the last two years i.e. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

(Based on the RBI reports)

Year	Bihar (including Jharkhand)		Uttar Pradesh	
	Plan target (Nos.)	Disbursement by banks (Nos.)	Plan target (Nos.)	Disbursement by banks (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5
1999-2000	21800	9159	26,000	36,919
2000-2001	21900	7014	26,100	28,640

Electronic Exchanges in Bihar

1683. DR. M. P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of telephone exchanges which have not yet been converted to electronic exchanges in Bihar;
- (b) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be converted to electronic exchanges;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges for which decision was taken to convert them into electronic exchanges during the last two years; and

(d) the target fixed for converting telephone exchanges to electronic exchanges in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) All the telephone exchanges in Bihar were converted into electronic exchanges prior to the year 1999-2000.

(d) To replace all the technologically obsolete telephone exchanges with digital electronic exchanges was one of the objectives of Ninth Five-year Plan.

[English]

Internal Audit of Kendriya Bhandar

1684. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 2530 dated 5.12.2001 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The details sought in the Question are being collected. Since it will take some more time to complete the entire data on the subject, a further extension of time for a period of three months beyond 4.3.2002 has been sought fulfilling the Assurance

Telephone Facility to Cities

1685. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether apart from MTNL Delhi and other cities will be served by more than one phone system;

(b) if so, the areas/locations to be covered by this system, city-wise; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Licences have been granted for operation of Basic Telephone Service in 21 Service Areas as per details in the enclosed statement. These licensees are supposed to install a Point of Presence (POP) in each Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) typically Tehsils in a phased manner.

Statement

State-wise list of private licenses for provision of Basic Telephone Service

S.No.	Name of Circle	Name of Private Licensees
1	2	3
1	Andaman & Nicobar Island	M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
2	Andhra Pradesh	M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd. M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
3	Assam	Nil
4	Bihar	M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
5	Delhi	M/s. Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd. M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd.

1	2	3
6	Gujarat	M/s. Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd. M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd.
7	Haryana	M/s. Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
8	Himachal Pradesh	M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
9	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
10	Karnataka	M/s. Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd. M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd.
11	Kerala	M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
12	Madhya Pradesh	M/s. Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
13	Maharashtra	M/s. Hughes Tele. Com India Ltd. M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
14	North East	Nil
15	Orissa	M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
16.	Punjab	M/s. HFCL Infotel Ltd. M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
17	Rajasthan	M/s. Shyam Telelink Ltd. M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
18	Tamil Nadu	M/s. Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd. M/s. Tata Teleservices Ltd.
19	Uttar Pradesh-West	M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
20	Uttar Pradesh-East	M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.
21	West Bengal	M/s. Reliance Communications Ltd.

[Translation]

National Highway in Rajasthan

1686. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the amount allocated and the amount spent during the 2001-2002 so far for the construction of new National Highways and repairing the existing Highways in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : The details are as under :

	Amount allocated (Rs. in crores)	Amount spent upto Feb'02 (Rs. in crores)
Development of National Highways	304.75	274.07
Maintenance of National Highways	71.73	47.65

[English]

Allocation of Funds under SCP and TSP

1687. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY : Will the

Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the scheme/programme formulated/being implemented by his Ministry under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) since their commencement specifying nature, scope and target group thereof as stipulated in letter No.280-PMO/80 dated 12.3.1980 from the Prime Minister's Office addressed to the Minister of Transport among other Ministries/Organizations while commencing SCP/TSP;
- (b) amount of funds requisitioned and procured by his Ministry during VIth, VIIth, VIIIth and Ninth five Year Plans for such schemes/programmes;
- (c) quantified benefits and targets achieved in this regard; and
- (d) any other Scheme/Programme being implemented by this Ministry for empowerment of SCs and STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has come into existence in November, 2000 after bifurcation of erstwhile Ministry of Surface Transport. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways and formulation of Motor Vehicles Act/CMV Rules. No schemes/programmes for economic benefits of SCs and STs under Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) come under its purview.

Statement

State-wise performance during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana.

(Based on the RBI reports)

Sl.No.	States/UT	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
		Plan Target	Disbursement by banks	Plan Target	Disbursement by banks	Plan Target	Disbursement by banks
		(Nos.)	(Nos.)	(Nos.)	(Nos.)	(Nos.)	(Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
1	Haryana	4150	5742	4150	5856	4300	5239
2	Himachal Pradesh	2300	1913	2450	2011	2650	1958
3	Jammu & Kashmir	1300	835	1300	871	1300	660

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	Punjab	4500	8075	4250	8519	4200	7064
5	Rajasthan	8150	10059	8050	11089	8300	9578
6	Chandigarh	100	75	500	51	400	44
7	Delhi	4700	508	4850	614	5000	660
North Eastern Region							
8	Assam	6700	5525	6400	5850	6600	1534
9	Manipur	1000	407	1000	310	1000	336
10	Meghalaya	300	202	300	356	300	406
11	Nagaland	250	40	200	73	200	19
12	Tripura	650	110	650	244	650	26
13	Arunachal Pradesh	125	166	100	215	125	118
14	Mizoram	200	37	200	84	200	245
15	Sikkim	100	45	100	43	50	40
Eastern Region							
16	Bihar	20500	8364	21800	9159	21900	7014
17	Orissa	6700	3106	7100	6731	7100	1503
18	West Bengal	23000	2726	22800	2910	22500	1763
19	Andaman & Nicobar	100	77	75	128	100	109
Central Region							
20	Madhya Pradesh	15400	19102	15800	21207	16200	12776
21	Uttar Pradesh	25800	35023	26000	36919	26100	28640
Western Region							
22	Gujarat	8300	10607	8300	10085	8400	7873
23	Maharashtra	21250	26346	21800	26202	22500	18610
24	Daman & Diu	25	21	25	17	50	17
25	Goa	600	300	500	382	500	274
26	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	25	28	50	25	50	22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Southern Region							
27	Andhra Pradesh	17100	15186	16800	13309	16900	8010
28	Karnataka	10950	13188	11100	15255	11000	7420
29	Kerala	16000	11749	16000	12500	13500	9845
30	Tamil Nadu	18400	11422	17000	12154	17400	8665
31	Lakshadweep	50	31	20	33	50	14
32	Pondicherry	500	330	500	252	500	141

Munich Security Conference

1689. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the Munich Security Conference, regional and intentional security concerns, were discussed;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Indian security concerns against international terrorism were addressed therein;

(c) the decisions taken at the conference; and

(d) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The focus of the 38th Munich Conference on Security Policy, held from 1-3 February 2002, was on international terrorism. India's security concerns related to combating international terrorism were raised by Principal Secretary to PM in his address to the Conference titled "International Terrorism and Democratic Societies", which emphasized the threat to democratic, multicultural and pluralistic societies from globalization of the forces of terrorism.

(c) and (d) The annual Munich Conference organised by an influential private foundation provides the opportunity for discussions and debate among top policy and opinion makers from different countries. It is not a forum where any decisions are taken where follow up measures are required.

Central Engineering Service (Roads) Group A

1690. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs has not reached the level of 15%, 7.5% and 27% respectively reserved for them in Central Engineering Service (Roads) Group A;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) indicate total number of sanctioned posts of Central Engineering Service (Roads) Group A;

(d) the number of persons belonging to (i) SC, (ii) ST, (iii) OBC and (iv) General categories working against such posts including their respective percentage to such posts as on July 2, 1997 as ascertained as per the instructions contained under para 5 of DOPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt (Res.) dated July 2, 1997; and

(e) the fresh vacancies occurred during 1999, 2000 and 2001, year-wise and the number of such vacancies/posts filled by persons from SCs, STs, OBCs and General categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) The representation of SC, ST and OBC officers at present, has reached the level of 12.7%, 8.9% and 30% respectively in the categories reserved for them, in the Central Engineering Service (Roads) Group 'A'. The marginal fall in the SC category is due to the non-availability of eligible incumbents in the feeder grades.

(c) and (d) The total number of sanctioned posts in Central Engineering Service (Roads) Group 'A' is 208. However out of this, only 129 posts (87 posts in the grade of Executive Engineer and 42 posts in the grade of Assistant Executive Engineer) come under the purview of reservation policy for SCs and STs whereas 42 posts of the Assistant Executive Engineer only, at the intake level, come under the purview of reservation policy for OBCs. The position as on July 2, 1997 was as under :

Reservation for SC, ST

Posts	Sanctioned	In position	SC	ST	General incl. OBC	Remarks
Ex. Engineers & Ass. Ex. Engineers	129	63	7 (11.1%)	7 (11.1%)	49 (77.8%)	SC & ST reservation is limited to EE & AEE level

Reservation for OBC

Post	Sanctioned	In position	OBC	Remarks
Ass. Ex. Engineers	42	30	3 (10%)	OBC reservation is applicable at intake level of AEE only.

(e) The details of fresh vacancies, occurred during 1999, 2000 and 2001 and their filling category-wise are as under :

Executive Engineer

Year	Vacancies	No. of vacancies filled up			Remarks
		SC	ST	GEN	
1999	47	-	-	7	All the vacancies could not be filled up due to non-availability of eligible candidates in the feeder grades. However, the Ministry has intimated 33 vacancies to UPSC for filling up on direct recruitment basis after taking into consideration the representations of SCs, STs and OBCs, as per rules.
2000	36	02	01	10	
2001	37	-	-	-	

Assistant Executive Engineer

Year	Vacancies	No. of vacancies filled up			Remarks
		SC	ST	GEN	
1999	07	-	01	03	In 1999, against the 7 vacancies, only 4 officers joined the Ministry. The candidates for the vacancies occurred in 2000 and 2001, as intimated to UPSC, are yet to be nominated.
2000	06	-	-	-	
2001	07	-	-	-	

Backlog of Reserved Vacancies

1691. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN : Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'backlog/carried forward vacancies'

reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are required to be treated as a 'separate and distinct group' as provided under Article 16(4) B of the Constitution to overcome 50% ceiling limit on vacancies to be reserved in an year;

(b) if so, indicate 'backlog/carried forward vacancies' ascertained as per para 5 of the DOPT OM No.36012/2/96-Estt. (Res) dated July 2, 1997 in respect of (1) SCs, (2) STs and OBCs in Group A, B, C, and D categories of services as on August 29, 1997 in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries when Special Recruitment drives etc. meant for filling such vacancies were stopped;

(c) indicate year-wise such carried forward vacancies filled during the last four years and those which remain unfilled; and

(d) fresh vacancies/posts accrued to reserved classes in all categories of posts during the last four years as per 'post based rosters'?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : (a) Ceiling of 50% on filling up of reserved vacancies would apply only on the reserved vacancies which arise in the current year and the backlog/carried forward reserved vacancies for SCs/STs of earlier years would be treated as a separate and distinct group and would not be subject to any ceiling as per DOPT O.M. No. 36012/5/97-Estt. (Res.) Vol. II dated 20.07.2000. The provisions of these instructions do not apply to the vacancies reserved for OBCs.

(b) Para 5 of the DOPT's O.M. dated 02.07.1997 is regarding initial operation of the post based roster and identifying the excess/ shortfall in respective categories in the cadre and not about backlog/carried forward vacancies.

(c) and (d) Policy matters relating to SCs/STs/OBCs

reservations, special drives etc. are dealt by DOPT. The Ministry of ARI came into being on 01.09.2001. There was no separate cadre for the said Ministry before its creation on 01.09.2001. It was, therefore, not possible to identify SCs/STs/OBCs vacancies for Ministry of ARI for filling during special recruitment drive.

Special Component Plan

1692. SARDAR BUTA SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been implementing various schemes and programmes under Special Component Plan (SCP) and TSP since 1978 for achieving overall development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes majority of whom live below poverty line?

(b) if so, indicate the scheme/programmes formulated/being implemented by Ministry of Shipping under SCP and TSP specifying nature, scope and target groups thereof as stipulated in letter No.280.PMO/80 dated 12-3-1980 from the Prime Minister's Office addressed to the Shipping Ministry amongst other Ministries/Organizations while commencing SCP/TSP;

(c) funds requisitioned, procured and utilized by his Ministry during VIth, VIIth, VIIIth and Ninth Five Year Plans for such schemes/programmes;

(d) Quantified Benefits and Targets achieved; and

(e) Any other Scheme/Programme being implemented by the Ministry of Shipping for providing gainful employment to the educated unemployed youth from SC/ST categories and to economically empower and bring them on the mainstream of our economic life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : (a) to (e) The activities of the Ministry of Shipping do not involve area or community specific plans. They are targeted at facilitating development of trade in the country. Hence it is not possible to earmark any specific percentage of Plan budget or take up any scheme or programme for Community specific under Special Component Plan by Ministry of Shipping.

By Pass Road on National Highways 5

1693. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has

submitted a proposal for construction of a 'By Pass Road' from Khuntuni to Pitapali on National Highway 5;

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and

(c) if not, other measures being taken to traffic congestion's on National Highway 5 from Cuttack city in Orissa State to the capital city of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Four laning National Highway No.5 from Cuttack city in Orissa state to the capital city of Orissa has been completed.

Cases of Litigation

1694. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI :

SHRI ARUN KUMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any direction recently that Autonomous bodies of the Government should set up dispute settlement forums to short out the dispute in order to check the litigations;

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up such forum in Kendriya Bhandar, so far; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to set up a dispute settlement forum in Kendriya Bhandar? ,

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (c) It is not clear from the Question as to which direction of Supreme Court the Hon'ble Member is referring to. Government of India is not aware of any such direction of Supreme Court which specifically requires setting up of a dispute settlement forum in Kendriya Bhandar.

Acquisition of land for National Highway 47

1695. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has completed the land acquisition for the National Highway 47;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) and (b) On NH-47, land acquisition estimates have been sanctioned by this Ministry for the following works :-

- (i) a section of construction of Trivandrum bypass in Kerala State;
- (ii) four laning of Aluva-Angamaly section in Kerala State; and
- (iii) for approaches for reconstruction of bridge at Km.641/6 in Tamil Nadu State. However, the acquisition is yet to be completed by the State Governments.

(c) There have been delays due to procedural requirement and court cases.

12.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will hear you after Papers are laid.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : After Papers are laid, I will listen to you.

...(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : Sir, On behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 5th March, 2002 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the earlier Proclamation issued by him

on the 2nd June, 2001 in relation to the State of Manipur, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 168(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2002, under article 356(3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5111/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Pramod Mahajan, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Software Technology, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Software Technology, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5112/2002]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the DOEACC Society, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the DOEACC Society, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5113/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the ERNET India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the ERNET India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5114/2002]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English

versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Liquid Crystal Research, Bangalore, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5115/2002]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, (C-DAC), Pune, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, (C-DAC), Pune, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5116/2002]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Research and Development Centre of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Research and Development Centre of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5117/2002]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Computer Centre, Chandigarh, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5118/2002]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research, Mumbai, for the year, 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5119/2002]

- (9) A copy of the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 892(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 2001 under sub-section (3) of section 96 of the Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act, 2000.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5120/2002]

- (10) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Information Technology for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5121/2002]

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2000-2001, under section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay for laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5122/2002]

...(Interruptions)

12.01½ hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Members came and stood near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5123/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5124/2002]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(DR. C.P. THAKUR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homeopathy, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99, 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 Homeopathy, Calcutta, for the year 1998-99.
 - (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5125/2002]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre Council of Homeopathy, 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 Centre Council of Homeopathy, 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 5126/2002]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review: (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2000-2001.
 - (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5127/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi

and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956 :-

- (i) S.O. 1231 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2001 authorising the Sub Divisional Officer, Dahanaou Maharashtra to acquire land for Surat-Manor Tollway Road Project in District Thane in the State of Maharashtra.
- (ii) S.O. 3 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2002 seeking to acquire land on National Highway-4 between Harihar and Talukas of Haveri and Byadagi in the State of Karnataka.
- (iii) S.O. 77 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2002 seeking to amend Notification No. 940 (E) dated the 18th October, 2000.
- (iv) S.O. 78 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2002 regarding authorization of Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bangalore as the competent authority in respect of land stretch Hyderabad-Bangalore Section of National Highway No.7.
- (v) S.O. 79 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2002 regarding authorization of Additional District Magistrate (Land Acquisition) as the competent authority in respect of the National Highway No.-79 in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vi) S.O. 80 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2002 regarding authorization of Additional District Magistrate (Land Acquisition), Ajmer, Rajasthan, as the competent authority in respect of land stretch Kishangarh to Nasirabad, in the State of Rajasthan.
- (vii) S.O. 15 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 seeking to authorize Messers Ideal Road Builders Ltd. to collect and retain fees on mechanical vehicles for the use of Thane-Bhiwandi bypass and includes link and loops to connect to Mumbai-Pune road at Reti Bunder in the state of Maharashtra.
- (viii) S.O. 109 (E) published in Gazette of India

dated the 25th January, 2002 regarding rate of fee leviable on mechanical vehicles for the use of permanent bridge across Waghadi Nalla including approach road on both sides on Nagpur-Hyderabad Section on National Highways No.7 in the State of Maharashtra.

- (ix) S.O. 1073 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highways No.5 for construction (Vijayawada- Vishakhapatnam Section) in East Godavari district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (x) S.O. 1074 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highways No.5 for construction (Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam Section) in East Godavari district in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xi) S.O. 1187 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highways No. 5 for construction (Visakhapatnam-Bhubneswar Section) in Srikakulam district, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xii) S.O. 1188 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highways No. 5 for construction (Visakhapatnam- Bhubneswar Section) in the district of Visakhapatnam.
- (xiii) S.O. 1233 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2001 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of lane 4-lane on Eluru Bypass on National Highway No.5.
- (xiv) S.O. 2 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2002 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of stretch between Haryana and Rajasthan State on National Highway No.8.
- (xv) S.O. 6 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highways No.5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubneswar Section) in the district of Vizianagaram in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xvi) S.O. 7 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highways No.5 (Madras Vijaywada Section) in the district of Thiruvallur in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvii) S.O. 8 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highways No. 60 (Balasore to Laxmannath Section) in the district of Balasore in the State of Orissa.
- (xviii) S.O. 41 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highways No.5 (Chennai-Vijayawada Section) in the district of Guntur in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xix) S.O. 42 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highways No.5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubneswar Section) in the district of Vizianagaram in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xx) S.O. 43 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highways No.5 (Madras-Visakhapatnam Section) in the district of Srikakulam in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxi) S.O. 70 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highways No. 60 (Gobindpur-Brahman Sasan to Rupnarayanpur Section) in the district of Midnapore in the State of West Bengal.
- (xxii) S.O. 71 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of widening of road on the National Highway No. 60 (Balasore-Laxmannath Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xxiii) S.O. 72 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National

- Highway No.5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubneswar Section) in the district of Srikakulam in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxiv) S.O. 1063 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the purposes of building four-laning of National Highway No.4 (between Tumkur to Harihar) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxv) S.O. 1089 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the purposes of building four-laning of National Highway No.4 (between Perumpulipakkam to Kondapuram) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxvi) S.O. 1090 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the purposes of building four-laning of Ranipet-Krishnagiri Section of National Highway No. 46 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxvii) S.O. 1091 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function of such authority in respect of the land acquisition on National Highway No.8 (Talasari-Manor) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xxviii) S.O. 1092 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd November, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the purposes of building four-laning of National Highway No.4 between Tumkur to Harihar in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxix) S.O. 1106 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the purposes of building four-laning of Chengalpattu-Tindivanam Section of National Highway No. 45 between No.7 Palamathur and No. 114 Thozupedu in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxx) S.O. 1107 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function of such authority in respect of the land acquired for four-laning from Gorhar to Barwa Adda in the State of Jharkhand.
- (xxxi) S.O. 1160 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function of such authority in respect of the land acquired for widening and improvement of existing National Highway on National Highway No. 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxii) S.O. 1161 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function of such authority in respect of the land acquired (for widening and improvement of existing National Highways) on the National Highway No. 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 1162 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function of such authority in respect of building four-laning (for widening and improvement of existing National Highway) on the National Highway No. 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 1163 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function of such authority in respect of four-laning (for widening and improvement of existing National Highway) on the National Highway No. 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxv) S.O. 1164 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function of such authority in respect of land stretch from Kokhraj (Kanpur Varanasi Section for Allahabad Bypass) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 1165 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2001 regarding appointment of competent authority to perform the function of such authority in respect of land (for widening and improvement of existing National Highway including construction of bypasses, if any) on the National Highway No.7 in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (xxxvii) S.O. 1166 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management or operation in respect of land on National Highway No.7 at Karur Bypass in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 1247 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2001 regarding acquisition of land for the purposes of building of National Highway No.4 in the District of Haveri in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxxix) S.O. 310 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2000 regarding acquisition of land for the purposes of building four laning of National Highway (Vijayawada to Visakhapatnam Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xl) S.O. 941 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2000 seeing to make amendments in the schedule of the Notification No. S.O. 310 (E) dated the 27th March, 2000.
- (xli) S.O. 942 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2000 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 310 (E) dated the 27th March, 2000.
- (xlii) S.O. 181 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2002 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the District Thiruvallur in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xliii) S.O. 192 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2002 regarding widening of National Highway No.5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the District. Nellore in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xliv) S.O. 175 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2002 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of stretch in Jharkhand State and in West Bengal State on National Highway No.2.
- (xlv) S.O. 172 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2002 regarding authorizing the Chief Engineer (National Highway) Bhopal to collect and retain fee at the rates specified in the Notification.
- (xlvi) S.O. 173 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th February, 2002 regarding authorizing the Chief Engineer (National Highway) Bhopal to collect and retain fee at the rates specified in the therein by the users of permanent bridge across Assam Bridge on National Highway No.3.
- (xlvii) S.O. 1067 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2001 omitting the National Highway No. 203 in Orissa from the Entrustment Schedule.
- (xlvi) S.O. 1068 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2001 declaring the National Highway No. 203 with a new alignment.
- (xlix) S.O. 1149 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2001 declaring the National Highway No. 79A in Rajasthan.
- (l) S.O. 1191(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2001 making certain amendments in the Entrustment Schedule of National Highways Act to delete the stretches of National Highways failing in different States.
- (li) S.O.1192(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2001 regarding Entrustment of deleted stretches.
- (lii) S.O.12(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.
- (liii) S.O. 13(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd January, 2002 regarding Entrustment of stretches of National Highway No. 16 in Andhra Pradesh.
- (liv) S.O. 93(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd January, 2002 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 1192(E) dated the 3rd December, 2001.
- (lv) S.O. 208(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2002 regarding Entrustment of National Highway No. 27 in Uttar Pradesh.

- (iv) S.D. 209(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5128/2002]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the National Highways Act, 1956 :-

- (i) The National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highway -Section and permanent Bridge-Public Funded Projects) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 876(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2001.
- (ii) The National Highways (Rate of Fee) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 877(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5129/2002]

- (3) A copy of the Central Motor Vehicles (8th Amendment) Rules (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 901 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2001 under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, together with an explanatory Memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5130/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : Sir, I beg, to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 :-

- (i) The Tamil Nadu Administrative Tribunal

(Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Second Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 933 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2001.

- (ii) The Karnataka Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) (Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 33 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5131/2002]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 8 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th January, 2002 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 730(E) dated the 2nd May, 1986 issued under sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5132/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Small Industries, Mumbai for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5133/2002]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the period from 1st January to 31st December, 1999.
- (ii) A copy of the Memorandum (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for non-acceptance of Commission's Advice.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5134/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YASSO NAIK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Ports.
- (i) G.S.R. 880 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2001 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment of Head of Department) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
- (ii) G.S.R. 881 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2001 approving the Mumbai Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) Amendment Regulations, 2001.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5135/2002]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the erstwhile Bombay Dock Labour Board, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the erstwhile Bombay Dock Labour Board, for the year 2000-2001.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5136/2002]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Madras Dock Labour Board, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Madras Dock Labour Board, for the year 2000-2001.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5137/2002]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board, for the year 2000-2001.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5138/2002]
- (8) A copy each of the following Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :-
- (a) (i) Annual Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Cochin Port Trust, for the year 2000-2001.
- (b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trusts, Mumbai, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trusts, for the year 2000-2001.
- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5139/2002]
- (10) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5140/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 :-
 - (i) The Drugs and Cosmetics (8th Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 894 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 2001.
 - (ii) The Drugs and Cosmetics (9th Amendment) Rules 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 900 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2001.
 - (iii) The Drugs and Cosmetics (10th Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 909 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5141/2002]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 :-
 - (i) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (8th Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 895(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th December, 2001.
 - (ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (9th Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 908 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2001 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 59(E) dated the 24th January, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5142/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pharmacy Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing

reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at 3 above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5143/2002]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5144/2002]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-Third Report

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (NOMINATED) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

...(Interruptions)

12.02 ½ hrs.

[Translation]

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Twenty-Eighth to Thirty-First Reports

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology:

- (1) Twenty-Eighth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Twenty-First Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).

- (2) Twenty-Ninth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Twenty-Second Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).
- (3) Thirtieth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Twenty-Third Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- (4) Thirty-First Report on Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Twenty-Fourth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) relating to Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology).

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(Interruptions)

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Twenty-Seventh to Thirty First Reports

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, I beg to present the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development (2002) :-

- (1) Twenty-Seventh report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 21st Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (2) Twenty-Eighth report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 22nd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (3) Twenty-Ninth report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 23rd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands

for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation);

- (4) Thirtieth report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 24th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation); and
- (5) Thirty-First report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 25th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).

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(Interruptions)

12.03 ½ hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Outbreak of Pneumonic Plague in Himachal Pradesh - Laid@

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Dr. C.P. Thakur will lay the statement.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding 'outbreak of pneumonic plague in Himachal Pradesh.'

* I would like to brief the House on the outbreak of Pneumonic Plague in Village Hat Koti, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh and subsequent incidence of plague like disease in Chandigarh and the steps taken by the Government to check this.

A local outbreak of a virulent, highly contagious febrile illness, with predominant chest symptoms, occurred in village Hat Koti, District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, in the first week of February, 2002. These cases presented with fever of rapid onset, chills, chest pain, breathlessness, headache, prostration and haemoptysis. The local clinicians and the State nodal officer for National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases (NSPCD), informed the Director,

@ (Filed in Library. See No. LT 5145/2002)

* Laid on the Table

National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi on 13.02.2002 about the seriousness of this suspected outbreak. A total of 16 cases of such illness have been reported in Himachal Pradesh since the first case on 04.02.2002. Four of the infected persons from Himachal Pradesh have died.

Immediately on receipt of information of this outbreak from the State Health Authorities, a team consisting of an Epidemiologist, a Microbiologist and an Entomologist from the NICD proceeded to the affected area on the morning of 14.02.2002. Simultaneously, the emergency medical requirements of State were promptly met. This team visited the affected areas of Shimla district between 14th and 17th February, 2002, examined the patient in the hospitals where they were being treated, and held consultations with the doctors attending upon these patients. In the course of their visit, the team observed that all the cases of illness could be linked to residents of a hamlet of village Hat Koti, consisting of three houses. All the persons who were taken ill were relatives of the first case detected, and had come into contact with the first reported patient. It was also observed by the NICD team that the first case reported had been on an extended hunting trip to the forests from 21st January and had taken ill immediately after his return to his village on 2nd February, 2002. The patient samples obtained from PGI, Chandigarh were brought back to Delhi on 15.02.2002 and were examined by the Investigators of NICD.

Culture isolates from two suspected Cases, sputum specimens from two cases, lung autopsy from one case and one lung lavage material, were examined in the laboratories of NICD. The stage-wise investigations reveal as under :-

Smear examination showed bipolar, short thin bacilli morphologically resembling *Yersinia pestis*;

Fluorescent antibody test was found positive for *Yersinia pestis*;

Molecular tests confirmed the presence of *Yersinia pestis* specific *Pla* and *F1* genes;

The DNA fingerprint had tallied with a known sequence of plague bacilli; and

- Bacteriophage lysis test for *Yersinia pestis* was positive.

The sequence of tests collectively confirmed that the cases related to infection with *Yersinia pestis*, commonly known as Pneumonic Plague. This conclusion is also supported by other clinical and epidemiological evidence. The procedure for identification and confirmation of the pathogen was in full conformity with the guidelines set out by the World Health Organisation for this exercise.

One more patient from Chandigarh was admitted in PGI Chandigarh on 19.02.2002 with respiratory symptoms and he expired on 19th/20th night. On enquiry it was found that he had visited the hospital to look after his brother, who was already admitted in PGI Chandigarh with some other ailment. It is not known for certain whether he came in to contact with patients suffering from suspected plague from Himachal Pradesh, who were being treated at PGI, Chandigarh. On 22.02.2002, one more patient and on 23.02.2002, two more patients with symptoms similar to that of plague were admitted to PGI, Chandigarh. Two of them were the wife and daughter of the patient with respiratory symptoms who expired on 19th/20th night; while the third was a nurse working in a nursing home where the deceased had been admitted before being brought to PGI, Chandigarh. The clinical samples from these three patients did not show suspicious bacterial growth. However, as a measure of abundant caution, the various contacts of these three patients at different hospitals and their family settings were administered prophylactic treatment and were isolated from general population. Public health advisories were issued to Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh regarding undiagnosed fever and respiratory ailment.

On receiving report of the new cases with plague like symptoms from Chandigarh, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare deputed a team of experts consisting of an epidemiologist and a microbiologist from National Institute of Communicable Diseases on 22nd February for conducting investigations. The NICD further strengthened its team at Chandigarh by sending 4 more experts to monitor the infection control measures in the areas of high risk. The situation is being closely watched by the Central and State Governments.

The NICD team, which had gone to Himachal Pradesh to investigate the suspected outbreak, issued detailed guidelines to the local health administration for containing the spread of infection. The significant components of these guidelines were :-

- Quarantine of the affected village and close contacts of the patients.
- Chemoprophylaxis (using Doxycycline/ Tetracycline/ Broad Spectrum antibiotics) administered to the close contacts of the patients, residents of the affected and neighbouring villages, doctors/ paramedics and health workers (numbering about 28,000-30,000 in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttaranchal and U. T. of Chandigarh).
- Fumigation using Formalin (10%) in the affected villages (patient's residences), as well as of the transport vehicles.

- IEC campaign for reassuring the general public not to panic, and also to advise them to immediately report to health facilities in case there was fever, cough, etc.,
- Door to door interaction with the population in the affected and adjoining village for dispensing antibiotics, obtaining information about the new cases and educating the people.
- To treat the patients locally.

Guidelines, as above, have also been issued to the Government of Uttaranchal, as one of the patients, who is a resident of that State, had acquired the infection on a visit to Hat Koti.

Up to 11 March, 2002, out of the sixteen cases of plague detected in Himachal Pradesh and the four suspected cases with plague like symptoms from Chandigarh and its adjoining areas, five have died, 13 have been discharged after recovery and two are under treatment at PGIMER, Chandigarh and are progressing well.

I along with the Chief Minister and the Health Minister of Himachal Pradesh accompanied by senior officials of the Union and State Health Ministries visited PGI Chandigarh and the affected areas of Himachal Pradesh on 21st February, 2002 and reviewed the situation.

12.04 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Council of Indian institute of Science

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of clause 9(1)(e) of the Scheme for the Administration and Management of the Properties and Funds of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, read with Regulations 3.1 and 3.1.1 of the Regulations of the Institute, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, subject to the other provisions of the Scheme and the Regulations."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of clause 9(1)(e) of the Scheme

for the Administration and Management of the Properties and Funds of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, read with Regulations 3.1 and 3.1.1 of the Regulations of the Institute, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, subject to the other provisions of the Scheme and the Regulations."

The motion was adopted

...(Interruptions)

(ii) Indian Nursing Council

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Section 3(1)(o) of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as the members of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 3(1)(o) of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the members of this House, do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as the members of the Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

12.05 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 2001-2002

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5146/2002]

12.05 ½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
(GENERAL) 1998-1999

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 1998-1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5147/2002]

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the 'Zero Hour'. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Item No. 20, Shri I.D. Swami.

12.06 hrs.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S PENSION
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : On behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 13.3.2002

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Sir, where is the Prime Minister? ...(Interruptions) The Prime Minister should come here and categorically state the intentions of the Government. ...(Interruptions) We demand that the Prime Minister should come here instantly. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (KANPUR) : First of all please call the Prime Minister, then the House will function. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh, go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY) : Sir, let the hon. Prime Minister come here and clarify the position. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA) : He has misled the nation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, please sit down.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : The Supreme Court has given verdict for status quo but the Government have deceived the country. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : It has spoilt the atmosphere of the country, so first of all the Prime Minister should give statement. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have decided in the Business Advisory Committee to discuss the Motion of Thanks on President's Address today and tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If all of you stand up and shout like this, nothing will be heard.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA) : We want the Prime Minister to make a statement. But before that, we would like to make a submission. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Today and tomorrow, as per our schedule, the Presidential Address is to be discussed. We do not have time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the Law Minister wants to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Law Minister wants to make a statement on Ayodhya.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ, U.P.) : Sir, the Prime Minister should give statement. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please go to your seat. Let there be order in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister of Law wants to give statement.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is heard, everybody is speaking.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, will you go to your seat?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What are you doing? I told you that first of all you please resume your seat. We already have no time, today and tomorrow we have to hold discussion on the President's Address.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (LATUR) : Sir, may I make a submission? ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR) : Sir, it is a violation of the commitment made by the Prime Minister in this very House. Therefore, he should explain it. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Nobody other than the Prime Minister should be allowed to give clarification on this issue. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There should be order in the House. Will you resume your seat only when the Prime Minister gives statement? First of all you go to your seat then, I will listen to you. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is a very serious matter. We want the Prime Minister to make a statement. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You do not want to hear anything.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (SAMBHAL) : Hon'ble Prime Minister you please give statement all of them will resume their seats. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will take our seat once the Prime Minister stands up. ...(Interruptions) You please tell the Prime Minister to give statement.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The Prime Minister should give statement. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, in this House two kinds of procedures may be followed. If we are allowed to make our submissions, we will make the submissions and the hon. Prime Minister can then reply.

Or, let the hon. Prime Minister make a statement and then, we should be allowed to ask questions. ... (Interruptions)
On this important issue if we were not allowed to ask questions, it would not be proper. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, my submission is that you may please accept one of these procedures - either you allow us to make submissions first and then, let the Prime Minister give the reply or let the Prime Minister make the statement and then, allow us to ask questions. ... (Interruptions) Otherwise, this important issue will go un-discussed, unnoticed and unrecorded. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, let the Prime Minister make the statement. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You please tell the Prime Minister to give statement then I will tell them to resume their seats. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you are a senior Member. I just cannot direct the Prime Minister to make a statement and you know that. How can I do that?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You please tell the Prime Minister, we will resume our seats. ... (Interruptions)

14.13 hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Shri Samik Lahiri, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 4 p.m.

14.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Sixteen of the Clock.

16.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Sixteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Matter under rule 377 listed for today are deemed to be laid on the Table of the House.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377*

- (I) **Need to look into the problems faced by the employees of Hindustan Steel Works Construction Ltd.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH) : Sir, the staff of Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited are not getting their salaries for nearly 24 months. Besides this dearness allowance since January, 2002 has not been paid to them. The amount of Provident Fund is not being paid to the voluntarily retired persons.

On one hand HSCL company is continuously running in loss on the other hand the official of the Unions are being transferred by the Management.

Earlier priority was given to HSCL for working in steel plants but presently the company have to compete in open tender and it is due to this that the officials working in this company have to face unemployment as L-1 does not get lowest due to open tender.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take effective steps to solve the above mentioned problems.

- (ii) **Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Bihar.**

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (MOTIHARI) : Sir, the GDP i.e. Gross Domestic Products, Balance of Payment, Monetary reserve, the rate of economic growth and per capita income are the parameters of economic classification of any state. Bihar is the poorest state of India in terms of per capita income. The status of project development in Bihar is worst in comparison to other states. The budget of annual plan of Bihar is about Rs.1300 crore. In the year 1998-99 state wise per capita plan expenditure remained Rs.233 while in the case of Assam and Orissa it remained Rs.500 and Rs.679 respectively. In 2000-2001 Rs.434 crores out of the total amount allocated by the Central Government for rural

* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

development could not be spent. During the last ten years not even a single of the major and medium irrigation projects could be completed. In Bihar power generation capacity is 15 to 20 percent while the average in other states is 67 percent. In the interim report submitted to the Government by the Bihar State Finance Commission it has been said that the economic condition of Bihar has deteriorated after the partition of the State.

In the budget for the year 1999-2000 financial deficit of Rs.4894 crore has been shown while in the budget for the year 1998-00 the deficit was Rs.4391 crore. The figures of CAG report indicate that about 89 percent of the total expenditure has been revenue expenditure. While the estimated capital investment remained at the marginal level of 5 percent. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to provide sufficient financial assistance to Bihar Government to enable them to overcome financial crisis.

(iii) Need to accord B-2 status to Jamnagar city, Gujarat

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (JAMNAGAR) : Sir, the Jamnagar city in Gujarat has not been accorded B-2 status, till date whereas according of 2001 census, Jamnagar city has extension area of 5 kilometre and population of 6 lakh which includes population of one lakh of Defence Department but that has not been included in it. One year has lapsed, but still B-2 status has not been accorded to Jamnagar.

In last 15 years many Unions of Government employees, Associations and federations of Jamnagar have written many letters and memorandum to the Union Government. They had also given representations and met personally. Being the Member of Parliament from Jamnagar, I too personally met the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister everybody assured that action will be taken immediately. But so far it has not been done.

Many a times agitations, 'Rasta Roko Andonals' Bandhs, and hunger strikes were held in regard to B-2 upgradation.

I urge upon the Government to immediately upgrade Jamnagar to B-2 status, by considering it as a special case.

[English]

(iv) Need to enhance allocation of quota of foodgrains for Gujarat State

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VADODRA) : On 1993-94 basis of Export Group Methodology of Planning Commission, Gujarat State receives allocation for only 21.20 lakh of quota of foodgrains for BPL families. The total number

of households and BPL families have increased over years. The State should receive foodgrains allocation for all the 33.90 lakh BPL ration card holders of Gujarat.

I urge the Centre to revise allocation of quota of foodgrains as the State Government is not able to distribute the same as per scale determined by the Government of India i.e. 25 kg. per month per BPL family.

(v) Need for revival of cold bonded pillet plant at Guwa in Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (SINGHBHUM) : Sir, the Cold Bonded Pillet Plant Factory, which used to come under Coal Ministry, is lying closed since 1995. This was profit earning plant and it was hundred percent export oriented plant. Residual items and rejected waste were properly used in that plant. Now that waste is thrown into the rivers and is reaching the fields through irrigation which is damaging the fields. Earlier, the foreign exchange was earned by exporting the product of that plant which was manufactured by the wastes of mines, and is now thrown in 'Suniya' river. This plant was closed due to mismanagement. The waste of mines was being used in this plant. The Aadiwasi people of the area will also get employment by making this plant operational.

Through the House, I urge upon the Government to revive this plant at earliest.

[English]

(vi) Need for all round development of Harishchandrapur, Assembly Constituency in Malda district of West Bengal

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ) : Harishchandrapur is an assembly constituency comprising of two revenue blocks in the district of Malda bordering the State of Bihar and District of Katihar having no college for students and not enough schools for girl students. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana requires to be implemented very soon including that of the road from Teljanna Dilli Dawanganj and Paikhana more to Teljanna. Islampur Boroi and Khusida Anchals are the worst sufferers in terms of development, road infrastructure, health infrastructure.

Kumedpur Railway Junction in Harishchandrapur unless is linked with by-pass subway, several thousands of farmers and poor people suffer year after year. The Ministry of H.R.D., Rural Development, Water Resources and the Railways unless address the specific problems before the end of Ninth

Plan involving the State Government, this assembly segment will face untold miseries by the people. The Planning Ministry may, therefore, kindly coordinate the entire matter with the above mentioned Ministries without fail to stabilize this district of West Bengal. Katihar to Harischandrapur road link shall further develop the economic activities of this area.

(vii) Need to ensure that Scheduled Caste people in Union Territory of Chandigarh are not denied the issuance of caste certificate

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH) : The youth of Chandigarh Union Territory belonging to the Scheduled Castes (enumerated in the relevant Constitution order) are denied the issuance of S.C. Certificates on wholly untenable grounds which run counter to the very objective of affirmative action to ameliorate their lot. Resultantly, a wholly incongruent situation has arisen where parents have such certificates but their children are denied the same on the purported ground that they were born in Chandigarh after the Union Territory came into being. This injustice needs to be undone immediately. I urge the Government to take necessary action without further delay.

(viii) Need to implement one rank one pension scheme for Defence personnel

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (MYSORE) : As per the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendation an individual is required to complete 33 years of service in order to earn 50% of the basic number of years of service rendered by them in case of persons below the rank of officers. However the criterion for retirement of persons below the officers does not depend on age but depends on rank. Thus Sepoys, Naiks, Havildars, Naib Subedars and Subedars had to compulsorily retire, in the past after completing 17, 22, 24, 26 and 28 years of service respectively before the extension of retirement period by two years for all ranks. But their civil counterpart will retire at the age of 60 years irrespective of their grade and thus they are eligible to get pension whereas the persons below the officer rank in Defence Service will not get that benefit. Reduction in pension means corresponding reduction in family pensions too. These two yardsticks for the Ex- servicemen and retired civil servants are not justified. In order to remove this anomaly it is necessary to reduce the minimum number of years of service to enable them to earn the pensionary benefits. I also urge the Government to implement one rank one pension policy for Defence personnel irrespective of the number of years service rendered by them.

(ix) Need to take concrete measure to check smuggling of heroin in the country

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE (JORHAT) : India continues

to be in disrepute as the major transit point for heroin trafficking as revealed in 2001 of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Report. The old stigma sticks to India as in the past most of the heroin is smuggled into countries in Europe and North America through the usual route of Golden Gescent Zone. The Report emphasizes the point that ports in southern India are increasingly being used for smuggling drugs as evidenced by the sharp increase in seizures of consignments of narcotic drugs by sea along routes leading from India to Sri Lanka. It is imperative that our Government took determined action to curb this clandestine trans-border narcotic trade activity. Otherwise, our commitment to fight the drug menace will ring hollow. Besides, it is time for the Government to sit up and take notice of the use of internet and other technologies by drug cartels in other parts of the world as alleged by INCB Report, which complicate the struggle against the illegal drug trade. Failing this, narcotic sales will soon enter the cyber space in a big way in our country as it booms now in some other countries.

(x) Need to provide financial assistance to Government of West Bengal for development of Mukutmonipur in the district of Bankura as a tourist resort

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR) : I would like to draw the attention of Minister of Tourism for development of tourists centre at Mukutmonipur, under the district of Bankura, West Bengal. Standing on the bank of the Kangsabati river stretched for miles and surrounded with hills, Mukutmonipur is a paragon beauty of its own and no less than any other tourist centre. West Bengal Government and private entrepreneurs have already built up necessary infrastructures for providing all amenities to tourists. I urge upon the Government to provide financial assistance and propagation in international level, so as to attract more foreign and Indian tourists to this centre of natural beauty.

(xi) Need to withdraw move to close down Madurai-Bodi railway route

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (PERIYAKULAM) : The people of Theni and Madurai Districts are agitated because of the threat to close down the 90 Kms. Madurai-Bodi metre gauge route. This route caters to the needs of various sections of people like students, office-goers, farmers, businessmen and tourists. This is the life line of transportation of this backward region. This route runs through Karumathur, Usilampatti, Andipatti and Theni.

It is reported that, due to non-profitability, Railways are thinking of closing down this route. Such a decision would strike a severe blow to the economy of the region besides

being a handicap to commuters. Lot of cardamom is grown in this region. Cardamom growers use this train route for trading purposes and also for taking fertilizers etc. for raisin crop. Since Railways have a social commitment, profitability alone should not be the criterion. Rail routes are the only hope for the underdeveloped regions. If Madurai-Bodi route is closed, six railway stations including Andipatti will be closed. Tourists going to see the enhancing Vaigaidam also take this route.

In view of the importance of this route, I appeal to the Government not to ponder over closing down this route.

(xii) Need to set up L.P.G. outlets at Simri Bakhtiyarpur in Saharsa district and Virpur in Supaul district, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (SAHARSA) : Sir, Simri Bakhtiyarpur and Veerpur are the main cities under my parliamentary constituency Saharsa. Both these places also have sub-divisional headquarters. Local residents of these places are facing a lot of inconvenience due to non-availability of LPG agency there. The LPG outlet is very far from Simri Bakhtiyarpur and Veerpur.

Therefore, the Government should immediately set up a L.P.G. outlet at Simri Bakhtiyarpur in Saharsa district and Veerpur in Supaul district.

(xiii) Need for early completion of construction work of Satluj-Yamuna Link Canal project between Haryana and Punjab.

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (SIRSA) : Sir, the recent ruling of High Court's in regard to completion of construction work of Satluj-Yamuna Link Canal has given relief to the farmers of Haryana. On the basis of awards of earlier Tribunals, it was decided that water should be made available to Haryana from this project. The construction work of Project has also began. In Punjab also 75% of construction work has been completed. In Haryana 90% of the construction work has been completed. But still the completion of work is lying pending. But, recently court's verdict has played an important role in completion of this Project. The Union Government has also been made accountable alongwith the Punjab Government for completion of this Project.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to do justice with the farmers of Haryana by early completion of construction work of this Project.

(xiv) Need to declare Vaishali as an international tourist resort

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (VAISHALI) : Sir,

2600th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir is being celebrated. The State Government has submitted an estimate for the construction of three roads, viz.

1. From Bhagwan Rati to Sariya via Muzaffarpur and Vaishali.
2. From Bhagwatpur to Vaishali to Jain temple and
3. Manpur (Lalganj)- Madrana- Vaishali-Jain temple, for the development of Lord Mahavir's birth place, but it still has not got the sanction for it, due to which the historic place cannot be developed. The Government is committed for the development of Vaishali.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to get these roads constructed by the Executive Committee for Lord Mahavir's 2600th birth anniversary in view of giving status of an international tourist place to Vaishali on this historic occasion, so that the birth place of Lord Mahavir could be developed.

[English]

(xv) Need for early commissioning of T. V. Relay Centre by installing an LPT at Basanti in Sunderbans, West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the delay in commissioning of TV Relay Centre by installing an LPT at Basanti in Sunderbans in the district of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. In 1996 the Government took a decision to start a TV Relay Centre at Basanti. Subsequently accommodation was taken by Doordarshan. But I regret to say that till date the Relay Centre has not started functioning. With reference to my Unstarred Question No. 65914 dated 31.08.2001 the Information and Broadcasting Minister quoting Prasar Bharati replied that the Low Power TV transmitter at Basanti is functional since March, 1997 which is not correct. The installation of a Low Power TV transmitter is essential as the visibility of TV programmes in Sunderbans is very poor. Since Bangladesh is nearer and its TV programmes have a better visibility the people are forced to watch the Bangladesh TV programmes.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to ask the Prasar Bharati to start the Relay Centre without any further delay.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will listen to you. First you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : One by one, I will hear.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 14th March, 2002 at 11 a.m.

16.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, March 14, 2002/Phalguna 23, 1923 (Saka).

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