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Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXIX, No. 4

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

Magha 15, 1925 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Part-II)
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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Dated. 24/2/04

(Vol. XXXIX contains Nos. 1 to 5)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol XXXIX, Fourteenth Session (Pt-II), 2004/1925 (Saka)]

No. 4, Wednesday, February 4, 2004/Magha 15, 1925 (Saka)

| SUBJECT | COLUMNS |
|--|---------|
| OBITUARY REFERENCES | 1-2 |
| MOTION RE: SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR | 2-3 |
| WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS | |
| Starred Question Nos. 321—340 | 3-27 |
| Unstarred Question Nos. 3169—3286 | 27-160 |
| RE: VALEDICTORY REFERENCE MADE IN PART-I OF FOURTEENTH SESSION OF LOK SABHA | 160-162 |
| PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE | 162-181 |
| COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE | |
| Minutes | 181 |
| JOINT COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR SOFT DRINKS, FRUIT JUICE AND OTHER BEVERAGES | |
| Report and Minutes | 181-182 |
| STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY | |
| (i) Forty-third to Forty-Seventh Reports | 182 |
| STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY | |
| (ii) Statements | 182-184 |
| STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS | |
| Sixteenth to Eighteenth Reports | 184 |
| STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT | |
| Hundred-forty eighth Report | 184-185 |
| STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY | |
| Hundred-forty fifth Report | 185 |
| MOTION RE: SIXTIETH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE | 185-186 |
| SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS | |
| (i) RE: Need to provide compensation and security to the victims of reported violence in village Badhara in Satna District of Rewa Parliamentary Constituency in Madhya Pradesh | 192-197 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| (ii) RE: Alleged enrolment of bogus voters on a massive scale in scientists colony of BARC, Mumbai ... | 198-199 |
| INTERIM BUDGET (GENERAL) 2004-2005; | |
| DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL 2004-2005; | |
| AND | |
| DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL) 2003-2004—GENERAL DISCUSSION | 200-254, 256-288 |
| | 296-312, 313-382 |
| Shrimati Sonia Gandhi | 219 |
| Cut Motions | 222 |
| Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra | 236-238 |
| Kunwar Akhilesh Singh | 238-244 |
| Shri Prakash Paranjpe | 244-247 |
| Shri Rupchand Pal | 247-253 |
| *Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava | 254 |
| Shri Kirit Somaiya | 256-271 |
| Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi | 271-286 |
| *Shri Salkhan Murmu | 286-288 |
| Dr. V. Saroja | 296-300 |
| *Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake | 301-304 |
| Shri Rashid Alvi | 304-312 |
| Shri Trilochan Kanungo | 313-317 |
| Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh | 317-323 |
| Shri Kharabela Swain | 323-328 |
| Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal | 328-338 |
| Shri Ramjivan Singh | 338-342 |
| Shri Prabodh Panda | 342-345 |
| Shri Anadi Sahu | 345-349 |
| Shri P.H. Pandian | 349-351 |
| Shri Prakash Yashwant Ambedkar | 351-353 |
| Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale | 353 |
| Shri K. Francis George | 353-358 |
| Shri Rattan Lal Kataria | 358-359 |
| *Shri Mahendra Singh Pal | 359-360 |
| Shri Jaswant Singh | 360-382 |
| Demands for Grants on Account (General)—Voted | 382 |
| Demands for Supplementary Grants (General)—Voted | 382 |

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Incident of rape and killing of a girl in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh

Shri L.K. Advani 254-255

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Nineteenth Report 288-289

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Fifty-second to Fifty-sixth Reports 184-185

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 290-296

- (i) Need to conserve and beautify the historical pond at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

Shri Virendra Kumar 290

- (ii) Need to provide connectivity to Bhubaneswar Airport with Varanasi via Gaya and upgrade it as an International Airport to promote tourism in the State

Shri Ananta Nayak 290-291

- (iii) Need to meet the demand for additional mobile phone connections and Sim cards in Bokaro, Dhanbad, Giridih and other districts in the State of Jharkhand

Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey 291

- (iv) Need to expedite completion of Subamarekha Irrigation Project in Ranchi Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary 291-292

- (v) Need to clear the proposal for laying Gadchiroli-Desaiganj rail line in Maharashtra

Shri Naresh Puglia 292

- (vi) Need to take up gauge conversion work and introduce additional trains in the State of Uttaranchal for its speedy development

Shri Mahendra Singh Pal 292-293

- (vii) Need for taking measures for allround development of Goalpokher area in Uttar Dinajpur district, West Bengal

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni 293-294

- (viii) Need to confer legal rights on people settled on forest land in Rajasthan and other parts of the country

Shri Bheru Lal Meena 294

- (ix) Need to provide adequate job avenues to retiring defence personnel and accept the demand for implementing the scheme of "one-rank-one pension"

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal 294-295

- (x) Need to accord early clearance for implementing the Janjhavathi Irrigation Project in Parvathipuram Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh

Dr. D.V.G. Shankar Rao 295

| | |
|---|----------------|
| (xi) Need to upgrade the existing road connecting National Highway Nos. 30 and 2 in Bhojpur district, Bihar as a National Highway | |
| Shri Ram Prasad Singh | 295-296 |
| COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS | |
| Minutes | 313 |
| APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL | 383-390 |
| Shri Jaswant Singh | 385 |
| Shri Basu Deb Acharia | 386-389 |
| Motion to Consider | 389 |
| Clauses 2 to 4 and 1 | 389 |
| Motion to Pass | 390 |
| APPROPRIATION BILL | 390-391 |
| Shri Jaswant Singh | 390 |
| Motion to Consider | 390 |
| Clauses 2, 3 and 1 | 391 |
| Motion to Pass | 391 |
| FINANCE BILL | 391-392 |
| Shri Jaswant Singh | 391 |
| Motion to Consider | 391 |
| Clauses 2, 3 and 1 | 392 |
| Motion to Pass | 392 |

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 4, 2004/Magha 15, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, namely, Shri Larang Sai and Shri R.R. Singh Deo.

Shri Larang Sai was a Member of the Sixth, Ninth and Twelfth Lok Sabhas from 1977 to 1979, 1989 to 1991 and 1998 to 1999 respectively, representing the Sarguja Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh, which is now in Chhattisgarh.

An able administrator, Shri Sai served as the Union Minister of State, Labour and Parliamentary Affairs from 1977 to 1979.

Shri Larang Sai was also a Member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1967 to 1977. He was re-elected to the State Assembly in 1980. He also served as a Minister of State in the State Government in 1968.

A devoted Parliamentarian, Shri Sai was a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Energy during 1990-91. During 1998-99, he was a Member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; the Committee on Energy and its Sub-Committee on Coal; and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Power.

An active social and political worker, Shri Sai worked for the uplift of the poor and weaker sections of the society.

Shri Larang Sai passed away on 6th January, 2004 at Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh at the age of 68.

Shri R.R. Singh Deo was a Member of the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1967 to 1977, representing the Bolangir Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa.

An agriculturist, Shri Singh Deo was an active social worker. He was a member of the Koshal Kala Mandal,

Bolangir, and he took active part in relief work during the 1965 drought in Orissa and during other natural calamities.

Shri Singh Deo was a member of the Young Association and Y.F.A. Bolangir; National Rifle Association of India; Wild Life Preservation Society of India; and Foreign Affairs Association of India.

Shri R.R. Singh Deo passed away on the 24th January, 2004 at New Delhi at the age of 70.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.05 hrs.

MOTION RE: SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

[English]

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very crucial issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a number of Adjournment Motion notices. I am going to take them up one-by-one. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker,

Sir, as per the decision in the B.A.C., I beg move that the Question Hour may be suspended by giving a little relaxation in rules. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is suspended. But she has to move the motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it provides for the first hour of the sitting being made available for the asking and answering of questions, in order to take up the consideration of the essential Government business."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend Rule 32 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha insofar as it provides for the first hour of the sitting being made available for the asking and answering of questions, in order to take up the consideration of the essential Government business."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: That motion of yours is accepted.

11.06 hrs.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Polio Eradication Programme

*321. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether an expert Committee has made certain suggestions for polio eradication programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has launched any time-bound programmes for the eradication of polio from the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken the help of any agency for running such programmes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Indian Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) met on 18th and 19th November, 2003, and took stock of the present transmission situation of the country and observed that there has never been a better opportunity to interrupt wild polio virus transmission in India. The transmission is the lowest ever in high seasons. The IEAG have recommended the following strategies for the year 2004.

- For the year 2004, Five National Immunisation Days (NEDs) in January, February, April, October and November 2004 and One Sub National Immunisation Days (SNID) in May in 12 States namely UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- Large scale Mop-ups should be carried out following detection of wild poliovirus from March, 2004, onwards.
- Quality in chronically low performing districts to be improved.
- The next 6 months is the critical window of opportunity and needs high level of monitoring at all levels.
- There should be political engagements from the highest level, especially in Uttar Pradesh.

Government of India has accepted the recommendation made by IEAG and is implementing the recommended strategy during 2004 to achieve zero wild poliovirus transmission by the end 2004 and obtaining polio free certification by 2007. Accordingly, the first Nation wide round of Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization was observed on 4th January, 2004. Subsequent Nation wide rounds have been planned to be implemented on 22nd February 2004, 4th April 2004, 10th October 2004 and 21st November, 2004. Besides the Nation wide rounds, Sub National round will be observed on 9th May 2004 in 12 high risk States.

In order to make the programme effective, there will be intensive monitoring both at Central and State level. District magistrates of the districts are actively involved for implementation of the programme in their district. There is political commitment at all level for eradication of polio from the country.

(e) and (f) For implementing the pulse polio immunization, Government is taking help of other Departments like Education, Social Welfare etc. The teachers, aganwadi workers, social volunteers etc. are actively involved in social mobilization and immunization of children during the rounds. UNICEF, Rotary International are helping the Government by actively involving them in social mobilization work in the community. The technical support for implementation of Pulse Polio Immunization is provided by World Health Organization. The funding comes from donor's contribution and World Bank IDA credit. The donors usually make their commitments on yearly basis. For the year 2004-05, following donors have committed support Pulse Polio immunization by giving the grants.

| Donors | Commitments in US million \$ |
|------------|------------------------------|
| CDC | 10 |
| KFW | 10 |
| JICA | 6.5 |
| World Bank | 70 |
| DFID | 19 |

[English]

Fencing by India along LOC

*322. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has lodged a complaint with the UN protesting against fencing along LOC in J&K by India as reported in the *Statesman* dated January 10, 2004;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has made its views clear on the fencing issue to UN; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government have seen the report in the *Statesman* of January 10, 2004. Our enquiries indicate that no such action has been taken.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Alleged Irregularities in Purchase of CGHS Medicines

*323. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the CBI has recently unearthed a racket relating to alleged irregularities in the purchase of drugs for CGHS dispensaries;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHYAMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had recently conducted raids at the house/premises of some officials and some other private individuals and has registered two FIRs, viz. CBI/EOU.VII/1 dt. 12.01.04 and CBI/EOU.VII/2 dt. 12.01.04 u/s 120-B, 240 IPC and s. 13 (2) r/w s. 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The first FIR relates to entering into a criminal conspiracy to cause undue pecuniary advantage to the accused and corresponding financial loss to the Government of India. It is alleged that the Chemist charged higher prices as well as higher Sales Tax rate and the bills were passed by the two accused Accounts Officers.

In the second FIR it is alleged that instead of procuring medicines from manufactures through Medical Stores Organisation (MSO), more and more medicines were purchased from local chemists and criminal

conspiracy was entered into in the selection and empanelment of local chemists. It is also alleged that when the list of chemists for the CGHS dispensaries was being finalised in the year 2001 after carrying out the formalities by the Selection Committee, the originally approved list was *suo motto* changed by the then Additional Director, CGHS (HQ) by inserting names of certain chemists for different dispensaries.

Since CBI is still investigating the matter, necessary action would be taken up after the outcome of the investigation is known. However, before the action taken by the CBI, the Ministry of Health & F.W. had independently initiated departmental proceedings for major penalty against Dr. Jawahar Lal, the then Additional Director, CGHS (HQ).

[English]

System of Pollution Check

*324. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the existing system of pollution check is not fool-proof;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) The norms for pollution control checks and the periodicity for such checks have been prescribed under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. Enforcement of these provisions is the responsibility of the transport authorities of the respective States/UTs. Prescription of tighter norms and inclusion of more number of pollutants under the check is an on-going process duly taking into account the constantly improving motor vehicle technology, availability of emission measurement equipment, as also the availability of the required infrastructure at pollution testing centres.

Drug for Diabetes

*325. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether a new wonder drug for diabetes has been developed by an Indian researcher as reported in the 'Times of India' dated January 20, 2004;

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

(c) whether this wonder drug has won an award in US;

(d) whether it is slated for global launch during March 2004;

(e) if so, whether the Government has given the clearance for launch of this drug in the country;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the Government proposes to give clearance for launch of this drug?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (g) A Bangalore based firm M/s German Pharmaceutical Ltd. had approached DCG(I)'s office in September, 1999, with request for permission to carry out clinical trial with the product Diabetes Entoxin-N on Indian patients suffering from Type-II Diabetes Mellitus. The product was to be imported from Germany. Since the reference to this product for treatment of diabetes is not available in any standard medical texts, the proposal was referred to the Director, CDRI, Lucknow and ICMR in February/March, 2000 respectively by the office of DCG(I), along with the protocol submitted by the applicant, for expert opinion on the essentiality and desirability of granting permission for conducting clinical trial with Diabetes Entoxin-II in Diabetes Mellitus in the country as per the protocol submitted by the firm. On receipt of the comments of ICMR, the firm was requested to furnish relevant data with regard to its chemistry, pre-clinical toxicology and efficacy in September 2000.

In response in March, 2003, the applicant informed that they have conducted study on this German Phyto Pharmaceutical Drug through American Prosthetics for Diabetics Foundation which resulted in 98.28 success and that Dr. Jyoti Ghosh of German Pharmaceutical Ltd., Bangalore, who has developed this drug, has been chosen for an award carrying prize money of US\$ 0.5 million. Dr. Jyoti Ghosh has further informed DG, ICMR that his product, since named in the patent application in USA, as Arogya-2 (under production in Germany) is a modern complementary medicine with five botanical extracts and Chyromium group supplements. However, the firm did not

enclose the required data with regard to chemistry, pre-clinical toxicology and efficacy.

ICMR have now informed that on evaluation of the information submitted, it appears that the drug has the potential to be used for treatment of Diabetes in India. However, detailed information regarding formulation, pre-clinical safety and pharmacological data and protocol for clinical trial along with details of the earlier clinical trial results is required to be furnished by M/s German Pharmaceutical Ltd. for further examination by the expert group set up by ICMR. The same is awaited.

This Ministry has no information, from published literature, that this product is slated for global launch during March, 2004, as a drug for treatment of Diabetes.

12th SAARC Summit

*326. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the issues discussed along with the decisions taken therein;

(c) whether Pakistan agreed to discuss the extradition treaty with India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether our PM had a meeting with his Pakistani counterpart during the said Summit.

(g) if so, the details of issues discussed; and

(h) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The twelfth SAARC Summit was held in Islamabad on January 4-6, 2004. A large number of issues were discussed and decisions taken for promoting regional cooperation in areas such as combating terrorism, promoting economic cooperation and trade in South Asia, poverty alleviation, environment, tourism, culture, health, education, energy cooperation, science and technology, information and communication. The SAARC Social

Charter, the Additional Protocol to the 1987 SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, and an Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area were signed at the Summit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) to (h) On the sidelines of the twelfth SAARC Summit in Islamabad, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee met the Prime Minister of Pakistan on January 4, 2004 and the President of Pakistan on January 5, 2004.

A Joint Press Statement was issued on January 6, 2004 after the meeting between Prime Minister Vajpayee and President General Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A copy of the Joint Press Statement is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Joint Press Statement

The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India met during the SAARC Summit in Islamabad.

The Indian Prime Minister while expressing satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the SAARC Summit appreciated the excellent arrangements made by the host country.

Both leaders welcomed the recent steps towards normalization of relations between the two countries and expressed the hope that the positive trends set by the CBMs would be consolidated.

Prime Minister Vajpayee said that in order to take forward and sustain the dialogue process, violence, hostility and terrorism must be prevented. President Musharraf reassured Prime Minister Vajpayee that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. President Musharraf emphasized that a sustained and productive dialogue addressing all issues would lead to positive results.

To carry the process of normalization forward the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India agreed to commence the process of the composite dialogue in February, 2004. The two leaders are confident

that the resumption of the composite dialogue will lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues, including Jammu & Kashmir, to the satisfaction of both sides.

The two leaders agreed that constructive dialogue would promote progress towards the common objective of peace, security and economic development for our peoples and for future generations.

Islamabad
January 6, 2004.

Decline in the Inflow of Foreign Students

*327. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflow of foreign students in the country has shown gradual decline;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the inflow of foreign students in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the names of the countries from which the inflow of foreign students has shown decline and the details of the courses for which the inflow of students from these countries had declined;

(d) the reasons identified by the Government for the declining trend; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the inflow of foreign students for the various courses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Generation of Nuclear Power

*328. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for generating nuclear power has been lagging;

(b) if so, the target for nuclear power generation fixed during the last three years and achieved;

(c) the reasons, if any, for not achieving the target; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to boost generation of nuclear power and to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The targets of nuclear power generation and the actual generation, in Million Units (MUs) during the last three years are as follows:

| Year | Generation in MUs | |
|---------|-------------------|--------|
| | Target | Actual |
| 2000-01 | 13012 | 17213 |
| 2001-02 | 15518 | 19481 |
| 2002-03 | 16498 | 19358 |

During the current year 2003-04, the generation till December 2003 has been 13399 MUs against a target of 12382 MUs. The target for the year 2003-04 is 17200 MUs and is likely to be met by March 2004. Thus the targets set each year progressively increasing and the actual generation has always exceeded the targets.

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

(d) The present nuclear power generation capacity of 2770 MWe is proposed to be increased to 4120 MWe by the end of the X Plan and 6780 MWe by December 2008 progressively by completion of the projects under construction. The work on these projects is progressing as per schedule and the nuclear power capacity addition targets are expected to be achieved. Accordingly, the yearly generation targets will also be revised upwards. The meticulous planning and execution of station shut downs, root cause analysis of the reasons of forced outages, detailed in-service inspection and maintenance of equipments etc., are on-going exercises which have paid rich dividends in terms of meeting the targets. These are planned to be continued.

Fake Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Drugs

*329. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the availability of fake Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) propose to take any effective steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Availability of fake/spurious Ayurveda and Homoeopathy drugs has been noticed in some parts of States as per information received by the Central Government. In Andhra Pradesh, out of 25 Ayurvedic samples sent for analysis, three were found positive for Allopathic and alcoholic drugs manufactured by three pharmacies. With regard to Homoeopathic medicines, 29 samples were scrutinized, out of which nine were found sub-standard. In Gujarat, one person of Junagarh was found selling spurious "Kayam Churna" and prosecution has been launched on the matter under Section 33 (EE) (CC) (B) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act by the State Licensing Authority.

(c) and (d) Ayurveda and Homoeopathy drugs are required to be manufactured under licenses issued as per the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules by the State Licensing Authorities appointed by the respective State Governments for the purpose. The law provides for penalty for manufacture, sale etc., of spurious/fake drugs. The steps taken by the Department of AYUSH (erstwhile Department of ISM&H) in this regard are as follows:

- (i) Pharmacopoeial standards have been made mandatory for manufacture of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy drugs;
- (ii) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) have been made essential for manufacturing Ayurveda drugs by amending the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules suitably. Steps have been taken to make GMP mandatory for manufacturing Homoeopathy drugs;
- (iii) State Drug Testing Laboratories and Pharmacies are being strengthened by providing financial assistance under the centrally sponsored schemes;

(iv) Pharmacopoeial Laboratory of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeial Laboratory are being strengthened;

(v) State Governments have been called upon from time to time to impress upon their respective licensing authorities to take action against persons giving false impression regarding true character of drugs or making false claims for the drugs under the Drugs & Magic Remedies (objectionable advertisement) Act, 1954.

Welfare of Women and Child

*330. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Steps taken by the Government for the Womens' Empowerment and Child Welfare during the last three years;

(b) the steps to be taken in the Tenth Five Year Plan for Womens' Empowerment and Child Welfare especially pertaining to nutrition, child care, immunization and early education; and

(c) the amount earmarked for this purpose.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Recognizing that increase in Gross Domestic product (GDP) or per capita income alone is not the sole objective of national planning, the Tenth Five Year Plan has identified certain monitorable targets and indicators for development of women and children (human development) as listed below:

Children

1. A National Charter for Children to ensure that no child remains illiterate, hungry or lacks medical care.
2. Introduction of a bill to constitute the National Commission for Children.
3. Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 45 per 1000 live births by 2007 and to 28 by 2012.
4. All children in school by 2003.

5. All children to complete eight years of quality education by 2010.
6. Reduction in gender gaps in literacy by at least 50 per cent by 2007.
7. Increase in literacy rates to 75% within the plan period.
8. A special component plan known as National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL) under the Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan.

Nutrition

9. Constitution of a National Nutrition Mission with Prime Minister as the Chairman.
10. Bring down the prevalence of under-weight children under three years from the current level of 47 per cent to 40 per cent.
11. Reduce prevalence of severe mal-nutrition in children in the 0-6 years age group by 50 per cent.
12. Increase the off-take of food grains from the Central pool under welfare schemes such as Annapurna, Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Food for Work Programme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), and Mid-Day Meal Programme for school children along with Public Distribution Schemes.
13. Achieving 100% coverage for the six vaccine preventable diseases, namely tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles and tetanus.

Women

14. Evolve an Action Plan for Empowerment of Women.
15. Increase women's access to credit through setting up of Development Bank for women entrepreneurs in the small and tiny sectors.
16. Special schemes such as Kalyani, Priyadarshini, etc. by public sector banks for the betterment of women.
17. A new scheme known as Swadhar for the benefit of women in difficult circumstances, such as widows, women prisoners released from jail and women survivors of natural disasters, etc.

(c) The Tenth Plan allocation under some of the major women and child care programmes, covering health, nutrition, immunization and education is as follows:

| (Rupees in crore) | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Immunization under Reproductive & Child Health Programme | 1410.00 |
| 2. Nutrition including Addl. Central Assistance under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana | 5658.00 |
| 3. Mahila Samakhya | 98.48 |
| 4. National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) | 1064.80 |
| 5. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) | 10391.75 |
| Total: | 18623.03 |

[Translation]

Standard of Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathy Systems of Medicine

*331. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the standard of the Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathy Systems of Medicine and their education is deteriorating and new formula of Indian Medicines based on Herbs are not being evolved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote above systems of medicine?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) There is continuous improvement in the standards of Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy systems of medicine and their education. Development of new drugs and formulations is a process. The new drugs based on herbs evolved in the recent past include AYUSH-56, AYUSH-64, AYUSH-82, 777 Oil of Ayurveda and UNIM-151, UNIM-102, UNIM-105, UNIM-001, UNIM-401 of Unani.

Government have taken many steps to promote and standardize Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy systems of medicine which include a comprehensive National Policy

on Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, Notification of Good Manufacturing Practices, financial support for development of AYUSH research and educational institution and extra mural research, strengthening of safe AYUSH drug testing laboratories and pharmacies, development of state and national level institutions for Post-graduate teaching and research and legal interventions to improve the quality of education of Ayurveda, Unani and Homoeopathy.

[English]

Health Melas

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

(a) whether Health Melas are being organised during January-February, 2004 in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the response thereto; and

(c) the manner in which rural people will be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The "Swasthya Jagrukta Maah" is being observed between 15th January to 15th February, 2004. A health Mela is proposed to be held in each Parliamentary Constituency during this period for three consecutive days. The District Collector, in consultation with the Members of Parliament, will select the venue and dates of the Health Mela. A guideline to hold the Health mela has been provided to MPs, State Governments and District Collectors. A grant of Rs. 8 lakhs is given by the Central Government to meet the cost of infrastructure arrangements, publicity, necessary drugs, medicines etc. In order to have a participatory approach, the local MP and the District Administration have been requested to mobilize further financial and other resources locally to supplement the efforts.

The Health Mela will be an intensive effort for generating awareness among people on various health issues. National programmes on prevention of blindness, leprosy control, tuberculosis control, cancer control, malaria, HIV/AIDS, family planning and the Ayurveda, Unani & Homeopathy will put up exhibitions, displaying materials for information on health issues concerning people. In addition, free check-up, counseling and basic medicines will be provided for entire range of health and family welfare services.

So far, grants have been released for Health Melas for 453 constituencies from where details have been received from the District Administration and the concerned Member of Parliament from all over the country. It has been observed that most of the melas organized so far have been held in rural and semi-urban areas. Large number of people are reported to have availed free services for check-up, treatment and medicines, apart from getting knowledge on various health issues. Thus, people across the entire country have benefitted from the Health Melas.

Transfer Policy of Teachers in KVS

*333. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy about transfer of teachers in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on compassionate/humanitarian grounds;

(b) the number of applications for transfer of teachers on compassionate/humanitarian grounds pending at present with the KVS in the Northern Region;

(c) the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) There is no explicit clause in the transfer guidelines for consideration of transfer of teachers on compassionate/humanitarian grounds. However, due weightage is given for the following cases while considering transfer:

(i) Death of spouse.

(ii) Medical grounds.

(iii) Those who are due to retire within next three years.

The names of such teachers covered under the grounds as stated above are placed en-bloc higher than the other applicants in the priority list in order to ensure granted immunity from getting displaced alongwith those who are physically handicapped.

(b) to (d) Transfer of teachers in Sangathan is totally computerised. Inviting transfer applications in the prescribed format is an annual procedure and accordingly priority lists are generated and are uploaded on the KVS website to ensure total transparency. Attempt is made to effect transfers on the 1st day of the academic session i.e. 1st April with the help of software, making it totally mechanized and non discretionary. As of now no application pertaining to previous years is pending with the KVS. For the next academic year 2004-05, approximately 12,500 applications for request transfer have been received out of which approximately 970 applications are from the North Eastern Region. It is notable that the policy gives preference to teachers/employees posted in North East Region and other very hard stations, in terms of minimum period needed for becoming eligible for transfer. All such applications would be processed as per transfer guidelines for effecting transfers for the year 2004-05.

Advisory on Jammu and Kashmir

*334. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has written to some countries to withdraw the advisory to their citizens vis-a-vis Jammu and Kashmir in order to facilitate arrival of tourists from across the Globe;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Indian Missions abroad to keep the foreigners informed of the latest situation in Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government through its Diplomatic Missions and through bilateral interaction takes up from time to time the matter relating to withdrawal of the Travel Advisories vis-a-vis Jammu & Kashmir with relevant governments.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Officials from our High Commissions and Embassies interact with the local governments regularly for withdrawal of such travel advisories. They maintain regular contacts with senior officials and leaders supplying them the latest information on situation in Jammu & Kashmir.

Publicity literature as well as relevant publications is regularly sent by our Missions to specific addressees and to public at large to protect the current picture. The Missions are also constantly disseminating information about the situation in Jammu & Kashmir by way of interviews with both electronic and print media, press releases, and meetings with local leaders, academicians, think tanks, other opinion makers, etc. The Missions also organize by themselves or along with Air India, India Tourism Offices, etc., briefing sessions, seminars and tourism promotion activities for the travel organisations and the general public to dispel their apprehensions concerning the security situation in India.

Reopening of Stillwell Road

*335. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral talks were held between India and Myanmar for reopening of the historical Stillwell Road for promoting commerce and business in the North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

WLL Services

*336. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the non-feasible areas in various States for development of WLL (Wireless in Local Loop);

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

(c) the time by which such non-feasible areas are likely to be provided WLL connections; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. WLL Technology Network have been planned to be provided in 2648 SDCAs (Short Distance Charging Area)

to cover non-feasible areas. However, some areas would still remain non-feasible on account of:

- (i) Geographical conditions.
- (ii) Availability of limited resources.
- (iii) Limited reach of radio frequency signal of WLL equipment.

(b) State-wise details are at the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) has planned to provide WLL Technology Network in 2648 SDCAs during 2004-2005. The areas, which would still remain non-feasible, would be covered progressively by the installation of more number of BTSs (Base Transceiver Stations) based on geographical considerations. In addition, inaccessible and difficult terrain are proposed to be covered by satellite phones.

Statement

| Sl.No. | Name of the Circle | Total No. of SDCAs |
|--------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar | 2 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 243 |
| 3. | Assam | 46 |
| 4. | Bihar | 104 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 112 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 161 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 33 |
| 8. | Haryana | 54 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 34 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 75 |
| 11. | Kerala | 58 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 180 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 304 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 249 |
| 15. | North East-I* | 30 |
| 16. | North East-II* | 56 |
| 17. | Orissa | 120 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|-------------------------------|------|
| 18. | Punjab | 58 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 258 |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 129 |
| 21. | Uttaranchal | 38 |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 167 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 64 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 71 |
| 25. | Kolkata TD (Telecom District) | 1 |
| 26. | Chennai TD | 1 |
| Total | | 2648 |

Note: SDCA: Short Distance Charging Area.

* North East-I includes the States of Meghalaya, Tripura & Mizoram.

North East-II includes the States of Manipur, Nagaland & Arunachal Pradesh.

Visit of Indian Delegations Abroad

*337. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian delegations who visited abroad in the last one month till date;

(b) the agreement signed on the occasion including the terms of agreements;

(c) whether the External Affairs Minister had visited USA recently; and

(d) if so, the details of discussions held and agreements signed on the occasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The following Indian delegations visited abroad in the last one month till date:

PAKISTAN:

(a) PM accompanied by External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor visited Islamabad from

4-6, January, 2004 and participated in the 12th SAARC Summit.

(b) Following documents were signed during the 12th SAARC Summit;

- (i) SAARC Social Charter.
- (ii) Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA).
- (iii) Additional Protocol to SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism.

A Joint Press Statement was issued on January 6, 2004 after the meeting between Prime Minister Vajpayee and President General Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. The Joint Statement stated, *inter alia*, that the two leaders welcomed the recent steps towards normalisation of relations and expressed the hope that the positive trends set by the CBMs would be consolidated. Prime Minister Vajpayee said that in order to take forward and sustain the dialogue process, violence, hostility and terrorism must be prevented. President Musharraf reassured Prime Minister Vajpayee that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. President Musharraf emphasised that a sustained and productive dialogue addressing all issues would lead to positive results, to carry the process of normalisation forward. The President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India agreed to commence the process of the Composite Dialogue in February 2004, and expressed confidence that the resumption of the Composite Dialogue will lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, to the satisfaction of both sides.

CHINA:

(a) and (b) India's Special Representative on the India-China Boundary Question and National Security Adviser Shri Brajesh Mishra led a delegation to China from 11-15 January, 2004 to hold the second meeting of the Special Representatives in Beijing. The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. The Special Representatives agreed to meet again on mutually acceptable dates in New Delhi to be decided through diplomatic channels. No agreement was signed during the visit.

SAUDI ARABIA:

(a) and (b) Shri R.M. Abhyankar, Secretary (ANA), Ministry of External Affairs visited Saudi Arabia for inspection of Haj arrangements on January 22-23, 2004. No agreement was signed with any Saudi Authorities.

GUADALOUPE (FRANCE)

(a) and (b) Shri J.C. Sharma, Secretary (PCD), Ministry of External Affairs visited Guadeloupe, a French administered island in Caribbean, from January 16-19, 2004 in connection with the celebration to mark 150th Anniversary of Indians arrival in the Island. No agreement was signed during the visit.

UNITED KINGDOM:

(a) and (b) Shri Santosh Kumar Dean (FSI), Ministry of External Affairs, visited London from January 27-31, 2004 to participate in the Workshop on e-learning for Diplomacy organized by the Centre for Political and Diplomatic Studies. No agreement was signed during the visit.

IRELAND:

(a) and (b) Shri Shashank, Foreign Secretary visited Ireland from January 20-22, 2004. No agreement was signed during the visit.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO:

(a) and (b) Shri J.C. Sharma, Secretary (PCD), Ministry of External Affairs visited Trinidad & Tobago from January 20-22, 2004. No agreement was signed during the visit.

United States:

(a) to (d) EAM visited Washington DC during January 19-21, 2004 and had several meetings including with U.S. President George Bush, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell. The meetings provided an opportunity to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest including the Next Steps in Bilateral Strategic Partnership that were announced on January 12-13, 2004. No agreements were signed during the visit.

Standards for Food and Food Products

*338. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Committee of Food Standards has laid down specific standards for food and food products including Baby milk powder;

(b) if so, the details regarding the implementation of the recommendations made by CCFS; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the same? .

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The standards of various food articles including infant milk food (Baby milk powder) have been prescribed under Appendix-B of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955, after consultation with the Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), as required by sub-section (i) of section 23 of the PFA Act, 1954 (37 of 1954).

The Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories are responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955, made thereunder in the country. The Food (Health) Authorities are also advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil to check adulteration in their States/Union Territories.

Common Entrance Examination for Professional Courses

*339. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Central Universities are defying the U.G.C.'s directive to conduct a Common Entrance Examination for professional courses and are planning to conduct their own examination for entrance test for 2004-05 admission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) In terms of UGC (Admission to specified professional programmes) Interim Regulations, 2003 issued on 17th December, 2003, admissions on all India basis to specified professional programmes in the country for the year 2004-05 shall be made on the basis of merit determined through common entrance test(s) which shall be for all the institutions that are presently admitting all their students or certain percentage of them on all India basis.

Three Central Universities, namely, Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia and University of Delhi have put up representations requesting for exemption from

the combined entrance test(s) conducted by bodies authorized by UGC. A Committee headed by the Chairman, University Grants Commission, has already been constituted by the Government to consider the representations of institutions against participation in the common entrance test(s). The Committee after considering these representations decided that in so far as admissions to MBA in University of Delhi are concerned, one time exemption from participation in the common entrance test be granted only on the condition that the University undertakes to join the common entrance test for the year 2005-06 onwards. As regards other professional courses of the three Central Universities, their representations were rejected by the Committee.

Report on Health Policy Research

*340. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether the World Bank has recently released a report on Health Policy research in South Asia;

(b) whether India is lagging behind some countries in South Asia in regard to health care of the people such as nourishment, per capita expenditure, mortality etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The World Bank has recently launched a report on Health Policy Research in South Asia.

(b) and (c) As per this report, the infant mortality rate of India is lower than that of Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan but it is higher than that of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. In respect of childhood mal-nutrition, India's position ranks marginally higher than that of Afghanistan and Bangladesh but ranks lower than that of Bhutan. Comparison with regard to per capita expenditure on health for South-Asian countries is not indicated in this report. However, as per the World Health Report, 2003 of WHO, India's per capita expenditure on health is higher than that of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan but is lower than that of Maldives and Sri Lanka.

(d) The Government has been making every effort to bring about an improvement in the health status of the citizens. The Central Government is implementing Centrally Sponsored Health Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. All out efforts are made to augment the resources for health sector by mobilizing external assistance from various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting National Health Programmes. Free drugs are supplied under various disease control programmes being implemented by the Government. The implementation of disease control programmes in all the States has reduced morbidity and mortality and brought about a general improvement in various health indicators in the country. Funds are also provided under Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana (PMGY) for improving the functional status of rural primary health care institutions. State Health Systems Projects with World Bank assistance aimed at improving and upgrading the secondary health care facilities are presently under implementation in seven States. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana has also been launched for setting up institutions on the pattern of AIIMS in certain under-served States and upgrading existing institutions in certain remaining under-served states/regions to meet the demand for tertiary health services.

Flood Control Projects

3169. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of flood control projects including anti-erosion in Kaliabor are lying pending with the Planning Commission for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the cost of the projects; and

(c) the reasons for delay and by when the projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Commission on Population

3170. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Population was constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister;

(b) if so, whether an Empowered Action Group was formed to oversee the implementation of the National Population Policy; 2000; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the implementation of the recommendation made by each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, Empowered Action Group (EAG) has been constituted in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to facilitate the preparation of area-specific programmes with special emphasis on states that have been lagging behind in containing population growth to manageable limits. Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal are the eight States included in this group.

(c) Based on the Annual Action Plan submitted by the EAG States, the funds were released to them for on-going as well as innovative schemes to fulfill unmet needs.

| Year | Amount Released (Rupees in Crores) |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 2001-02 | 25.00 |
| 2002-03 | 3.25 |
| 2003-04 | 43.27 |

The National Commission on Population had constituted eight working groups. The reports/recommendations of these groups were suitably integrated in the policies and programmes for the 10th Five Year Plan.

Earthquake of Moderate Intensity

3171. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Gujarat falls in zone V which is highly vulnerable to earthquake of moderate intensity;

(b) if so, whether the experts of Meteorological Department have been working at Gujarat (Rajkot) to study it and its possible repercussions; and

(c) if so, the findings of the experts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) Yes, Madam. Rann of Kachchh region of Gujarat falls in Zone-V and the remaining parts of Gujarat fall in zone III & IV. Zone-V is highly vulnerable region and prone to earthquake of moderate intensity.

(b) and (c) Scientists of India Meteorological Department had undertaken seismic survey of Rajkot and neighbouring areas during December 2002—April 2003. Preliminary conclusion of this survey indicated that the disturbances around Rajkot are due to readjustment of crustal stress subsequent to the earthquake of January 26, 2001.

Media Lab

3172. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted U.S. based M.I.T. company to start a media lab with an investment of Rs. 500 crore;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has also decided to invest Rs. 1000 crore in this venture;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the salient features of the venture?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Sending of ITBP to Afghanistan

3173. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to send Indo-Tibetan Border Police to Afghanistan to police the work being done by the NHA and other agencies of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the said proposal;

(c) whether any assessment has been made of the relevance of ITBP to undertake such works in hostile countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e) Government of India would be undertaking construction of a road from Zaranj to Delaram in Afghanistan. For providing security to the members of the Indian organization and workers on the project, there is a provision for a core team of security personnel from ITBP to be present on the ground.

This has been done keeping in view security situation and similar experience in other parts of Afghanistan and support provided by local organization and authorities for security.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Works

3174. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by Bihar CGM(T) for various works during the period 2001 to September 2002;

(b) the total amount spent by Rajasthan CGM(T) for various works during the last six months; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The total amount spent by Bihar CGM(T) for various works during the period 2001 to September 2002 is as follows:

| S.No. | Period | Amount Spent |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | 01.04.2001 to 31.03.2002 | Rs. 679.39 crores |
| 2. | 01.04.2002 to 30.09.2002 | Rs. 44.60 crores |
| Total | | Rs. 723.99 crores |

(b) The total amount spent by Rajasthan CGM(T) for various works during the last six months i.e. w.e.f. the period from July 2003 to December 2003 is Rs. 87.68 crores.

(c) The above amount was incurred for provision of telephones under Fixed Lines, WLL and Mobile phones for development of Telecom Services.

*[English]***Indian Assistance to Pakistan for Software Growth**

3175. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan has approached India for software growth;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken in this regard?

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

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

*[Translation]***Dental Colleges**

3176. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new Dental Colleges for which approval has been given by the Government during the last three years;
- (b) the number of colleges out of these where regular on the spot inspection has been conducted;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaint against the functioning of any college; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) 50 applicants were accorded Central Government permission for establishing new dental colleges in various parts of the country during 2001, 2002 and 2003 on the basis of the recommendations of Dental Council of India made by them after regular inspection of the colleges.

- (c) and (d) In terms of the Regulations, Dental Council of India inspects the dental colleges for recommending renewal of permission and for granting Central Government recognition. Subsequently also, the Council undertakes periodic inspection of the Dental Colleges to ensure their proper functioning in conformity with the norms.

Whenever a complaint is received against the functioning of a dental college, the same is referred to the Council for verification. Depending upon the recommendation of the Council, suitable action, including withholding of permission/withdrawal of recognition, are taken against the dental college.

*[English]***Growth of Cell Phones**

3177. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of growth of Cell Phones during the last three years in the country;
- (b) the share of BSNL in the Cell Phone Industry as on date; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide competitive edge to BSNL to increase its coverage particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir taking the base year as 2000, the percentage of growth of Cell Phones during 2001-2002, and 2003 in the country is 76.68%, 90.89% and 109.84% respectively.

- (b) The number of Cell Phones provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is 47,54,853 out of 2,19,91,742 Cell Phones provided by Cell Phone Industry in India as on 31st December, 2003.

- (c) BSNL has not yet specifically planned coverage of rural areas with mobile service. However, there may be some areas falling enroute to National Highways which get incidental coverage benefit because of coverage of Highways.

CGHS Facilities

3178. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1442 dated November 27, 2002 regarding CGHS facilities in Orissa and state:

- (a) the Budgetary provision in the budget of 2003-2004 for each of the new CGHS dispensaries in Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Dehradun; and

(b) the time by which these dispensaries are likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The newly sanctioned CGHS dispensaries to be opened in Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Dehradun have been allocated Rs. 1.95 lakh each for the current financial year 2003-2004. These dispensaries are likely to be opened by the end of the current financial year.

Amendments In Copyright Act

3179. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a core group to consider amendments to the Copyright Act, 1957 relating to the music remixes of old songs;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said group;

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the extent to which these amendments are likely to be beneficial to the music industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) A Core Group has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development to consider and suggest appropriate amendments of Copyright Act, 1957 relating to various provisions including provisions relating to the Music Industry.

(b) to (d) The Core Group set up a Drafting Committee to suggest necessary amendments. The Drafting Committee had extensive discussion and presentations from various stakeholders including the music industry. The Drafting Committee's suggestions have been considered by the Core Group which held a number of meetings and recommended several sections for amendment. The suggestions given in the Core Group meetings are being consolidated to make final recommendations to the Government for amendment. Appropriate action for amendment of the Copyright Act will be taken after the Government approval.

Defence Cooperation with U.S.

3180. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the U.S. have pledged to combat terrorism to secure peace in South Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the two countries have chalked out measures to enhance defence cooperation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the U.S.-India Defence Policy Group have issued any statement in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether U.S. has offered material assistance to India to fight insurgency in Kashmir and North-Eastern region; and

(h) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) India and the United States have institutionalised their cooperation to combat international terrorism through a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism that has met five times. As part of their counter-terrorism cooperation, the two countries also work together, and with other countries, in the United Nations to promote international efforts to combat terrorism. India has consistently conveyed to the international community that terrorism is a global problem that required a comprehensive international response against terrorism wherever it exists.

(c) and (d) Yes. The defence cooperation is promoted through an elaborate institutional structure of dialogue between the defence establishments of the two countries that includes the Defence Policy Group at the apex level, and the Military Cooperation Group, the Executive Steering Group of the Army, Air Force and Navy, the Security Cooperation Group, the Joint Technical Group and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and Integrated Defence Staff Dialogue to deal with specific aspects of the cooperation.

(e) and (f) Yes. Following its meeting in Washington DC on August 6-7, 2003, the Defence Policy Group issued

a statement that took note of developments in the international strategic environment, highlighted accomplishments of bilateral defence cooperation in the preceding year and approved a range of bilateral defence cooperation activities for the following year.

(g) and (h) No. However, India and the United States have institutionalised a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism that provides a forum for an ongoing bilateral dialogue on cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism. As part of this dialogue, the two countries are engaged in capacity building in preventive and protective consequence management aspects of counter-terrorism, as also in intelligence sharing, law-enforcement cooperation and strengthening of international efforts in combating terrorism. The United States has also condemned, on a number of occasions, incidents of terrorism in different parts of the country.

Vacant Posts

3181. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts of lineman in Telecom Sector are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such vacant posts filled up during the last three years and the number of candidates out of them belonging to SCs/STs?

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

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

(c) Since the cadre of Lineman has been declared as wasting cadre due to restructuring into cadre of Telecom Mechanic as per DOT letter No. 27-4/87-TE-II dated 11.7.1991. Therefore, no post in the cadre of Lineman has been filled up during the last three years.

Allocation of Funds

3182. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to each State during last three years by the Ministry of Science and technology for the projects sponsored by it; and

(b) the funds utilised by each State during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) and (b) According to available official statistics, the number of R&D projects funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology during the years 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01 in institutions and universities located in various States are 799, 810 & 819 with an approved cost of Rs. 120.53 crores, Rs. 140.79 crores and Rs. 141.58 crores respectively. The institutions and universities have utilized the funds sanctioned to them for implementing the various projects. A statement covering number of R&D projects and their approved cost, State-wise, for these years is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise R&D Projects Sponsored by Ministry of Science and Technology

| State | 1998-99 | | 1999-00 | | 2000-01 | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| | No. of Projects | Approved Cost (Rs. in Lakhs) | No. of Projects | Approved Cost (Rs. in Lakhs) | No. of Projects | Total Cost of Projects (Rs. in Lakhs) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Andaman & Nicobar | 2 | 54.76 | 3 | 75.12 | 0 | 0 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 48 | 822.47 | 73 | 1638.83 | 63 | 1043.36 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11.00 | 1 | 15.71 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|------------------|-----|---------|----|---------|-----|---------|
| Assam | 14 | 175.16 | 7 | 91.29 | 14 | 271.43 |
| Bihar | 9 | 240.84 | 20 | 377.34 | 5 | 48.11 |
| Chandigarh | 16 | 317.34 | 17 | 513.70 | 35 | 545.60 |
| Chhattisgarh** | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Delhi | 109 | 1775.64 | 93 | 1973.62 | 107 | 2446.60 |
| Goa | 4 | 194.95 | 5 | 61.65 | 5 | 62.65 |
| Gujarat | 19 | 173.93 | 18 | 341.77 | 17 | 225.43 |
| Haryana | 8 | 178.65 | 11 | 126.39 | 6 | 56.48 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 8 | 177.56 | 8 | 124.41 | 5 | 66.22 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 8 | 159.27 | 5 | 82.49 | 2 | 35.92 |
| Jharkhand* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 46.19 |
| Karnataka | 82 | 1717.16 | 93 | 1688.06 | 91 | 1918.70 |
| Kerala | 25 | 310.88 | 24 | 384.13 | 32 | 462.16 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 11 | 129.05 | 14 | 197.10 | 8 | 172.78 |
| Maharashtra | 88 | 1315.46 | 71 | 1568.87 | 91 | 1941.59 |
| Manipur | 6 | 90.80 | 2 | 9.34 | 6 | 116.69 |
| Meghalaya | 2 | 27.90 | 10 | 122.63 | 4 | 38.29 |
| Mizoram | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 29.82 |
| Nagaland | 2 | 8.01 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Orissa | 13 | 143.10 | 14 | 135.33 | 9 | 71.54 |
| Pondicherry | 2 | 6.46 | 3 | 38.50 | 2 | 26.64 |
| Punjab | 17 | 148.16 | 17 | 139.31 | 17 | 195.89 |
| Rajasthan | 14 | 248.30 | 19 | 197.04 | 8 | 115.81 |
| Sikkim | 1 | 10.18 | 1 | 25.65 | 1 | 32.20 |
| Tamil Nadu | 69 | 1235.37 | 79 | 847.99 | 78 | 1178.22 |
| Tripura | 1 | 7.93 | 1 | 9.38 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---------------|-----|----------|-----|----------|-----|----------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 127 | 1354.04 | 108 | 1879.78 | 84 | 1381.34 |
| Uttaranchal* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 176.54 |
| West Bengal | 94 | 1029.57 | 93 | 1418.02 | 110 | 1436.37 |
| Total | 799 | 12052.94 | 810 | 14078.74 | 819 | 14158.30 |

* Data for the year 1998-99 and 1999-00 are included in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

** Data for the year 1998-99, 1999-000 and 2000-01 are included in Madhya Pradesh.

Financial Package for Nagaland

3183. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced any financial package for Nagaland;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the fund is likely to be provided for the projects covered under the financial package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Prime Minister during his visit to Nagaland on 27-29th October, 2003 had announced an economic package for development of Nagaland. This package includes:

1. The Government of India jointly with the State Government will draw up a plan for creating 25000 employment and self-employment opportunities for the youth in Nagaland. Approximately Rs. 250 crore will be provided to implement this plan.
2. Kohima will be connected with the East West Corridor under the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP). Kohima-Dimapur section will be four-laned at an estimated cost of Rs. 400 crore.
3. State Government proposals for construction of roads in districts of Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire and Wokha districts will be taken up at a cost of Rs. 75 crores.

4. A 23 MW Thermal Power Project will be funded by the Government of India at a cost of around Rs. 105 crore.

5. Government of India will provide Rs. 35 crore for the development of infrastructure of Nagaland University at Lumami. In addition Rs. 10 crore will be provided for the development of Kohima campus.

6. Rs. 15 crore will be provided for building a new Sanik School at Kohima.

7. A Regional Institute for Information Technology in Nagaland will set up for Rs. 20 crore.

8. Rs. 10 crore will be provided for upgrading the higher secondary and high schools for science education and facilities for girls' education.

9. The district hospitals at all district headquarters including Mon and Tuensang, will be upgraded at a cost of Rs. 15 crore. In addition, Rs. 10 crore will be provided for rural health centers.

10. The Referral hospital at Dimapur has not been operationalised. Requirement of funds will be assessed by a joint team and necessary financial assistance will be provided.

11. Rs. 15 crore will be provided for self-help groups and for empowerment of women.

12. Over a period of three years Rs. 15 crore will be provided to control jhum and for development of horticulture in the State.

13. A Center for Development of Horticulture, Floriculture and Medicinal Plants will be set up at a cost of Rs. 10 crore. Rs. 5 crore will be provided to support the Bamboo Mission set up by the State Government.

14. A Joint Task Force on tourism will prepare an action plan based on public-private partnership. A tourism circuit to link areas in Northern Nagaland particularly Mon district will be development for which 25 crores will be provided in the next three years.
15. Rs. 10 crore will be provided for development of eco-friendly municipal waste treatment plants at Dimapur Kohima and other towns.
16. Rs. 18 crore will be provided for completing the remaining works at Indira Gandhi Stadium in Kohima in a period of two years.
17. The State Government's proposal for revival of Nagaland paper & Pulp Company at Tuli will be given a fresh consideration involving the concerned ministries.
18. Once the survey for extending the railway line from Dimapur to Kohima is complete a view will be taken on this project.

At present the process for implementation of schemes is being initiated by all concerned.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds under PMGY

3184. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to different States especially Himachal Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana during the last two years; and

(b) the details of plan of the Government to achieve the target set under it and the progress made under it in different States especially in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The State-wise allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) including Himachal Pradesh during the last two years is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) There are six components under PMGY, namely Primary Health Care, Safe Drinking Water, Universal

Elementary Education, Rural Shelter, Nutrition and Rural Electrification. These social sector programmes are primarily in the State sector. While Planning Commission complements the resources of the States for these programmes through allocation of ACA, the implementation of PMGY rests with the State Governments. There are no targets fixed under any of the six sectoral programmes of the PMGY. However, release of funds under PMGY to the States is based on satisfactory progress of implementation of the Programme. Both financial and physical progress under PMGY is being monitored by the Planning Commission.

Statement

State-wise Allocation of ACA under PMGY for 2001-02 and 2002-03

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | States | ACA Allocation 2001-02 | ACA Allocation 2002-03 |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 15911.00 | 15644.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 6817.00 | 6500.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 20112.00 | 19000.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 24579.00 | 24173.00 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 3517.00 | 3435.00 |
| 6. | Goa | 87.00 | 72.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 7256.00 | 7122.00 |
| 8. | Haryana | 1879.00 | 1834.00 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 7908.00 | 7000.00 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 19217.00 | 18000.00 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 7592.00 | 7446.00 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 8415.00 | 8273.00 |
| 13. | Kerala | 7737.00 | 7608.00 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 9225.00 | 8500.00 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 11103.00 | 10917.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---------------|----------|----------|
| 16. | Manipur | 5439.00 | 4800.00 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 4546.00 | 4112.00 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 5041.00 | 4300.00 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 4526.00 | 4526.00 |
| 20. | Orissa | 11038.00 | 10863.00 |
| 21. | Punjab | 4525.00 | 4442.00 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 10797.00 | 10611.00 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 3798.00 | 3000.00 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 11736.00 | 11547.00 |
| 25. | Tripura | 7084.00 | 5000.00 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 37671.00 | 37087.00 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 3907.00 | 7000.00 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 18796.00 | 18490.00 |

[English]

Privatisation of ITDC Hotels

3185. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tourism Development Corporation has privatised some ITDC hotels;

(b) if so, the names of such hotels alongwith the number of Staff, category-wise, who opted for VRS, hotel-wise;

(c) the number of jobs reduced and the annual saving as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to reduce some more jobs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) In terms of the structure approved by the Government of India, 18 hotel properties of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) have been disinvested so far

and one hotel property has been given on long term lease-cum-management contract. In these 19 hotel properties, Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was introduced in 9 hotels prior to disinvestment. The details of the 19 hotels disinvested, the number of employees at the time of disinvestment in these and the number of employees who opted for VRS in hotels where VRS was introduced prior to disinvestment, hotel-wise, are given in the statement enclosed. Category-wise details of hotels where VRS was introduced after disinvestment by the new management are being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(c) Since the hotels were already divested, no savings would accrue either to the Government or ITDC as a result of the rationalisation of manpower in these hotels.

(d) and (e) The Voluntary Retirement Scheme is a continuous process for the purpose of rationalization of surplus manpower in Central Public Sector Undertakings. ITDC announced a fresh round of VRS on 1st December, 2003 for the employees at its Headquarters and regional offices. In response, 215 employees (58 executives and 157 non-executives) have opted for Voluntary Retirement.

Statement

(A) Cases where VRS was not introduced prior to disinvestment and all the staff at the time of disinvestment were taken over by the new management:

| S.No. | Name of Hotel | Total No. of employees at the time of disinvestment |
|-------|---|---|
| 1. | Hotel Bangalore Ashok (including Airport Restaurant) | 396 |
| 2. | LVPB, Udaipur | 87 |
| 3. | Qutab, New Delhi | 176 |
| 4. | Lodhi | 222 |
| 5. | Bodhgaya | 38 |
| 6. | Hassan Ashok | 31 |
| 7. | Madurai Ashok | 61 |
| 8. | TBABR, Mamallapuram | 57 |
| 9. | Agra Ashok | 84 |
| 10. | Chandigarh Project | Nil |

(B) Cases where VRS was introduced prior to disinvestment and the details of employees who have opted for VRS:

| S. No. | Name of Hotel | Total No. of Employees | | | No. of Employees opted for VRS | | |
|--------|---|------------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| | | Exec. | Non-Exec. | Total | Exec. | Non-Exec. | Total |
| 1. | Hotel Airport Ashok, Kolkata (including Airport Restaurant) | 26 | 445 | 471 | 14 | 152 | 166 |
| 2. | Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort | 26 | 335 | 361 | 14 | 191 | 205 |
| 3. | Hotel Manali Ashok | 2 | 17 | 19 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 4. | Hotel Khajuraho Ashok | 3 | 37 | 40 | 2 | 37 | 39 |
| 5. | Hotel Varanasi Ashok | 9 | 105 | 114 | 5 | 25 | 30 |
| 6. | Hotel Aurangabad Ashok (including Airport Restaurant) | 6 | 66 | 72 | 3 | 57 | 60 |
| 7. | Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi | 36 | 544 | 580 | 22 | 280 | 302 |
| 8. | Hotel Indraprastha, New Delhi | 22 | 351 | 373 | 10 | 157 | 167 |
| 9. | Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi | 14 | 143 | 157 | 10 | 48 | 58 |

The employees who did not opt for VRS were transferred to the new management at the time of disinvestment.

[Translation]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Bihar

3186. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applicants wait listed for new telephone connections in Bihar till date;

(b) the number of new connections issued in the State during the last two years and the number of applications received by the department during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) A total of 1.21 lakh applicants are in the waiting list as on 31.12.2003 for new telephone connections in Bihar Telecom Circle.

(b) The number of new connections released by BSNL during the last two years (2001-2003) and the

number of applications received during the same period are as under:

| No. of Connections Released (Lakh lines) | Number of Applications Received (Lakhs) |
|---|--|
| 2.55 | 2.50 |

(c) To clear the waiting list, BSNL has planned a total of 2.5 lakhs DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) to be provided during 2003-04.

[English]

Purchase of Life Saving Machines

3187. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some Central hospitals in Delhi which are not having life saving machines;

(b) whether the Health Ministry has sanctioned and released funds to such hospitals for the purchase of these machines; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken to purchase these essential life saving machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) There is no shortage of life saving

machines in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi. The up-gradation of Central Government Hospitals with machines/equipments including latest life saving equipments based on the needs and availability of financial resources is a continuous process.

Authentication of Certificates

3188. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the job seekers are facing difficulties in getting authentication of certificates from the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether Kerala has requested for the establishment of a regional authentication centre in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Recently some Gulf countries have made the authentication of educational certificates mandatory to obtain work permit visa. From the middle of the last year (i.e., 2003) the number of job seekers indicated their job-destination as gulf countries. Due to this rush of public has increased. To cater to such rush the Ministry has deployed extra staff and also opened an additional counter in New Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) A regional authentication centre in Thiruvananthapuram has been opened recently and has started functioning.

[Translation]

CRF Fund for Madhya Pradesh

3189. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the provision of amount made under CRF for interstate and economically important routes in Madhya Pradesh for the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 and the amount sanctioned so far; and

(b) the time by which remaining amount is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) A provision of Rs. 100.00 crore from the Central Road Fund was made for the entire country during each year of 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 for proval of projects under the scheme of improvement of roads under Inter-State connectivity and Economic Importance. The proposals are approved on the basis of *inter-se* priority and traffic requirement. No proposal against these amounts has been approved for Madhya Pradesh so far.

Promotion of Sanskrit Education

3190. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal seeking sanction of Rs. 68 lakh for development, publicity and promotion of Sanskrit education and Rs. 14 crore for various schemes and programmes with regard thereto have been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of amount provided by the Government for the purpose so far; and

(c) the time by when the balance amount is likely to be provided alongwith the reasons for delay thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The total value of the proposal received from State Government of Madhy Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Sanskrit Board is Rs. 14.89 crores.

(b) and (c) The details of grants approved by Grants-in-aid Committee are given in the statement enclosed. Grants-in-aid Committee meets periodically to examine and recommend proposals and grants are released by the Government as per the recommendation of Committee and availability of funds.

Statement**(A) State Government of Madhya Pradesh**

| S.No. | Item | Amount Proposed (in Rupees) | Amount sanctioned (in Rupees) |
|-------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. | Sanskrit Scholarships High School/Higher Secondary Schools | 4,52,50,000/- | 4,52,50,000/- |
| 2. | Arrangement of Sanskrit Teachers in High School/Higher Secondary Schools | 6,50,76,000/- | — |
| 3. | Modernisation of Sanskrit Pathshalas | 1,31,00,000/- | 131,00,000/- |
| 4. | Sanskrit Teachers Orientation Programmes | 84,28,500/- | — |
| 5. | Kalidas Samaroha | 12,29,000/- | 12,29,000/- |
| Total | | 13,30,83,500/- | 5,95,79,000/- |

(B) Madhya Pradesh Sanskrit Board

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | Sanskrit Day Celebration | 7,73,000/- | — |
| 2. | Kalidas Natya Samaroha | 11,03,250/- | — |
| 3. | Publication of Sanskrit Research Annual Journal | 50,000/- | — |
| 4. | Teacher Teaching Programme | 48,63,000/- | 39,24,875/- |
| 5. | Computer Education in Sanskrit Pathshalas | 68,00,000/- | — |
| 6. | Research Sangoshthi | 2,00,000/- | — |
| 7. | Establishment of Sanskrit Library | 7,20,000/- | — |
| 8. | All Indian Sanskrit Mahaotsav | 5,12,500/- | — |
| 9. | Sanskrit Teaching/Training through Akashvani and computer | 8,50,000/- | — |
| Total | | 1,58,61,750/- | 39,24,875/- |
| Grand Total of A&B | | 14,89,45,250/- | 8,35,03,875/- |

*[English]***Incentives to Rural Postal Staff**

3191. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to provide

better amenities and incentives to the postal staff working
in the villages; and

(b) if so, the programmes drawn up therefor and the
year from which such incentives are proposed to be
given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Justice

Talwar Committee (JTC) constituted to examine system of Gramin Dak Sevaks, their condition of employment, wage structure etc., made various recommendations in this regard which, *inter alia*, covered issues like status, grant of pension, leave including maternity leave etc. The recommendations of the JTC were carefully considered by Group of Ministers (GOM) and thereafter orders were issued by the Government. The package of benefits for Gramin Dak Sevaks extended through the said orders include:

- i. Increase in the allowance of Gramin Dak Sevaks by a factor of 3.25 for the period from 01.01.1996 to 28.02.1998.
- ii. Introduction of the concept of Time Related Continuity Allowance in lieu of monthly allowance related to work load, w.e.f. 01.03.1998.
- iii. Upward revision of the amount of ex-gratia Gratuity from Rs. 8000 to Rs. 18,000.
- iv. Introduction of the concept of paid leave at the rate of 10 days for every half year without the provision of carry forward or encashment.
- v. Increase of office maintenance allowance from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 per month.
- vi. Lump-sum Severance Amount of Rs. 30,000 on discharge of GDS from employment at the age of 65 years or death provided he/she has completed 20 years of continuous employment. However, in case of GDS who has completed 15-20 years of continuous employment, the severance amount will be Rs. 20,000. On absorption to regular departmental post, this amount will be Rs. 20,000 after continuous employment of 15 years.

Under Rural Postal Life Insurance Scheme, incentive/Commission to Gramin Dak Sevaks, Branch Postmasters/Sub Postmasters procuring business of Rural PLI at the rate of Rs. 2.50 per Rs. 1000 of the sum assured is also given. In addition, they are also paid at the rate of 1% of the actual amount of subsequent premium collected.

There is a Scheme under the name Gramin Sanchar Sewa which envisages that Gramin Dak Sevaks who volunteer and fulfil the eligibility criteria for functioning as a franchisee of BSNL for the Mobile PCO Scheme are paid a commission of 20% of the revenue earned by BSNL and also Rs. 5 per incoming call.

The Government does not have a proposal for furtherance of existing amenities/incentives.

Drainage System along Golden Quadrilateral Roads

3192. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether roads under Golden Quadrilateral have been designed having drainage system on both sides along the length of roads;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Roads under the Golden Quadrilateral are being designed with adequate drainage system. Drainage system in urban areas are generally being provided on both sides of the road while in non-urban areas the camber in the pavement/shoulders facilitates discharge of the storm water from National Highways. Median drains, chute drains and cross drainage works are also provided wherever required, as per site conditions.

(c) Does not arise.

Post-construction Stage of National Highways

3193. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that post-construction stage of National Highways and corridors are not maintained effectively and the maintenance part requires to be managed by a separate Division with separate budget;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The National Highways are being effectively maintained in the post-construction stage by a separate Division and Road Maintenance Platoon for National Highways entrusted to the National Highways Authority of India and the Border Roads Organisation respectively. The National Highways entrusted to the State Governments are also being maintained effectively within the available fund by the Public Works Department of the respective State Governments.

Herbal Product to Replace Insulin

3194. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA:

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

(a) whether a herbal product has been found to replace the insulin for diabetic patients; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Government is not aware of any herbal product to replace the insulin for diabetic patients.

(b) The question does not arise.

Rash and Drunken Driving

3195. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether over the past decade the number of rash, negligent and drunken driving with instant deaths is comparatively higher in the age group of 21-34;

(b) whether according to Indian Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 driving with a Blood Alcohol Concentration of 30 mg in 100 ml. of blood is illegal while in USA and many countries in Europe, the limit is 8 mg;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to make the law more stricter by imposing severe punishment to offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No such specific data are collected by this Ministry.

(b) Under Section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, driving or attempting to drive with alcohol concentration of 30 mg per 100 ml of blood is an offence. As per the information available in this Ministry, the limit prescribed in India under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 is stricter than that in Canada, U.K. and many other European countries.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Amendment of Motor Vehicles Act is a continuous process. The Act is amended whenever such a requirement is felt.

Installation of Computer Micro Chips on Degrees

3196. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has issued guidelines to all Universities to get Computer Micro Chips installed on degrees awarded to students to avoid the circulation of fake degrees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps being taken to check the menace of fake degrees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), a decision has been taken in principle to install a small micro-electronic chip that would contain all relevant information about the student etc., in the degrees in order to eliminate the menace of fake university degrees in the country. The UGC has advised the universities to evolve a suitable mechanism for installing of such a microchip in their degrees.

Supply of Vaccine against Encephalitis

3197. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has expressed its inability to supply vaccine against Japanese Encephalitis;

(b) if so, whether in Andhra Pradesh a large number of villages have been identified as high risk areas for Japanese Encephalitis;

(c) if so, whether the State Government has sought any help in this regard from the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh UNICEF supplied 8,05,410 doses of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccine to the State in 2001. However, in the year 2002 against the states' request for one million doses of JE vaccine, UNICEF was unable to make any supplies due to acute global shortage of vaccine. The State Govt., therefore, procured 8.9 lakhs of the vaccine from Vietnam. Around 1008 villages (habitations have been identified in the State as high risk for JE.

(c) and (d) On request from the State Govt. 1.10 lakhs doses of JE vaccine in 2002 and 2 lakhs doses in 2003 were supplied by Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. However, for further supply of additional 2 lakhs doses, the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has asked CRI, Kasauli to defer this consignment till further orders. Besides this, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been provided assistance in the form of technical guidelines and materials like larvicides, insecticides etc. Expert teams have also been sent for field visits.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Poor Patients

3198. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any grant has been allocated for providing financial assistance to the poor patients in Central hospitals, super speciality health institutes like All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Safdarjung Hospital etc. during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years till date; and

(d) the details of the amount spent out of the allocated amount by the each hospital and Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (formerly National Illness Assistance Fund) financial assistance is provided to patients who are living below poverty line and are suffering from major life threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment in Government Hospitals.

(c) and (d) A statement enclosed.

Statement

| Year | Amount allocated under the Budget (Rs. in lakhs) | Amount released (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 2000-2001 | 50.00 | 30.00 |
| 2001-2002 | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| 2002-2003 | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| 2003-2004 (upto January, 04) | 130.00 | 100.00 |

[English]

Setting up of Institutions for Science Studies

3199. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has decided to set up some institutions dedicated exclusively to studies in the field of science in the current year;

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

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which institutions are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) A proposal of the University Grants Commission to establish four National Institutes of Science in the country is under examination.

Disbursement of Funds under MPLADS

3200. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds allocated for schemes under MPLADS during 2003-2004 were not disbursed to the districts;

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

(c) the funds actually disbursed to States, State-wise;

(d) the details of members whose funds have not been sent as yet; and

(e) the time by which the remaining funds are likely to be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Rs. 1580 crore were provided in the budget in the current financial year (2003-04) for implementation of MPLAD Scheme, Rs. 1579.50 crore have already been released to the district authorities.

(c) The State-wise details of funds released during 2003-04 are given in the statement-I.

(d) and (e) Based on the information received upto 30.1.2004 from the District Administrations, including former members' constituencies, 50 Parliamentary constituencies have become eligible for release of funds. List of such MPs is available in statement-II. In order to meet the requirement of funds, a demand for additional grants has been made.

Statement I

| Sl.No. | State | Total (Rs. Crore) |
|--------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Nominated | 22.0 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 119.0 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 6.0 |
| 4. | Assam | 45.0 |
| 5. | Bihar | 105.5 |
| 6. | Goa | 8.0 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 73.0 |
| 8. | Haryana | 30.0 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 11.0 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 21.0 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 83.0 |
| 12. | Kerala | 62.0 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 81.0 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 123.0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|---------------------------|--------|
| 15. | Manipur | 6.0 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 7.0 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 4.0 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 5.0 |
| 19. | Orissa | 64.0 |
| 20. | Punjab | 45.0 |
| 21. | Rajasthan | 69.0 |
| 22. | Sikkim | 3.0 |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 110.0 |
| 24. | Tripura | 6.0 |
| 25. | Uttar Pradesh | 226.0 |
| 26. | West Bengal | 122.0 |
| 27. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 3.0 |
| 28. | Chandigarh | 2.0 |
| 29. | Dadar & Nagar Haveli | 2.0 |
| 30. | Daman & Diu | 2.0 |
| 31. | Delhi | 18.0 |
| 32. | Lakshadweep | 2.0 |
| 33. | Pondicherry | 3.0 |
| 34. | Chhattisgarh | 33.0 |
| 35. | Uttaranchal | 13.0 |
| 36. | Jharkhand | 45.0 |
| Total | | 1579.5 |

Statement II

LOK SABHA

| S.No. | Name | Constituency |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | | |
| 1. | Dr. S. Venugopal Chary | Adilabad |
| 2. | Shri Bodakunt Vankateshwari | Warangal |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------------|
| | Assam | |
| 3. | Shri A.F. Golam Osmani | Barpeta |
| | Biher | |
| 4. | Shri Digvijay Singh | Banka |
| 5. | Shri Nitish Kumar | Barh |
| 6. | Dr. Arun Kumar | Jahanabad |
| 7. | Shri Sharad Yadav | Madhepura |
| 8. | Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh | Vaishali |
| | Gujarat | |
| 9. | Shri P.S. Gadhavi | Kutch |
| | Himachal Pradesh | |
| 10. | Shri Suresh Chandel | Hamirpur |
| | Jammu & Kashmir | |
| 11. | Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen | Baramullah |
| | Kerala | |
| 12. | Shri K. Karunakaran | Mukundapuram |
| | Madhya Pradesh | |
| 13. | Shri Jaibhan Singh Pavaiya | Gwalior |
| | Maharashtra | |
| 14. | Shri Prakash Ambedkar | Akola |
| 15. | Shri Namdeo Harbaji Diwathe | Chimur |
| 16. | Shri Vilas Muttemwar | Nagpur |
| 17. | Shri Suresh Prabhu | Rajapur |
| | Orissa | |
| 18. | Smt. Kumudini Patnaik | Aska |
| 19. | Shri Padmanava Behera | Phulbari |
| 20. | Shri Prasanna Acharya | Sambalpur |
| | Punjab | |
| 21. | Shri Raghunandanlal Bhatia | Amritsar |
| 22. | Shri Jagmeet Barar | Faridkot |
| 23. | Shri Vinod Khanna | Gurdaspur |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 24. | Shri Charanjit Singh Channi | Hoshiarpur |
| 26. | Shri Shamsher Singh | Ropar |
| | Tamil Nadu | |
| 26. | Shri T.R. Balu | Chennai South |
| | Uttar Pradesh | |
| 27. | Shri Ram Rati Bhind | Mirzapur |
| | West Bengal | |
| 28. | Shri Ranen Barman | Balurghat |
| 29. | Shri Nikhilananda Sar | Burdwan |
| 30. | Kumari Mamta Banerjee | Kolkata South |
| 31. | Shri Amar Roy Pradhan | Cooch Behar |
| 32. | Shri Samik Lahiri | Diamond Harbour |
| 33. | Shri Tapan Sikdar | Dum Dum |
| | Pondicherry | |
| 34. | Shri M.O.H. Farook | Pondicherry |
| | Delhi | |
| 35. | Shri Vijay Goel | Chandni Chowk |
| 36. | Shri Madan Lal Khurana | Delhi Sadar |
| | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | |
| 37. | Shri Vishnu Pada Ray | Andaman & Nicobar Islands |
| | Chhattisgarh | |
| 38. | Dr. Raman Singh | Rajnandgaon |

RAJYA SABHA

| S.No. | Name | Nodal District |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | Gujarat | |
| 1. | Shri Keshubhai S. Patel | Junagadh |
| | Himachal Pradesh | |
| 2. | Shri Anil Sharma | Mandi |
| | Maharashtra | |
| 3. | Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla | Mumbai Suburban |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---|------------------------|
| 4. | Shri Suresh Kalmadi | Pune |
| 5. | Shri Yusuf Sarwar Khan alias Dilip Kumar | Pune |
| | Orissa | |
| 6. | Shri Man Mohan Samal | Bhadrak |
| | Punjab | |
| 7. | Shri Sukhbir Singh | Muktsar |
| | Rajasthan | |
| 8. | Dr. (Smt.) Prabha Thakur | Ajmer |
| | Tamil Nadu | |
| 9. | Shri R. Kamaraj | Tiruvapur |
| | Uttar Pradesh | |
| 10. | Shri Shahid Siddiqui | Saharanpur |
| | Nominated | |
| 12. | Dr. Chandan Mitra | Delhi |
| | Former Rajya Sabha | |
| 12. | Shri C.M. Ibrahim | Shimoga (Karnataka) |

Uniform Policy on Private Practice

3201. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Indian Medical Association (Andhra Pradesh Unit) to implement Uniform Policy with regard to the private practice by Government Medical Officers; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The Government have not received any such proposal from the Indian Medical Association (Andhra Pradesh Unit).

Exploitation of Ocean Wealth

3202. SHRI E.M. SADARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a policy to give employment to millions of youths by exploiting the ocean wealth; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No Sir. There is no specific proposal in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

Employment Generation through GQ Project

3203. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment is being generated through Golden Quadrilateral North-South-East-West Highways project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has undertaken any study or survey in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the employment generated since the beginning of the project till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No study or survey has been conducted in this regard. It has, however, been estimated that National Highways Development Project (Golden Quadrilateral and North-South & East-West Corridors) Phase-I, alone would generate employment opportunities of about 180 million mandays.

[Translation]

Naturopathy/Yoga for CGHS Beneficiaries

3204. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Allopathic Doctors of CGHS Dispensaries often do not refer the patients to Naturopathy and Yoga Centres whereas two such recognized Institutes of CGHS are in referral list of hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the patients can directly go to such Centres for treatment; and

(c) if not, the provision for getting treatment in these Centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) CGHS beneficiaries who require referral for treatment in the CGHS recognized Naturopathy and Yoga Centres are granted permission as per the existing Government guidelines. No case has been reported under CGHS Delhi where grant of permission has been refused to a CGHS beneficiary.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(c) Information given in (a) above.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Bihar

3205. SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile phone connections are not available in Madhya Pradesh for the last couple of months;

(b) if so, the action being taken to provide additional mobile phone connections in the State;

(c) the list of persons on waiting list for mobile phone connections in Madhya Pradesh as on November 31, 2003; and

(d) by when connections are likely to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. Private Cellular Operators, namely, M/S Reliance Telecom Ltd, M/S Bharti Cellular Ltd. and M/s BTA Cellcom Ltd., have been providing Mobile Phone connections in Madhya Pradesh wherever their network is operational. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have also been providing cell phone connections in Madhya Pradesh prior to three months wherever their network is operational. However, for the last three months, BSNL has not been in a position to release additional connections owing to constraint in the capacity of the Cellular Network.

(b) Action has been initiated by BSNL for the procurement of equipment for expansion of its cellular network through a fresh tender.

(c) BSNL is not maintaining any waiting list for mobile connections.

(d) New connections are likely to be provided during the next financial year on availability of equipment by BSNL.

Sale of Shares in IBP

3206. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sell its remaining 26 per cent shares in Indo-Burma Petroleum Limited;

(b) if so, whether this 26 per cent Government stake would go to the public through various sources; and

(c) if so, the reasons behind such sale and the modalities, if any, adopted so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The sale of remaining 26% equity shares of IBP Co. Ltd. is in accordance with the disinvestment policy of the Government and the provisions of the Shareholders Agreement. The modality being adopted is an 'Offer for Sale' through the book building route in which the public would participate.

[Translation]

Compensation to Indians in Iraq

3207. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of Indians had suffered loss of property during the recently ended war on Iraq by America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Indians compensated by the Government of Iraq for their financial losses alongwith the number of cases of compensation pending with the Union Government so far; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be paid compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The Government has not received any report of loss of property by any Indian national during the recent war in Iraq.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Completion of Routes

3208. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2460 dated July, 31, 2002 and state:

(a) the period of completion of works pertaining to 38 routes;

(b) whether the department is satisfied with the completed works; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, out of 38 optical fibre routes for a total route length of 102.35 Kilo meters, 34 routes have already been completed by 31st July, 2002. Among the remaining four routes, the two routes where work was in progress earlier, were completed on 11th November, 2002 and 26th March, 2003. The other two routes which were retendered, were also completed on 25th February, 2003 and 22nd August, 2003.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The completion details in respect of all the 38 routes are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Works Awarded to Inexperienced Contractors

| Sl.No. | Scheme Awarded | RKM | Status |
|--------|---|------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Belkheda Tiraha to Sawani OFC Jt. Narasingpur Dt | 3.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 2. | Shrinagar old Exchange to Joteshwar | 4.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 3. | Tele Ex. Umaria to Main Exchange Jt in Narsingpur | 1.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 4 | Khawasa Exchange to Seoni Main OFC Joint | 1.1 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 5. | Sidhi-Beoni Route Joint No. 40 | 0.5 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 6. | Chavi-Mehanwani route | 5.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 7. | Kamehanpur-Jaamuni Shohdol | 1.3 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 8. | Veohari-Budhwa Shohdol | 12.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 9. | Sultanpur-Bineka | 4.1 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 10. | Bajania TE to M.S. 4/2 | 4.6 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 11. | Sukhras-Khampadwa | 5.5 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 12. | Balagaon TE to M.S. | 4.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 13. | Rijgaon TE to Adampur TE | 6.5 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 14. | Bherukheda-TE to Joint 19 | 5.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 15. | Pandanna TE to MS 6K Kme | 4.6 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 16. | Borgaon TE to Joint | 1.2 | Completed in July, 2002 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|---------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| 17. | Barud TE to Joint 11 | 4.8 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 18. | Sival TE to MS 4/0 | 4.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 19. | Khidgaon TE Joint | 3.6 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 20. | Paoda old to New Ex. | 2.5 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 21. | Kampel old to New Ex. | 1.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 22. | Rau old to New Ex. | 0.8 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 23. | Simrol old to New Ex. | 0.2 | Completed on 25.2.2003 |
| 24. | Bhagora old to New Ex. | 1.0 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 25. | Kelod old to New Ex. | 0.5 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 26. | Kannod old to New | 0.2 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 27. | Bijwad old to New | 0.6 | Completed on 22.8.2003 |
| 28. | Kantafoda old to New | 0.2 | Completed on 26.3.2003 |
| 29. | Kumaria old to New | 0.2 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 30. | Fulwadi OFC Jt. to Fulwadi Ex. | 0.6 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 31. | Napakheda to Pipliya | 3.6 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 32. | Barwaha to Asstrya | 3.8 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 33. | Kotra Bujrg to Kottabuaurg Fata | 3.5 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 34. | Barud OFC Joint to Dhalka | 5.0 | Completed on 11.11.2003 |
| 35. | Bhikagaon to Piprod | 1.8 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 36. | Semliya Chalya old to New Ex. | 0.35 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 37. | Kalariya old to New Ex. | 0.4 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| 38. | Lasudia old to New Ex. | 0.3 | Completed in July, 2002 |
| Total | | 102.35 | |

[English]

Retesting of Drugs Samples

3209. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

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

(a) the details of the safeguards provided under the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules available in case the report of a Government Analyst is to be challenged;

(b) whether there is a provision for resting of samples of drugs in the presence of the manufacturers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the drug inspectors are sending samples at the first instance to Central Drug Laboratory, Kolkata instead of other Government approved laboratories; and

(e) if so, the revised guidelines issued by the Drug Controller of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Section 25 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act,

1940, lays down the following provisions in respect of retesting of drugs:

"(3) Any document purporting to be a report signed by a Government Analyst under this chapter shall be evidence of the facts stated therein, and such evidence shall be conclusive unless the person from whom the sample was taken or the person whose name, address and other particulars have been disclosed under section 18A has, within twenty eight days of the receipt of a copy of the report, notified in writing the Inspector or the court before which any proceedings in respect of the sample are pending that he intends to adduce evidence in contravention of the report.

(4) Unless the sample has already been tested or analysed in the Central Drugs Laboratory, where a person has under sub-section (3) notified his intention of adducing evidence in contravention of a Government Analysts report, the court may, of its own motion or in its discretion, at the request either of the complaint or the accused, cause the sample of the drug of cosmetic produced before the magistrate under sub-section (4) of section 23 to be sent for test or analysis to the said laboratory, which shall make the test or analysis and report in writing signed by, or under the authority of, the Director of the Central Drugs Laboratory the result thereof, and such report shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated therein."

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) The officers of Central Drugs Laboratory are appointed by some State Governments as Government Analysts, for testing specific categories of drugs, because of absence of or inadequate testing facilities available in the concerned State. Samples of such drugs only are sent to CDL for testing as Government Analyst at the first instance. Central Drugs Inspector's also send samples of drugs to any one of the Central Drugs Laboratories in the first instance.

Recruitment of Ex-Servicemen In U.S. Force

3210. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of any proposal to recruit Ex-servicemen from India to work under U.S. Force in Iraq;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of media reports regarding recruitment of ex-servicemen/police personnel by a private recruiting firm M/s S N International of Kochi for possible work on security duties in Iraq.

(c) The Government does not normally prevent individual citizens from seeking, in their personal capacity, economic opportunities in India or abroad. However, as provided under the law, and in view of the prevailing security situation in Iraq, the Government is taking necessary measures, including the highlighting of the hazards of working in Iraq at this time.

Vaccines under National Immunisation Scheme

3211. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vaccines being administered under the National Immunisation Scheme;

(b) whether there is any proposal to add more effective vaccines in this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The vaccine which are being administered under National Immunization Programme are BCG (Bacillus Calmette Guerin), DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus), OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine), Measles, DT (Diphtheria and Tetanus) and TT (Tetanus Toxoid).

(b) and (c) The vaccine administered under National Immunization Programme are effective and meets the norms of Indian pharmacopoeia and World Health Organization (WHO) standards. Pilot Project of Hepatitis-B has been started to cover the urban slums of 15 cities and 32 districts.

Transfer Policy In Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

3212. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya follows policy of posting of spouse in the same station or nearer to each other;

(b) if so, the details of the transfer policy;

(c) the number of applications received during the last six months by the JNVs for transfer to Delhi alongwith the details of grounds for transfer;

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon so far;

(e) the number of vacant posts of TGT (Hindi) in JNVs especially in Delhi;

(f) the time by which these are likely to be filled; and

(g) the details of the facilities and leave given to freshly appointed teachers in JNVs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Those regular NVS teachers who seek transfers to the Vidyalaya where his/her spouse is working are given preference in request transfers. Such couples are eligible to make request for transfer irrespective of length of their stay in the present region.

(c) and (d) One application from a lady TGT (Hindi) for transfer from East Imphal to Delhi on the ground that her father expired long back and her mother is alone at Delhi has been received in January, 2004. Since the post of TGT (Hindi) is not vacant in Delhi, the request could not be acceded. Samiti normally consider the transfer requests during annual transfers only. Process for annual transfer during 2004-05 has recently been started and applications are yet to be received. Action will be taken on receipt of applications for transfer.

(e) There are 27 vacancies of TGT (Hindi) in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas as on date. Presently there is no vacancy in any of the JNVs located in Delhi.

(f) The vacant posts are likely to be filled up by April 2004.

(g) Leave to freshly appointed teachers are given as per Government of India rules in this regard. The teachers are also entitled for rent free partially furnished housing in JNV campus, facility of admission to their ward in JNV and free boarding as per rules of the Samiti.

[Translation]

Expansion/Modernisation of Telecom in Jharkhand

3213. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken for expansion/modernisation of the telecommunication network in Jharkhand during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the funds earmarked and spent so far on the above work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The targets for the circles are fixed on yearly basis and the details of expansion/modernisation of the telecommunication network in Jharkhand during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 are given in the statement enclosed. The plan for the year 2004-05 is under finalisation.

(b) The funds earmarked and spent so far on expansion/modernisation works are as under:

| Year | Funds Earmarked (Crores) | Amount Spent (Crores) |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2002-03 | 242.37 | 265.88 |
| 2003-04 | 130.43 | 42.85* |

*Provisional upto January, 2004.

Statement

Details of Expansion/Modernisation of the Telecommunication Network in Jharkhand Circle during Tenth Plan Period

| Sl.No. | Name of Items | Achievements during the years | |
|--------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004* |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Switching Capacity (Lines) | | |
| | Wired Line | 99708 | 26128 |
| | Wireless In Local Loop (WLL) | 31000 | 21500 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|---|--------|-------|
| | Cellular Mobile Telecom Service (CMTS) | 21000 | 49850 |
| | Total Switching Capacity | 151708 | 97478 |
| 2. | Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) | | |
| | Wired Line | 42649 | 12793 |
| | Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) | 16115 | 6201 |
| | Cellular Mobile Telecom Service (CMTS) | 31233 | 62175 |
| | Total DELs | 89997 | 81169 |
| 3. | Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) Route Km. | 895 | 75 |
| 4. | Trunk Automatic Exchanges Capacity (TAX) Circuits | 17,300 | 3000 |
| 5. | Small Exchanges Opened (Nos.) opened | 16 | 2 |
| 6. | Large Exchanges/RSU opened (Nos.) | 13 | 5 |
| 7. | Village Public Telephones (VPTs) on WLL (Nos.) | 7729 | 102 |
| 8. | Village Public Telephones (VPTs) on MARR (Nos.) | 403 | 1430 |

*Achievements are upto December, 2003.

Implementation of MPLAD Works

3214. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether red tapism in bureaucracy leaves a negative impact on the works undertaken under the MPLAD scheme;

(b) if so, whether remedial measures have been proposed by the Government to remedy the situation; and

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) General feed back on the implementation of the Scheme does not indicate towards any negative impact having been created by red tapism in bureaucracy.

(b) and (c) Government regularly monitors the utilisation of funds and promptly looks into reports regarding Scheme's implementation and takes appropriate remedial measures.

Vande Mataram Maternity Scheme

3215. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI RAJAJAH MALYALA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a new scheme 'Vande Mataram' in regard to maternity care and safety; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India in collaboration with Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Society of India (FOGSI) have initiated the scheme for involving Obstetricians and Gynecologists in the private sector for providing health check to pregnant women at their clinics

free of cost on the 9th of every month. The health check will include ante natal care, post natal care and counselling on nutrition and family planning. District Magistrates and Chief Medical Officers have been advised to coordinate the scheme with local branches of the Federation and provide them necessary support as well as take steps to create awareness of the scheme.

[English]

Maltreatment of Indian Workers Abroad

3216. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of maltreatment of Indian workers in South East Asian countries particularly in Singapore have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents alongwith the action taken by the Government; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the Indian workers abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) 55 cases of maltreatment of Indian workers out of approximately 40,000 workers in Singapore were reported during the year 2003. In Malaysia, a few cases of maltreatment were reported during the year 2003. Most of these cases pertain to non-payment of salaries and premature termination of work contract.

(c) The Government is committed to safeguard the interests of Indian workers abroad. Indian Missions/Posts abroad are under instructions to promptly take up such complaints of Indian workers with the local authorities concerned and provide all necessary assistance to them.

Use of Unsafe and Unhygienic Syringes

3217. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report submitted to the Government sometime back by the Indian Branch of an International Organisation "Indian Clean" sponsored by the World Bank,

the percentage of injections administered in the country with unsafe and unhygienic syringes is very high;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken/being taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir. India CLEN (Clinical Epidemiology Network) presented its preliminary report on study of assessment of injection practices in India.

(b) According to study the magnitude of unsafe injection and the total estimated unsafe injection under the Government sector is about 68.8%. Under the private sector it is 59.9%.

(c) Creation of awareness in respect of proper and scientific use of and disposal of syringes is an on going process. The study by India CLEN is a part of this process. The Government of India have initiated following steps to ensure the zero risk injection to the people:

- (i) Standard Operative Procedures on Hospital Associated infections have been made available to all State AIDS Control Societies for further dissemination to various Government hospitals and clinics.
- (ii) Inclusion of use of sterilized syringes and needles in all awareness campaigns of National AIDS Control Programme.
- (iii) Training of medical and paramedical workers on hospital infection control measures including safe injection practices.
- (iv) Supply of needle cutters to various Government hospitals through State AIDS Control Societies.
- (v) Under the immunization programme to ensure proper sterilization of syringes and needles, pressure cooker sterilizes, stoves, assistance to procure fuel, glass syringes and needles are being supplied to all Government health facilities of States and Union Territories.
- (vi) Training on safe-injection practices is being imparted as a part of regular training of all health functionaries.
- (vii) Under the pilot project for introduction of Hepatitis B Vaccine, all vaccines are being administered using Auto Disable Syringes in the

slums of 15 Cities and in 32 districts. Government is also actively considering introduction of Auto Disable Syringes for the immunization programme in a phased manner.

[*Translation*]

Closure of Anganwadi Centres

3218. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close the Anganwadi Training Centres in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the closure of these training centres is likely to adversely affect the scheme;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider to use these training centres for giving advice/training in nutrition to young couples; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) All Anganwadi Training Centres (AWTCs) are temporary in nature and are required to be continued on a year-to-year basis depending upon the training needs and requirements of the States. The State Government is required to utilize the training capacity of each AWTC to the optimal level and after analyzing the requirement of AWTCs, State can close down AWTCs after giving them reasonable notice period. The Government of India does not issue instructions for closure of AWTCs.

(c) and (d) Under the World Bank assisted ICDS Training Programme—Project Udisa, ICDS functionaries are required to be trained so as to provide improved services on nutrition and health to children below six years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers.

[*English*]

Alleged Irregularities in Purchase of Medical Equipments

3219. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of officials in the ministry have been found guilty of misusing funds which were meant for purchase of important medical equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Launching of New Road Project

3220. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI RAMSETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Road Transport has recently launched an ambitious road project under the name of Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana;

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

(c) whether BOT operators have been elected for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the percentage of work pertaining to the "Golden Quadrilateral Project" completed and the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry has undertaken 4-laning of 10,000 km (outside the ambit of NHDP) on BOT basis under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana (PMBJP) as a sequel to Finance Minister's Budget Speech 2003-04. Under this programme, corridors of high traffic density and corridors connecting places of tourist and economic importance are to be four laned on BOT basis based on their feasibility. All the State capitals which are away from NHDP network are also envisaged

to be connected to NHDP network by 4-lane highways under this programme.

So far, Ministry has identified 4376 kms length (State-wise list is enclosed as statement). The BOT bids for 622 km (7 Projects) have been invited and preparation of Detailed Project Reports for about 1050 km is in advance stage. Steps have been taken for preparation of Detailed Project Reports for another 1550 km length. The balance stretches are being identified.

(c) and (d) So far, Ministry has awarded one work on Pune-Nasik road (NH-50) in Maharashtra on BOT basis in a length of 30 km to M/s ATR Infrastructure Private Ltd., Mumbai. Also, 97 entrepreneurs have been empanelled for participating in a competitive bidding process for some of the works being tendered now.

(e) 41% of work pertaining to "Golden Quadrilateral Project" has been completed and an expenditure of Rs. 14169.77 crore has been incurred as on 31st December, 2003.

Statement

State-wise length approved for 4 laning under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana (PMBJP)

| Sl. No. | State | Approved Length of NH under PMBJP (Km) |
|---------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 0 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 22 |
| 3. | Assam | 700 |
| 4. | Bihar | 55 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 128 |
| 6. | Delhi | 0 |
| 7. | Goa | 292 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 0 |
| 9. | Haryana | 58 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 110 |
| 11. | Jammu & Kashmir | 0 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 265 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|----------------|------|
| 14. | Kerala | 30 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 392 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 527 |
| 17. | Manipur | 207 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 230 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 150 |
| 20. | Nagaland | 85 |
| 21. | Orissa | 0 |
| 22. | Pondicherry | 40 |
| 23. | Punjab | 223 |
| 24. | Rajasthan | 186 |
| 25. | Sikkim | 90 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 55 |
| 27. | Tripura | 195 |
| 28. | Uttaranchal | 119 |
| 29. | Uttar Pradesh | 217 |
| 30. | West Bengal | 0 |
| Total | | 4376 |

Present Status of Highways

3221. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made during the calendar year 2003 pertaining to construction of highways connecting Kashmir in the North and Kanyakumari in the South and Gujarat in West with Assam in East;

(b) the target date for completion of these highways; and

(c) by when these highways are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The total length of North-South and East-West Corridors is 7300 km. Widening of

565 km length of these highways has been completed till December, 2003. Out of this 60 km was completed during the calendar year 2003. Construction work in a length of 433 km and Detailed Project Reports in a length of 5747 km are in progress on these corridors.

(b) and (c) The target date of completion of North-South and East-West Corridors is December, 2007.

Registration Policy on Import of Drugs

3222. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the registration policy on import of drugs is applicable in cases where advance licences have been invalidated in favour of indigenous bulk drugs suppliers;

(b) if so, whether export of formulation manufactured and ultimately exported also attract the provisions of the registration policy of the Government where export of medicines to Special Economic Zone (SEZ) area and 100% export oriented units is allowed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir. Advance Licence are being issued to various firms for the import of drugs by DGFT on the basis of the export licence received by them and after satisfying the requirements under EXIM Policy.

(b) and (c) The Directorate General of Health Services has issued O.M. No. 6-2/2003-DC dated 15.07.2003 and 11.09.2003 to the concerned Port Officers allowing the import of certain categories of drugs and drugs imported under Advance Licence, and also drugs imported by units falling under SEZ zones and 100% EOUs without obtaining registration certificates and import licence as required under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder.

Ongoing Projects in Orissa

3223. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the ongoing external area road development projects in Orissa;

(b) the fund released for those projects as on date;

(c) the present progress of each such projects so far; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the construction of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) Sir, it is understood that the Hon'ble Member of Parliament is referring to ongoing externally aided road development projects in Orissa.

There is only one ongoing Externally Aided Road Development Project in Orissa for four laning of NH-5 from km 0.00 (Bhubneshwar) to km 27.8 (Jagatpur) including the Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) work of the project affected persons. The road development works have already been completed. for the R&R, construction of market complex near Jagatpur rotary is being undertaken. An allocation of Rs. 634.25 lakh was made in the annual plan for 2002-03 for this work. However only an expenditure to the tune of Rs. 82,59,026.00 was incurred towards the land cost and payment to project-affected persons during 2002-03. The balance amount could not be utilised due to non finalisation of tender for this work by the State PWD during the year 2002-03. The State PWD have now accepted the lowest tender for this work, during the current year, which is 7% in excess of the sanctioned cost. As per the sanction order, this work was required to be got desanctioned, if the tender exceeds by more than 5%. However as a special case this estimate has not been desanctioned by the Ministry and the State Government has been requested to send revised estimate based on the tender rate.

Offer of New Bus Services by Pak to India

3224. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has offered new bus services to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has examined these offers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) In continuation of Prime Minister's initiative of April 18, 2003 India, on October 22, 2003 proposed a series of measures aimed at promoting people contact between India and Pakistan. These, inter alia, included the proposals for starting a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, and a bus or rail link between Munabao (Rajasthan) and Khokrapar (Sindh). While agreeing to hold discussions on these proposals, Pakistan suggested a bus service between Amritsar and Lahore.

In response to India's proposal for holding technical levels talks for establishment of bus link between Munabao and Khokharapar, and between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad in the week of January 12 and January 19, 2004 respectively, Pakistan has now suggested the dates of March 8-9, 2004 and March 29-30, 2004 for these talks.

Utilisation of Boro-Pits Along Highways

3225. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Boro-pits on both sides along the length of the Highways have been utilised by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for four laning/two laning of Highways;

(b) whether such utilisation of Boro-pits have affected drainage to fields along the length of the roads; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) In some sections, old existing borrow-pits are being utilized (filled) in four laning of the highways.

(b) Filling up of such borrow-pits has not affected the drainage since balancing culverts are being provided wherever required.

(c) Does not arise.

Repair of National Highways in Bihar and Bengal

3226. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Kilometres of National Highways in Bihar and Bengal as on October 31st, 2003 required to be repaired or reconstructed;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any guarantee period of such National Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) As per the assessment made in the Ministry in October 2003, an aggregate length of 1257 kms of National Highways in Bihar and 195 kms of National Highways in West Bengal, entrusted to respective State PWDs, are required to be repaired and reconstructed. Apart from the above, 719 km length of National Highways in Bihar and 770 km in Bengal have been taken up for four laning under NHDP by NHAI.

(c) and (d) There is no guarantee period, but the service life depends upon the type of improvements undertaken, which varies from 3 to 5 years.

Services of Hospital Ship

3227. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the time when the Sompen Hospital Ship arrived in Port Blair;

(b) the details of medical services provided to the tribals since its arrival till date;

(c) whether the services are also likely to be provided to Kamrato and Nancowri which are not regularly visited by medical officers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) August, 2001.

(b) The ship has undertaken 18 trips to primitive tribes/Jarwa areas which include evacuation of serious patients from out lying Islands to Port Blair.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Vessel has already been deployed in the Southern Group of Islands, and plying there under the control of Deputy Commissioner, Car Nicobar.

Declaration of National Highways in Gujarat

3228. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether Gujarat has submitted a proposal to declare a coastal highway of 765 kms as National Highways;

(b) if so, the whether the Government proposes to construct and declare National Highways in the State; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All past proposal, including those of Gujarat, for conversion of State roads into National Highways were returned to the respective State Governments due to fund constraints.

Development of National Highways

3229. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

| | No. of projects under implementation | | No. of pending projects | | No. of projects proposed to be started | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| | Four laning | Total | Four laning | Total | Four laning | Total |
| Entire National Highway network | 131 | 1062 | 0 | 184 | 7 | 205 |
| Bihar | 8 | 59 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 15 |
| Jharkhand | 2 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

In addition to the above, works on 11,358 km are also proposed to be started by the National Highways Authority of India, which includes 524 km in the State of Bihar and 265 km in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) The development of National Highways is a continuous process and is taken up on all the National Highways depending upon traffic intensity, availability of funds and inter-se priority. The State-wise details of

(a) the name of projects being implemented for the development of National Highways and for making the highways four laned in the country, particularly in Jharkhand and Bihar as on date alongwith the number of the projects lying pending and the number of the projects proposed to be started;

(b) the State-wise number of highways for the construction of which the funds have been allocated during the last three years and current year and the latest position of these projects;

(c) the State-wise number of highways being developed in the country especially in Jharkhand and Bihar and the number of the highways that have been excluded from the developmental works;

(d) whether the Union Government review the quality of works pertaining to the sanctioned projects for the development of highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The details of National Highway projects are as under:

National Highways and the present number of projects under implementation are enclosed as statement.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The quality of ongoing works is reviewed by the officers of the Central Government during inspection of the projects, as per the Ministry's extant policy guidelines. These aspects are also discussed during the periodic review meetings with the concerned Executive Agencies.

Statement**State-wise Number of National Highways and Total Number of Projects under Implementation**

| Sl. No. | Name of State | National Highways No. | No. of National Highways | No. of projects under implementation |
|---------|-------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 4, 5, 7, 9, 16, 18, 43, 63, 202, 205, 214 & 219 | 12 | 55 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 52, 52A & 153 | 3 | 7 |
| 3. | Assam | 31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 44, 51, 52, 52A, 52B, 53, 54, 61, 62, 151, 152, 153, & 154 | 21 | 39 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2, 19, 28, 28A, 30, 30A, 31, 57, 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 & 107 | 25 | 59 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 21 | 1 | 1 |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 6, 12A, 16, 43, 78, 200, 202, 216 & 217 | 9 | 58 |
| 7. | Delhi | 1, 2, 8, 10 & 24 | 5 | 4 |
| 8. | Goa | 4A, 17, 17A & 17B | 4 | 2 |
| 9. | Gujarat | NE-1, 6, 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 14, 15, & 59 | 11 | 33 |
| 10. | Haryana | 1, 2, 8, 10, 21A, 22, 64, 65, 71, 71A, 72 & 73 | 12 | 14 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 1A, 20, 21, 21A, 22, 70, 72 & 88 | 8 | 52 |
| 12. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1A, 1B & 1C | 3 | 7 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 2, 6, 23, 31, 32, 33, 75, 78, 80, 98, 99 & 100 | 12 | 22 |
| 14. | Karnataka | 4, 4A, 7, 9, 13, 17, 48, 63, 206, 207, 209, 212 & 218 | 13 | 62 |
| 15. | Kerala | 17, 47, 47A, 49, 208, 212, 213 & 220 | 8 | 36 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 3, 7, 12, 12A, 25, 26, 27, 59, 59A, 69, 75, 76, 78, 79, 86 & 92 | 16 | 117 |
| 17. | Maharashtra | 3, 4, 4B, 4C, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 50, 69, 204 & 211 | 15 | 50 |
| 18. | Manipur | 39, 53 & 150 | 3 | 11 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 40, 44, 51, & 62 | 4 | 32 |
| 20. | Mizoram | 44A, 54, 54A, 54B, 150 & 154 | 6 | 22 |
| 21. | Nagaland | 36, 39, 61 & 150 | 4 | 18 |
| 22. | Orissa | 5, 5A, 6, 23, 42, 43, 60, 200, 201, 203, 215 & 217 | 12 | 52 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 45A & 66 | 2 | 0 |
| 24. | Punjab | 1, 1A, 10, 15, 20, 21, 22, 64, 70, 71, 72 & 95 | 12 | 31 |
| 25. | Rajasthan | 3, 8, 11, 11A, 12, 14, 15, 65, 76, 79, 79A, 89 & 90 | 13 | 45 |
| 26. | Sikkim | 31A | 1 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|---------------|---|----|------|
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 4, 5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 45B, 46, 47, 49, 66, 67, 68, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219 & 220 | 20 | 57 |
| 28. | Tripura | 44 & 44A | 2 | 1 |
| 29. | Uttaranchal | 58, 72, 72A, 73, 74, 87, 94, 108 & 109 | 9 | 21 |
| 30. | Uttar Pradesh | 2, 2A, 3, 7, 11, 19, 24, 24A, 25, 25A, 26, 27, 28, 29, 56, 56A, 56B, 58, 72A, 73, 74, 75, 76, 86, 87, 91, 92, 93, 96 & 97 | 30 | 120 |
| 31. | West Bengal | 2, 6, 31, 31A, 31C, 32, 34, 35, 41, 55, 60, 80 & 81 | 13 | 34 |
| Total | | | | 1062 |

Guidelines for Private Hospitals

3230. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Health Services proposes to review the guidelines for registration of private hospitals in respect of treatment of CGHS beneficiaries in these hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of such hospitals registered with the CGHS where the beneficiaries are treated and their bills are reimbursed by the Government; and

(d) the amount paid to each of these hospitals during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the sabha.

Malaria and Leprosy Eradication Programmes

3231. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NGOs working in the field of Malaria and Leprosy Eradication Programmes;

(b) whether any training and rehabilitation programme is also being implemented by these NGOs;

(c) if so, the Central assistance provided to these NGOs for the above purpose during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by these NGOs during the said period for the identification, training and rehabilitation of Leprosy patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Two National level conferences in New Delhi and a meeting of the NGOs at Guwahati were held in 2003 to encourage NGOs, working in the tribal areas to collaborate malaria control activities. Selection and funding of the NGOs for malaria control is done by concerned State Health Authorities. However, central assistance is given to NGOs for doing Leprosy Surveys, Education & Treatment (SET) work only in defined population. 290 NGOs are working in the field of leprosy in the country.

Total Central Assistance given to the NGOs for SET work during last three years are as under:

| Year | Central Assistance (Rs. In Cr.) |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 2000-01 | 1.20 |
| 2001-2002 | 0.39 |
| 2002-2003 | 0.99 |

The NGOs are carrying out only identification and treatment activities related to leprosy patients.

Setting up of Nursery Schools or Creches

3232. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to set up Nursery Schools or Creches in every Primary School in Rural India;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose;

(d) the time by which there are likely to be set up; and

(e) the names of States which have been selected in this regard in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Funds to AP from CRF

3233. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has requested the centre for release of funds under Central Road funds to the tune of 174 crores to take up the roads renovation works in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation in this regard from the State Government has been received for release of remaining funds; and

(d) whether any representation in this regard from the State Government has been received for release of remaining funds; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for a total release of Rs. 100.41 crore till now under Central Road Fund during 2003-2004.

(c) During 2003-2004, an amount of Rs. 62.38 crores has been released so far.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Condition of National Highways in Bihar

3234. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NH-77, 102, 103 and 104 in Bihar are in dilapidated condition;

(b) whether the Ministry has got inspected the roads and has submitted a report thereon;

(c) whether the funds for improvement of condition of said roads were not released during 2003-04 and whether the State Government has sought release of said funds;

(d) If so, the details of schemes meant for improvement of roads and the details of the action taken so far; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for improvement of condition of these highways and for bringing them upto the national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Some of the stretches of NH-77, NH-102, NH-103 and NH-104 are in bad condition.

(b) Inspection of National Highways is done by Ministry's Regional office and reports are sent to the Ministry.

(c) and (d) The funds are released for a State as a whole and expenditure is booked as the works are completed. During 2003-04, improvements in km 45 to 48.2 (Hazipur-Muzaffarpur section) and reconstruction of bridge in km 16 of NH-77 (Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi section) are proposed, subject to availability of funds.

(e) The development of National Highways is a continuous process and is taken up depending upon availability of funds and inter-se priority.

Division of Border Area Development Fund

3235. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds released from Border Area Development Fund during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the year-wise details of the said amount utilized;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the diversion of the said funds to some other works; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The funds released under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) during the last three years, i.e. for 2000-01, 2001-02 & 2002-03 are Rs. 210 crore, Rs. 194.17 crore and Rs. 325 crore respectively.

(b) As per quarterly progress reports received from all the BADP States 100% funds have been utilized during 2000-01 and 2001-02. An amount of Rs. 215.38 crore has been utilized by the State Governments against the releases of Rs. 325 crore made during 2002-03.

(c) and (d) In case of Rajasthan, a communication was received from Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary, M.P. (Lok Sabha) alleging diversion/misuse of Border Area Development Programme funds in Barmer block. After investigation, schemes which were found to be not conforming to the guidelines of BADP were dropped.

[English]

Language Teachers for Children of Indian Diaspora

3236. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Africa has sought language teachers and educational material for children of Indian Diaspora;

(b) if so, the languages for which teachers have been sought; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) During a meeting between H.E. Mr. Narend Singh, Minister of Education, Culture & Sports of Kwazulu Natal Province of South Africa and Minister of State for Human Resource Development (S&HE) on the

occasion of his visit to India in connection with the Second Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in January 2004, a request for teachers in Maths, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu etc. and education material which would be inexpensive compared to that from their usual sources was made. However, no formal request in this regard has been received from the Government of South Africa.

Setting up of Indian Maritime University

3237. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken decision in the year 1994 to set up an Indian Maritime University (IMU) under an Act of Parliament;

(b) whether a resolution was also adopted in the Union Cabinet to set up the University;

(c) if so, the details of action taken so far in this regard;

(d) whether the Government is considering to introduce a bill in Parliament on the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) In order to make appropriate changes in the institutional framework for imparting maritime training, including the feasibility and desirability of bringing the institutes under a University type of structure, the Government of India in October 1991 set up a Committee on Maritime Education and Training (COMET). The Committee in its report submitted in May 1992 recommended establishment of an autonomous body to manage, control, supervise, direct and monitor the maritime training institutions functioning under Government control. The idea was to form a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Accordingly, the Indian Institute of Maritime Studies (IIMS), Mumbai has been registered as a Society under Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 6th June, 2002.

Setting up of Technology Park

3238. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for setting up of a technology park in Uttar Pradesh with a link up base in Bangalore has been received from Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be approved and assistance provided?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Opening up of a CGHS Dispensary, Vasant Vihar

3239. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any preliminary estimates regarding construction of a CGHS Dispensary at Central Government Housing Complex (CPWD Colony) Vasant Vihar, New Delhi which is pending since long with approved building drawings of the dispensary in the Department of Urban (construction wing), CPWD, Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total amount sanctioned for the purpose and the time by which the CGHS Dispensary building is likely to be constructed; and

(c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) A preliminary estimate of Rs. 93,16,300/-for construction of a CGHS dispensary building at Vasant Vihar has been received from Central Public Works Department. The proposal for opening of a new CGHS dispensary at Vasant Vihar which involves creation of new posts has been included in 10th Five Year Plan. The administrative formalities for construction of the dispensary building can be initiated after the dispensary is sanctioned.

Indians in Foreign Jails

3240. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian lodged in foreign jails with the details of offence against them, country-wise;

(b) the steps taken to provide them legal assistance; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to protect the innocent Indians languishing in foreign jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) A list providing country-wise information on number of Indians in foreign jails is enclosed as statement. The offences involved are illegal entry, illegal overstay, and common criminal offences like fraud, theft, burglary, felony, possession of drugs, misconduct, assault, murder etc.

(b) and (c) Indian Missions abroad provide all possible assistance to Indian nationals in foreign jails, including their early repatriation to India wherever possible, speedy trial, proper treatment and living conditions and ensure that there is no miscarriage of justice.

Statement

| Sl.No. | Country | Number of Indians |
|--------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Algeria | 9 |
| 2. | Argentinian | 3 |
| 3. | Armenia | 1 |
| 4. | Austria | Nil |
| 5. | Australia | 1 |
| 6. | Azerbaijan | Nil |
| 7. | Bahrain | 163 |
| 8. | Bangladesh | 738 |
| 9. | Belgium | 14 |
| 10. | Belize | Nil |
| 11. | Bhutan | 30 |
| 12. | Bolivia | Nil |
| 13. | Botswana | 5 |
| 14. | Brazil | Nil |
| 15. | Brunei | Nil |
| 16. | Bulgaria | Nil |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|-----------------|-----|
| 17. | Burkina Faso | Nil |
| 18. | Canada | 1 |
| 19. | Central African | Nil |
| 20. | Chile | Nil |
| 21. | China | 34 |
| 22. | Colombia | Nil |
| 23. | Comodia | 1 |
| 24. | Comoros | Nil |
| 25. | Cote d'Ivoire | Nil |
| 26. | Croatia | Nil |
| 27. | Cuba | 4 |
| 28. | Cyprus | 49 |
| 29. | Czech Republic | 1 |
| 30. | Denmark | 9 |
| 31. | Djibouti | Nil |
| 32. | El Salvador | Nil |
| 33. | Ethiopia | Nil |
| 34. | Fiji | Nil |
| 35. | Finland | 1 |
| 36. | France | 190 |
| 37. | Germany | Nil |
| 38. | Ghana | Nil |
| 39. | Greece | 198 |
| 40. | Guatemala | Nil |
| 41. | Guinea | Nil |
| 42. | Guyana | Nil |
| 43. | Honduras | Nil |
| 44. | Hong Kong | 39 |
| 45. | Hungary | 3 |
| 46. | Indonesia | 3 |
| 47. | Iran | 4 |
| 48. | Ireland | Nil |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--------------------|------|
| 49. | Israel | 170 |
| 50. | Italy | 39 |
| 51. | Jamaica | 2 |
| 52. | Japan | 2 |
| 53. | Jordan | 4 |
| 54. | Latvia | Nil |
| 55. | Lebanon | 160 |
| 56. | Liberia | Nil |
| 57. | Libya | 11 |
| 58. | Macedonia | Nil |
| 59. | Madagascar | 2 |
| 60. | Malaysia | 568 |
| 61. | Maldives | 12 |
| 62. | Mexico | Nil |
| 63. | Mongolia | Nil |
| 64. | Mozambique | Nil |
| 65. | Myanmar | 50 |
| 66. | Namibia | Nil |
| 67. | Netherlands | 152 |
| 68. | Nicaragua | Nil |
| 69. | Niger | Nil |
| 70. | Oman | 22 |
| 71. | Pakistan | 1182 |
| 72. | Panama | 3 |
| 73. | Papua New Guinea | Nil |
| 74. | Peru | Nil |
| 75. | Poland | 1 |
| 76. | Portugal | 5 |
| 77. | Qatar | 21 |
| 78. | Russian Federation | 120 |
| 79. | Saudi Arabia | 1160 |
| 80. | Serbia and Mont | 5 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|-----------------|------|
| 81. | Seychelles | Nil |
| 82. | Sierra Leone | Nil |
| 83. | Singapore | 345 |
| 84. | Slovak Republic | 12 |
| 85. | Soloman Islands | Nil |
| 86. | South Africa | 3 |
| 87. | Sri Lanka | 3 |
| 88. | Sudan | Nil |
| 89. | Swaziland | Nil |
| 90. | Sweden | Nil |
| 91. | Switzerland | 4 |
| 92. | Syria | 10 |
| 93. | Tajikistan | 1 |
| 94. | Tanzania | 2 |
| 95. | Thailand | 31 |
| 96. | Togo | Nil |
| 97. | Tunisia | Nil |
| 98. | Turkey | 45 |
| 99. | U.A.E. | 597 |
| 100. | U.K. | 233 |
| 101. | U.S.A. | 101 |
| 102. | Uganda | Nil |
| 103. | Ukraine | 231 |
| 104. | Uzbekistan | Nil |
| 105. | Vanuatu | Nil |
| 106. | Vietnam | Nil |
| 107. | Yemen | Nil |
| 108. | Zimbabwe | Nil |
| Total | | 6810 |

Hybrid Mail Services

3241. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had launched Hybrid Mail Services viz e-post and e-bill post last year in certain areas;

(b) if so, the response of the people towards this services vis-a-vis revenue earned; and

(c) the time by when these services are likely to be available in the whole country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) e-Post service was launched as a pilot project on 02 August, 2001 in States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa and Kerala. e-bill Post was launched on 31.1.2002 in Bangalore and Kolkata as a pilot project.

(b) Response of the people towards these services are satisfactory. The revenue generated till now are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| e-bill Post | : | Rs. 29,99,865.00 |
| e-Post | : | Rs. 4,18,686.00 |

(c) e-Post service is extended to the whole country from 30.1.2004. e-bill post service is available throughout the country to be availed by any Service Provider/Biller.

[Translation]

Public Telephone Booths in Bihar

3242. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public telephone booths installed in rural areas of Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the target fixed therefor during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the number of public telephone booths installed in the scheduled districts is far less than those installed in the developed districts of the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to do away with this regional imbalance during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, 10141 PCOs have been installed in rural areas of Bihar during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

(b) to (e) As per the existing policy of BSNL, PCOs are allotted liberally to all applicants above 18 years of age as per their registration subject to technical feasibility. Hence no target has been fixed for installation of PCOs for the Tenth Five Year Plan. The number of PCOs to be installed during the said period depends on the demand. No discrimination is made in installation of PCOs between the scheduled districts and developed districts.

Utilisation of CRF

3243. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether there are reports that the Central Road Fund has neither been utilised properly nor have the works performed thereunder been satisfactory;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government to utilise this fund as per set norms and get the works executed effectively and in right manner; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result of the efforts made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) No such reports have been received in this Ministry.

(c) The funds for Central Road Fund (CRF) are released on the basis of utilisation certificate and the progress reports of the works. The progress of works are reviewed regularly with the officers of the State Government concerned.

(d) During 2002-03, Rs. 950.28 crore was released against the accruals of Rs. 980.00 crore.

[English]

Introduction of Earthquake Monitoring Laboratories

3244. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce earthquake monitoring laboratories in schools all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National School of Seismology Project (NASSP) has evolved strategies for handling the effects of earthquakes on people and infrastructure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA'): (a) and (b) Sir/Madam, the introduction of School Earthquake Monitoring Laboratories is one of the activities identified for implementation under the Mission Mode Project on Seismology during the 10th Plan. The rationale for introducing and setting up of these facilities is to promote a culture of observational/measuring skills and awareness amongst students about earthquake activity in their neighborhood. It is planned to select 100 schools in earthquake prone areas for establishing such laboratories. These areas will cover parts of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and North-east Region. Such facilities will also be created in a few schools in Delhi.

(c) and (d) The National School Seismology Project (NASSP) is an experimental project, which is being initiated for the first time in the country and may not directly evolve strategies for handling the effects of earthquakes on people & infrastructure. However, the awareness & education, proposed to be imparted through this endeavour will definitely help in reducing the impact of future earthquakes.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar

3245. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the availability of telephones per one lakh population during the period of 2000-2003 State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has not included Madhya Pradesh and Bihar in the priority list in order to improve the situation in these States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The availability of telephones per one lakh population during the period of 2000-2003 State-wise is enclosed as statement.

(b) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to provide 2.5 lakhs Telephone lines for Bihar and 1.76 lakhs Telephone lines for Madhya Pradesh during the year 2003-04 to clear the waiting list. Efforts are made on continuous basis to generate demand by holding open house sessions/Telecom exhibitions/Melas for creating telecom awareness among the masses.

Statement

| S.No. | State/Circle | Availability of Telephones per one lakh population | | | |
|-------|--------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 1999-2000 | 2000-2001 | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar. | 6975 | 7634 | 9050 | 9598 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 3165 | 4067 | 4926 | 5661 |
| 3. | Assam | 1064 | 1333 | 1669 | 1945 |
| 4. | Bihar | 601 | 936 | 1084 | 1355 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | * | * | 1221 | 1394 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 4121 | 5370 | 6378 | 7771 |
| 7. | Haryana | 3214 | 4247 | 5068 | 6211 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 4851 | 5309 | 7412 | 8504 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1312 | 1723 | 2158 | 2483 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | * | * | 1394 | 1572 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 3771 | 4695 | 5575 | 6670 |
| 12. | Kerala | 5769 | 7509 | 9506 | 11327 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 1537 | 1806 | 2493 | 3045 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 5180 | 6598 | 7685 | 9154 |
| 15. | North East | 1680 | 1924 | 2416 | 2701 |
| 16. | Orissa | 1197 | 1521 | 1855 | 2288 |
| 17. | Punjab | 5592 | 6950 | 9108 | 11762 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 2032 | 2571 | 3000 | 3474 |
| 19. | Tamil Nadu | 4573 | 5912 | 6846 | 7950 |
| 20. | Uttar Pradesh | 1321 | 1655 | 1864 | 2167 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 21. | Uttaranchal | * | * | 3624 | 3946 |
| 22. | West Bengal | 2093 | 2669 | 3188 | 3757 |
| 23. | Delhi | 15401 | 17705 | 22086 | 27381 |
| | All India | 2822 | 3584 | 4286 | 5109 |

Note: West Bengal includes state of Sikkim.

Kerala includes Lakshdweep.

North East includes Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

Tamilnadu includes Pondicherry.

Maharashtra includes Goa.

Gujarat includes Daman & Diu & Dadar Nagar Haveli.

* Madhya Pradesh includes Chhatisgarh, U.P. includes Utaranchal.

Bihar includes Jharkhand. These states were formed in March'02.

[English]

Prawasi Bharatiya Diwas

3246. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prawasi Bharatiya Diwas was held recently in the capital;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the number of delegates who attended the same;

(c) the main issues raised by the delegates in the said function; and

(d) the response of the delegates with regard to the incentives announced by the Government for PIOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2004 co-organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held on 9-11 January 2004, in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. H.E. Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana was the Chief Guest. 2266 delegates including 1321 from the Indian Diaspora from 61 countries attended the event. The programme included five Plenary Sessions, eleven

Sectoral Sessions/Round Tables and eight Parallel Sessions with various State Governments. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards were conferred on 12 eminent personalities. Two cultural evening were held in which three Diaspora troupes had also taken part. An exhibition on Ethnic Media was organised on the occasion. Another exhibition on Philately on Indian Diaspora was organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

(c) the main issues raised by the delegates were acceleration of the ongoing liberalization processes; reduction of the red tape; removal of requirement of multiple approvals for investments, lack of clarity on existing routes for investors, voting right for NRIs; introduction of a budget air travel, pension schemes for NRIs in the Gulf; creation of a PIO-Special Economic Zone for exporting products to the Diaspora countries and abolition of dual tariffs for PIOs/NRIs.

(d) Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcements on permitting Indian corporates/registered partnerships to invest upto 100% of their net worth overseas, removal of all restrictions on corporates' undertaking agricultural activities abroad, and reservation of one third of the 15% supernumerary seats, across different disciplines earmarked for foreign/PIOs in educational institutions for the children of Indian workers in the Gulf countries, were received with appreciation and enthusiasm.

[Translation]

ICDS Scheme in Madhya Pradesh

3247. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

* ,

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to approve State project monitoring unit and district level ICDS Cell under ICDS-III project for Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no provision for a Project Management Cell at State Level or for ICDS Cells at District Level under the World Bank assisted Centrally Sponsored ICDS-III Project in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The Project is to be implemented by State Cell/ICDS Directorate at State Level using the infrastructure of ICDS (General) Scheme.

[English]

Shelter by China to ULFA

3248. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that ULFA organizations have now sought refuge in China as reported in the Statesman dated December 29, 2003.

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Chinese Government and other neighbouring countries not to provide any shelter to ULFA organizations;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the neighbouring countries in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) "Media reports regarding a letter addressed to the Chinese Government by ULFA, requesting safe passage through Chinese territory for members of insurgent groups seeking to escape the armed operations against them being carried out by the Royal Government of Bhutan, were brought to the attention of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in New Delhi. The Embassy was requested to convey this information to the Chinese Government for appropriate action.

In response, the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi has conveyed that the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the development of its friendly and cooperation relations with India; that China has always followed the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and will not allow its territory to be used by anybody for activities against other countries; that the Chinese side has not received any letter of the kind referred to in media report; that it will closely monitor the development of the situation; that they believe that the Chinese frontier forces are capable of safeguarding the security and stability of their border areas; and that the Chinese side has taken note of the concern of the Indian side in this regard and would keep in touch with the Indian side on these matters".

The matter of Indian insurgent activities in Bangladesh has been repeatedly taken up at various levels with the Government of Bangladesh, most recently during the DG level talks between the BSF and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDF) held from 5-9th January, 2004. Similarly, the matter of Indian insurgent activities in Myanmar has been taken up at various levels with the Government of Myanmar. Both countries affirm that they will not permit such activities within their territories.

We have a bilateral mechanism with Nepal under which regular meetings/exchange of views on matters of mutual interest take place. Nepal understands our concerns and generally acts keeping our interests in mind.

Introduction of New Course in Rheumatology

3249. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Andhra Government for starting a new Course viz. MD in Rheumatology in the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accorded the sanction therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when the Government proposes to clear the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) A proposal has been received from Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad seeking permission to start DM-Rheumatology course at the

Institute. The Medical Council of India nothing various deficiencies in the Institute found at the time of inspection has not recommended for giving permission for starting DM-Rheumatology course. The deficiencies have been communicated to NIMS for rectification and in accordance with the provision of the Indian Medical Council Act and the Regulations framed thereunder. The grant of permission to NIMS for starting DM-Rheumatology by the Central Government would depend upon rectification of the deficiencies and availability of the necessary infrastructure facilities as per the norms of Medical Council of India.

Extension of East-West Corridor

3250. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the proposed East-West Corridor at Silchar, which is in Southern Assam, the Government has literally left out the Eastern most part of the North-Eastern region from the network;

(b) whether there is also mounting populate demand for extension of the East-West Corridor from Nagaon to Jagun, the Eastern most tip of Indian map in the North-Eastern Region; and

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to approve such extension of the East-West Corridor touching the Eastern most tip of the Indian map?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to extend the East-West Corridor beyond Silchar. However, all the State capitals in the North Eastern region not connected to the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) i.e. the Golden Quadrilateral and North-South & East-West Corridors are to be connected to the NHDP network under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana (PMBJP). The demand for construction of a four-lane highway from Nagaon to Jagun is presently not under consideration.

According Universities of Excellence Status

3251. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to declare some more universities as "Universities with Potential for Excellence";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms prescribed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), it is envisaged to identify five more universities under the Scheme 'Universities with Potential for Excellence' during the X Plan. The final decision to grant the status is taken by the UGC on the basis of the recommendations of an expert committee constituted for this purpose. The expert committee prepares its recommendation after examining the proposals received from the universities and after a detailed presentation is made before the Committee by the universities.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries

3252. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI C.N. SINGH:

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) foreign dignitaries who visited India since December, 2003 till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of the dignitaries;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The following foreign dignitaries visited India since December, 2003 till date:

Nepal:

(a) HRH Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev, Crown Prince and HRH Himani Rajya Lakshmi Devi Shah, Crown Princess are on visit to India from January 18 to February 1, 2004.

(b) Courtesy calls on President, Vice-President and Prime Minister were made.

(c) No.

(d) Nil.

Myanmar:

(a) and (b) Mr. U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar visited India from December 22-23, 2003 to attend Ministerial Meeting on India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project linked Moreh (India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) through Bagan (Myanmar). The meeting was held in New Delhi on 23rd December 2003.

(c) Nil.

(d) Not applicable.

Sri Lanka:

(a) to (d) Mr. Tyrone Fernando, Minister of Foreign Affairs has visited India from 29 to 30th January, 2004. Bilateral relations were discussed during the visit.

SAARC:

(a) The SAARC Secretary General visited India on December 16-18, 2003.

(b) The Secretary General was invited for informal consultations in connection with the 12th SAARC Summit. The preparations for the Summit and the Agenda items to be taken up at the Summit were discussed during his visit.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

Thailand:

(a) to (d) Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Foreign Minister of Thailand visited India from December 21-23, 2003 to attend Ministerial meeting on India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project linking Moreh (India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) through Bagan (Myanmar). No bilateral agreement was signed.

Singapore:

(a) Mr. Lee Hsien Loung, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Singapore visited India from January 10-17, 2004.

(b) Issues of bilateral, regional and international significance were raised with the visiting dignitary.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

Mongolia:

(a) Prime Minister of Mongolia, Mr. N. Enkhbayar visited India on January 14-19, 2004.

(b) Both sides held discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

(c) and (d) Three agreements/MOUs in the fields of Animal Health and Dairy, Space Science, Technology and Applications; and Biotechnology were signed. A Joint Statement was also issued at the end of the visit.

Republic of Korea (ROK):

(a) Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of ROK, Dr. Yoon Young-Kwan visited New Delhi on December 21-23, 2003.

(b) The second session of the Indo-ROK Joint Commission was held during the visit. Both sides held discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

(c) and (d) Agreed Minutes of the Indo-ROK Joint Commission were signed.

Bahrain:

(a) and (b) His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, accompanied by a high-level delegation, paid a State Visit to India from January 11-14, 2004. During the visit, deliberations were held on the following issues:

- (i) Bilateral Relations.
- (ii) International Developments.
- (iii) Terrorism.
- (iv) Non-Aligned Movement.
- (v) Establishment of a Palestinian State.
- (vi) Role of UN in Iraq.

His Highness the Prime Minister of Bahrain also attended a business interaction session organised by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

(c) and (d) The following agreements were signed between India and Bahrain during the visit of the Prime Minister of Bahrain.

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Ministries of Foreign Affairs;

- (ii) Agreement on Juridical and Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters;
- (iii) Extradition Treaty;
- (iv) Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; and
- (v) Agreement on the Promotion and Protection of Bilateral Investment.

Mauritius:

I. (a) and (b) Shri Pravind Jugnauth, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius visited India during 8th-10th January, 2004 at the invitation of Dr. L M Singhvi for the Second Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrations.

(c) and (d) Discussions on enhancing the already close and friendly bilateral relationship was held.

II (a) Shri Jaya Krishan Cuttaree, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation Government of Mauritius visited India during 6th-10th January, 2004 to co-chair the Indo-Mauritius Joint Commission meeting.

(b) Deliberations were held on political issues, India's Cooperation with SADC and COMESA, Cooperation in the field of Terrorism, Science and Technology (including IT), Oceanography and Non-conventional Energy resources, Environment, Culture, Civil Aviation, ITEC Training, Consular matters including facilitation of visa to Indian businessmen, new projects in Mauritius, important pertaining to Indian companies including PSUs in Mauritius, review of Bilateral Trade and agreement, Cooperation in Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters including anti-narcotics, Cooperation in Defence including purchase of offshore patrol vessel and helicopter by Mauritius and naval surveillance of exclusive economic zone of that country and conclusion of a comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

(c) and (d) Agreement was reached by both sides to increase bilateral trade and two way flow of investments, adoption of a liberal visa regime and non-restrictive labour policy, enhancement of interaction through the Joint Business Council to expand trade and commercial relations and an agreement to conclude a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) at the earliest.

Romania:

(a) to (d) Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu, President of the Senate of Romania led a Romanian Parliamentary

delegation to India from 14-18 December 2003. Bilateral issues, including economic cooperation and interaction between the Parliaments, were discussed during the visit.

Sweden:

(a) Swedish Prime Minister, Goran Persson visited India from 9-11 January, 2004.

(b) Bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest were discussed.

(c) No agreements were signed during the visit.

(d) Not applicable.

Brazil:

(a) President of Brazil H.E. Mr. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva visited India from 25-28 January 2004.

(b) Wide-ranging discussions relating to co-operation in various fields between India and Brazil were held during his visit.

(c) and (d) Following bilateral Agreements were signed:

- (i) Agreement on exemption of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic passports;
- (ii) Co-operation Agreement in the field of Tourism;
- (iii) Framework Agreement on Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;
- (iv) Programme of Co-operation for 2004 between ISRO and the Brazilian Space Agency AEB.
- (v) Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and MERCOSUR.
- (vi) Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Brazil.

Guyana:

(a) The President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana H.E. Mr. Bharat Jagdeo visit India from 6-13 January, 2004 as the Chief Guest for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

(b) Bilateral issues including construction of a cricket stadium, extension of concessional line of credit for modernization of sugar plants in Guyana were discussed. International issues of importance to both the countries were also discussed.

(c) & (d) No Agreement were signed.

Paraguay:

(a) to (d) Ms. Leila Rashid, Foreign Minister of Paraguay visited India on 25-26 January, 2004 as part of the delegation from MERCOSUR to sign the Preferential Trade Agreement between India and MERCOSUR. She also had bilateral meeting with EAM and discussed matters of mutual interest. No bilateral agreement was signed.

Surrender of NHAI Engineers

3253. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHAI has surrendered some of the Engineers;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Most of the Engineers in National Highways Authority of India are appointed on deputation basis from Central Government/State Governments and organizations under the Central Government/State Governments. The deputation is initially offered for a period of two years which is extended based on the performance of the officer. On completion of period of deputation, the officers are repatriated to their parent organizations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Companies In Road Construction Projects

3254. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent in Eighth and Ninth Plans on highways;

(b) the mechanism used by State and Centre to distribute the Highway construction works either through Indian tenders or global tenders; and

(c) the names of foreign companies working in India in the road construction projects and the amount involved in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Rs. 21,765.18 crore has been spent on the development and maintenance of National Highways during Eighth and Ninth Plan.

(b) The contracts for National Highway works are awarded on the basis of international competitive bidding and local competitive bidding depending on the value and type of works. The contracts for externally aided projects are awarded on the basis of terms and conditions of external funding agencies.

(c) The details in respect of foreign contractors engaged in National Highways Development Projects are enclosed as statement.

Statement

Name of Foreign Contractors, their Nationality and the Project Costs. (Status upto 31.12.2003)

| Sl. No. | Name | Nationality | Project Cost (Rs. in Crore) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Foreign Contractors | | | |
| 1. | China CCAL Const. Group Corp. | Chinese | 261.22 |
| 2. | Centrodorstroy Russia | Russian | 372.40 |
| 3. | Centrodorstroy Russia | Russian | 286.00 |
| 4. | LG Engg. Construction Ltd. | Korean | 230.55 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------|--|-----------------|---------|
| 5. | Gamuda Malaysia-WCT Malaysia | Malaysian | 350.00 |
| 6. | Consortium of Gomuda (Malaysia) & WCT Engineering (Malaysia) | Malaysian | 432.40 |
| 7. | SABTG Consortium of AIDC Group (USA), Stradc (Phillipines) | Phillipines-USA | 641.00 |
| 8. | RBM-PATI (JV) | Malaysian | 393.00 |
| 9. | M/s Bumi Hiway | Malaysian | 71.18 |
| 10. | CIDB Malaysia | Malaysian | 138.65 |
| Total: | | | 3176.40 |

Foreign Contractors in Joint Venture

| | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1. | M/s PATI-BEL | Malaysian-Indian | 348.44 |
| 2. | IT Thai & Som Dutt Builders India (JV) | Thai-Indian | 323.62 |
| 3. | M/s PCL-Sunway Berhad | Indian-Malaysian | 467.93 |
| 4. | Saangyong Korea-Oriental SE India | Korean-Indian | 243.61 |
| 5. | Progressive Cost. Ltd. & Sunway Berhad | Indian-Malaysian | 399.75 |
| 6. | ECSB-JSRC | Malaysian-Indian | 164.25 |
| 7. | Madhucon Binapuri | Malaysian-Indian | 161.20 |
| 8. | LG Engg. & Construction Co. & Nagarjun Const. Ltd. | Korean-Indian | 365.00 |
| 9. | SKEC-DODSAL | Korean-Indian | 275.58 |
| 10. | LG Constructions-Patel Engineering | Korean-Indian | 174.59 |
| 11. | ELSAMEX-TWS-Shanker Narayan Shetty | Spain-Indian | 227.25 |
| 12. | Sumbher Mitra Jaya-Rohit Kumar-Sri Durga Construction | Indonesian-Indian | 189.68 |
| 13. | Progressive-STICCO | Indian-South Arabian | 225.00 |
| 14. | BUMI-HIWAY-DDBL | Malaysian-Indian | 256.55 |
| 15. | You one-Maharia | South Korean-Indian | 171.97 |
| 16. | GMR-TUNI-Ankapalli Express Ltd. | Indian-Malaysian | 283.20 |
| 17. | LIMAK-SOMA | Turkish-Indian | 323.35 |
| 18. | IJM-GAYATN | Malaysian-Indian | 319.21 |
| 19. | HO-HUP-Simplex | Malaysian-Indian | 321.41 |
| 20. | Satav Constt. Pvt. Ltd. & Dena Rehsaz | Indian-Iranian | 97.90 |
| 21. | Sunway Constt.-Berhad & R.N. Shetty & Co | Malaysian-Indian | 115.90 |
| 22. | Sunway Constt.-Berhad & R.N. Shetty & Co | Malaysian-Indian | 279.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|---|------------------|---------|
| 23. | UEM-ESSAR | Malaysian-Indian | 241.00 |
| 24. | UEM-ESSAR | Malaysian-Indian | 318.00 |
| 25. | Dolomite Berhad-al Sudershan | Malaysian-Indian | 104.00 |
| 26. | UEM-ESSAR | Malaysian-Indian | 340.00 |
| 27. | You one-Maharia | Korean-Indian | 71.00 |
| 28. | You One-Maharia | Korean-Indian | 88.00 |
| 29. | Hyundai-HCC | Korean-Indian | 219.78 |
| 30. | Tambaram-Tindivanam Express Way Pvt. Ltd. (Consortium of GMR Construction & UC Malaysia) | Indian-Malaysian | 375.00 |
| 31. | CWHEC-HCIL | Chinese-Indian | 273.00 |
| Total | | | 7727.17 |

[Translation]

Gratuity to Teachers

3255. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently ruled that the teachers are not entitled for gratuity at the time of their retirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether this ruling will also be applicable to the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas; and

(d) if so, by when it will be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court of India in their judgment dated 13th January, 2004 in a matter between Ahmedabad Pvt. Primary Teachers' Association Vs Administrative Officer & others have ruled that teachers who are mainly employed for imparting education are not intended to be covered for extending

gratuity benefits under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. The implications of the judgement dated 13.1.2004 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of the schools administered through Central Government institutions is being examined.

Health Care Facilities in North-East Region

3256. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Health Care system in North-Eastern States in jeopardy resulting in decrease in average age as reported in Daily Hindi Hindustan dated January 22, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to upgrade the health care facilities in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Provision of Health Care facilities in the States is the primary responsibility of the respective State Governments. The Government of India, however, is extending support to the Health Care systems of various State Governments, including North-Eastern States. 10% of the budget outlay of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is earmarked exclusively for North-Eastern States, for implementing various disease control programmes

(including HIV/AIDS, Malaria, TB, Drug-de-addiction etc.) and for augmenting health care infrastructure in the North-Eastern region under the Prime Minister' package for North-Eastern States, North-Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Science (NEIGRIHMS) is being set up at Shillong with 500 bedded capacity with 35 speciality/superspeciality treatment facilities. This is likely to be completed by 2005. Apart from this, from non-lapsable pool, funds are provided by Department of North-Eastern Region (DONER) for various developmental activities, which also includes strengthening and upgradation of health care systems.

[English]

Non-Acceptance of LOC by Pakistan

3257. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has ruled out accepting LOC as border to resolve the Kashmir issue as reported in the Statesman dated January 11, 2004;

(b) if so, whether Foreign Secretary level talks were held recently to resolve the Kashmir issue;

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the Kashmir issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government have seen the report in the Statesman of January 11, 2004 in which the President of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf, was quoted as stating that Pakistan had neither accepted the idea of making the LOC a permanent border nor was there any question of accepting it in the future.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It has been the consistent position of the Government that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. India is committed to accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

District Primary Education Programme

3258. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are Special Provisions for the education of disabled children in District Primary Education Programme and also for the special training of teachers under the said programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Provision for the education of children with mild & moderate disabilities under the District Primary Education Programme includes funding for community sensitization, early detection of disabilities, special training for teachers, resource support, aids and appliances and barrier free access to primary schools. Provisions for teacher training include a general orientation of all teachers to integrated education as well as specialized training for 45 days for developing resource teachers.

Cases Registered by CBI

3259. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of cases under investigation of CBI so far;

(c) the number of cases posted for trial;

(d) the number of cases pending till the date;

(e) the persons booked in those cases and the extent of recoveries made; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to dispose off the cases early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) CBI registered 1105, 1159, & 1068 cases in the years 2001, 2002 & 2003 respectively.

(b) 1435 cases were under investigation as on 31.12.2003.

(c) The number of cases sent up for trial during the years 2001, 2002 & 2003 were 606, 721 & 718 respectively.

(d) The number of cases pending trial as on 31.12.2003 was 6327.

(e) 5520, 3840 & 3435 persons were involved and properties of approximately Rs. 18.52 crore, Rs. 32.24 crore & Rs. 16.45 crore were seized/detected during the years 2001, 2002 & 2003 respectively.

(f) 28 Special Judge and 7 Magisterial Courts are already functioning exclusively for trying CBI cases in various States. Based on pendency figures, 12 Special Courts and 6 Magistrate Courts have been identified by the Central Government in 8 States and 1 Union Territory to exclusively handle the CBI cases. More than 280 Special Counsel have been appointed to conduct prosecution in the trial Courts.

Reduction of Tariff by NPC

3260. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation proposes to reduce tariff to the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The tariff reduction measures include:

- Discontinuation of Research and Development (R&D) Levy.
- Discontinuation of Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) Levy.

- Review of Heavy Water Pricing.

- Pre-payment of Government loans.

The notifications, in respect of the above, have recently been issued by the Government of India. The likely impact of the above measures in reduction of nuclear power tariffs is about 27 Paise/kWh on an average. In addition, the proposal for reduction of the rate of depreciation is also under consideration. The expected depending upon the station.

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in U.P.

3261. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the existing capacity of various telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh with a view to bring about improvement in telecom services in the State;

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

(c) the total expenditure involved for the purpose; and

(d) the time by which the expansion plan is likely to be completed?

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

(b) There is a proposal to expand the capacity of existing telephone exchanges by 42016 lines in Uttar Pradesh (East) and by 69202 lines in Uttar Pradesh (West) telecom circle during 2003-04. The details of the exchanges which are proposed to be expanded are given in the statement-I and statement-II.

(c) The approximate expenditure involved in expansion of existing exchanges shall be Rs. 71.4 crore in UP (East) and Rs. 118 crore in UP (West) telecom circle respectively.

(d) The proposed expansions are likely to be completed by 31.03.2004.

Statement I

Details of existing exchanges proposed to be expanded during 2003-04 in Uttar Pradesh (East)

| S.No. | Name of SSA | Name of Exchange | Capacity proposed to be expanded |
|-------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Barabanki | Barabanki | 1000 |
| 2. | Ballia | Ballia | 4000 |
| 3. | Ballia | Chhitauna | 816 |
| 4. | Ballia | Manyar | 816 |
| 5. | Basti | Kaiwari | 696 |
| 6. | Basti | Parsurampur | 696 |
| 7. | Deoria | Bhaluani | 664 |
| 8. | Deoria | Bhatni | 816 |
| 9. | Deoria | Fazilnagar | 100 |
| 10. | Deoria | Kuberasthan | 848 |
| 11. | Deoria | Rampur Karkhana | 632 |
| 12. | Fatehpur | Bahuwa | 56 |
| 13. | Fatehpur | Fatehpur | 1000 |
| 14. | Fatehpur | Malwan | 696 |
| 15. | Fatehpur | Mohamadpur Gonti | 56 |
| 16. | Faizabad | Gosaiganj | 1000 |
| 17. | Faizabad | Sadatganj | 1000 |
| 18. | Gonda | Shreeduttganj | 348 |
| 19. | Ghazipur | Ghazipur | 2000 |
| 20. | Ghazipur | Nonahara | 848 |
| 21. | Hamirpur | Charkhari | 1000 |
| 22. | Jhansi | Bharari | 348 |
| 23. | Jhansi | Madora | 348 |
| 24. | Jaunpur | Baraipar | 140 |
| 25. | Jaunpur | Jaunpur | 4000 |
| 26. | Kanpur | Benajhabar | 2000 |
| 27. | Kanpur | Kakadev | 1000 |
| 28. | Kanpur | Lajpatnagar | 1000 |
| 29. | Kanpur | Rataninagar | 1000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| 30. | Kanpur | Shyamnagar | 1000 |
| 31. | Lucknow | Indiranagar | 3000 |
| 32. | Lucknow | Jankipuram | 1000 |
| 33. | Lucknow | LDA sector (G) | 1000 |
| 34. | Lucknow | Rajaipuram | 1000 |
| 35. | Lucknow | Sahara State | 1000 |
| 36. | Mirzapur | Renu Sagar | 800 |
| 37. | Pratapgarh | Nawabganj | 176 |
| 38. | Raebareilly | Raebareilly | 4000 |
| 39. | Unnao | Badarka | 316 |
| Total | | | 42016 |

Statement II

Details of existing exchanges proposed to be expanded during 2003-04 in Uttar Pradesh (West)

| S.No. | Name of SSA | Name of Station | Capacity proposed to be expanded |
|-------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Agra | AG Madhunagar | 750 |
| 2. | Agra | AG Shalimar | 500 |
| 3. | Agra | Hazaripur | 664 |
| 4. | Agra | Agra | 0 |
| 5. | Agra | Braulikheer | 616 |
| 6. | Agra | Kalakheria | 696 |
| 7. | Agra | Khandoli | 1000 |
| 8. | Agra | Digner | 164 |
| 9. | Agra | Kheragarh | 400 |
| 10. | Agra | Tundla | 500 |
| 11. | Agra | Achnera | 500 |
| 12. | Agra | Bah | 500 |
| 13. | Agra | Fatehbad | 500 |
| 14. | Agra | Ferozabad | 500 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|---------------|-------------------|------|
| 15. | Agra | Kagarol | 500 |
| 16. | Bareilly | Hasharpur Matkali | 316 |
| 17. | Bareilly | BR-Hartmann | 500 |
| 18. | Bareilly | Pitamberpur | 500 |
| 19. | Bareilly | Aonla | 500 |
| 20. | Bareilly | Baheri | 500 |
| 21. | Bareilly | Bareilly | 500 |
| 22. | Muzaffarnagar | Chausana | 616 |
| 23. | Muzaffarnagar | Garhi Abdullah | 664 |
| 24. | Muzaffarnagar | Khatauli | 700 |
| 25. | Muzaffarnagar | Thanabhawan | 500 |
| 26. | Muzaffarnagar | Muzaffarnagar | 500 |
| 27. | Muzaffarnagar | Budhana | 500 |
| 28. | Muzaffarnagar | Juyhana | 500 |
| 29. | Muzaffarnagar | Khatauli | 500 |
| 30. | Bijnore | Saowalla | 700 |
| 31. | Bijnore | Padli | 0 |
| 32. | Bijnore | Veenuwalla | 500 |
| 33. | Bijnore | Chandpur | 500 |
| 34. | Bijnore | Bijnore | 500 |
| 35. | Bijnore | Dhampur | 500 |
| 36. | Bijnore | Nagina | 500 |
| 37. | Saharanpur | Chilkana | 500 |
| 38. | Saharanpur | Ambeta | 500 |
| 39. | Saharanpur | Taharpur | 2000 |
| 40. | Saharanpur | Behat | 500 |
| 41. | Saharanpur | Deoband | 500 |
| 42. | Saharanpur | Gangoh | 500 |
| 43. | Noida | M S Nagar | 1000 |
| 44. | Noida | Dankaur | 700 |
| 45. | Noida | Neemka | 1000 |
| 46. | Noida | G Noida-Della | 1000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-----------|------------------|-------|
| 47. | Noida | Noida | 10000 |
| 48. | Etah | Amapur | 132 |
| 49. | Etah | Etah | 1000 |
| 50. | Etah | Malawan | 152 |
| 51. | Etah | Moinudinpur | 152 |
| 52. | Etah | Noohkhera | 152 |
| 53. | Etah | Pilua | 152 |
| 54. | Etah | Thana Daryabganj | 152 |
| 55. | Etah | Sirsa Tippu | 152 |
| 56. | Etah | Etah | 500 |
| 57. | Etah | Kasganj | 500 |
| 58. | Etah | Ahganj | 500 |
| 59. | Etah | Jalesar | 500 |
| 60. | Aligarh | Sasni Gate | 500 |
| 61. | Aligarh | Uer-Mir Road | 500 |
| 62. | Aligarh | Sasai | 500 |
| 63. | Aligarh | Jartari | 400 |
| 64. | Aligarh | Barla | 152 |
| 65. | Aligarh | Wazidpur | 152 |
| 66. | Aligarh | Hathras | 500 |
| 67. | Aligarh | Atroli | 500 |
| 68. | Aligarh | Sikandra Rao | 500 |
| 69. | Aligarh | Jattari | 500 |
| 70. | Ghaziabad | Hapur | 500 |
| 71. | Ghaziabad | Modinagar | 500 |
| 72. | Ghaziabad | Garhmukteshwar | 500 |
| 73. | Mathura | Sadabad | 500 |
| 74. | Mathura | Ohhankara | 500 |
| 75. | Mathura | Baldev | 500 |
| 76. | Mathura | Kutwan | 152 |
| 77. | Mathura | Lohai | 152 |
| 78. | Mathura | Mathura | 500 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|--------------|---------------|------|
| 79. | Mathura | Sadabad | 500 |
| 80. | Mathura | Chatta | 500 |
| 81. | Badaun | Bisouli | 0 |
| 82. | Badaun | Badaun Main | 1000 |
| 83. | Badaun | Islamia RSU | 500 |
| 84. | Badaun | Badaun | 500 |
| 85. | Badaun | Bilsa | 500 |
| 86. | Badaun | Gunnaur | 500 |
| 87. | Bulandshahar | Agouta | 500 |
| 88. | Bulandshahar | Gulaorbi | 500 |
| 89. | Bulandshahar | Palasu | 500 |
| 90. | Bulandshahar | Shikarpur | 500 |
| 91. | Bulandshahar | Aurangabad | 500 |
| 92. | Bulandshahar | BSR-Bhoor | 0 |
| 93. | Bulandshahar | BSR Motibagh | 0 |
| 94. | Bulandshahar | Khurja | 0 |
| 95. | Bulandshahar | Sikandra | 500 |
| 96. | Bulandshahar | Bulandshahar | 500 |
| 97. | Bulandshahar | Debai | 500 |
| 98. | Bulandshahar | Siyana | 500 |
| 99. | Bulandshahar | Khurja | 500 |
| 100. | Meerut | Rathora Khurd | 152 |
| 101. | Meerut | Dauraja | 500 |
| 102. | Meerut | Prakshitgarh | 500 |
| 103. | Meerut | Baghpat | 500 |
| 104. | Meerut | Baraut | 500 |
| 105. | Moradabad | Kanth | 600 |
| 106. | Moradabad | Kailsa | 132 |
| 107. | Moradabad | Sarfnagar | 164 |
| 108. | Moradabad | Sambhal | 500 |
| 109. | Moradabad | Amroha | 500 |
| 110. | Moradabad | Gajraula | 500 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| 111. | Moradabad | Chandausi | 500 |
| 112. | Moradabad | Thakurdwara | 500 |
| 113. | Pilibhit | Pilibhit | 2000 |
| 114. | Pilibhit | Bilsanda | 616 |
| 115. | Pilibhit | Puranpur | 500 |
| 116. | Pilibhit | Pilibhit | 500 |
| 117. | Pilibhit | Puranpur | 500 |
| 118. | Pilibhit | Bilsanda | 500 |
| 119. | Rampur | Rampur | 500 |
| 120. | Rampur | Bilaspur | 500 |
| 121. | Rampur | Sahabad | 500 |
| Total | | | 69202 |

Protest by Indians in France

3262. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing resentment and protests by the Sikh community in France over the proposed ban on wearing their religious headgear (Turban);

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to take up the matter with the concerned French authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) French Government has been sensitized to our concerns in this regard both in new Delhi and in Paris. Indian Embassy in Paris is also interacting with representatives of the Sikh community and the French Government with a view to resolving this issue.

Revision in Mandatory Regulations of MCI

3263. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal in revise some of the mandatory regulation of the Medical Council of India regarding medical education especially requirement of minimum 25-acre piece of land, 300 bedded hospital etc. for a Medical College;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in revision of regulations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) At present there is no such proposal with the Government?

[Translation]

CRF Aid to Bihar

3264. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sent by Bihar for getting aid under the Central Road Fund during the year 2002-2003 and 2003-04; and

(b) the time by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) 49 Nos of proposals amounting to Rs. 397.91 crore and 32 Nos of proposals amounting to Rs. 374.17 crore were received under CRF from the State Government for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(b) The Ministry had accorded administrative approval to 14 proposals amounting to Rs. 78.38 crore during 2002-03 and 1 proposal amounting to Rs. 3.25 crore during 2003-04 uptill now. This is dependent upon the utilization furnished by State Government. Approval of CRF works is a continuous process and depends upon the utilization of allocated funds on the already sanctioned works.

[English]

Mental Health Awareness Programme

3265. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any census/survey of mental patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current status of mental health facilities in the country with regard to doctors, hospitals and availability of drugs;

(d) whether the Government has started any awareness programmes to tackle the growing mental illness; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) More than 50 epidemiological surveys were conducted in the country by either psychiatric departments or institutions in the last 40 years. About 1% of the population may be in need to active treatment for a serious mental disorder. It is estimated that about 5% of the population suffers from various psychological disorder such as depression, neurotic, stress related and adjustment disorders. Between the age group of 4 and 16 years, about 1 to 2% are known to be suffering from mental retardation and 05% of the same age group suffers from serious mental retardation.

(c) There are over 18,000 beds for psychiatric patients spread across 37 Government mental hospitals/hospitals affiliated to the medical colleges. There are over 3000 qualified psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country. Availability of psychotropic drugs is satisfactory and the cost of such drugs is reasonable/affordable.

(d) and (e) The Government have formulated the National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan to promote mental health care throughout the country, one of main components of the programme is to undertake IEC activities at the national level for which an amount of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked. District Mental Health Programme which provides community based services also has a component to spread awareness at the district level.

Disinvestment of Profit Making Companies

3266. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has started the process of appointing financial advisers to off load ten percent stake in largest profit making companies particularly ONGC and GAIL;

(b) if so, whether this disinvestment process is being opposed by the employees of the companies concerned;

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

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to reconsider its decision;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some representations have been received suggesting that ONGC should go in for fresh issue of share capital rather than disinvestment of the existing shareholding by Government and that the employees of the Company be allotted shares in the proposed Offer for Sale at a concessional rate.

(d) and (f) No, Sir. Offer for Sale from the existing Government equity to the public does not preclude ONGC going in for fresh issue of capital as and when required. The reservation of shares for the employees in the proposed Offer for Sale will be governed by the existing guidelines of SEBI. Even after the sale of upto 10% out of the Government equity in ONGC and GAIL, they will remain Government companies and continue to function as before. The sale of upto 10% of Government equity through the Offer for Sale in the domestic market will broaden the shareholder base of the companies and provide an opportunity to retail investor to invest in these blue chip Public Sector Companies.

List of Militant Groups

3267. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has requested Pakistan to furnish a comprehensive list of militant groups who infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government have on numerous occasions conveyed to Pakistan that it must put an end to cross border infiltration and dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism in Pakistan. In the Joint Press Statement issued on January 6, 2004 in Islamabad, President General Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan reassured Prime Minister Vajpayee that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

Withdrawal of Extended College Schemes by UGC

3268. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has withdrawn the extended colleges schemes for the Delhi University;

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

(c) the number of colleges in Delhi at present accorded extended college status under Delhi University;

(d) its impact on Delhi University and students seeking admission in colleges;

(e) whether the Government has received any request to restore the same; and

(f) if so, the response of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (f) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, thirty colleges of the University of Delhi have so far been given the status of extended colleges and the UGC does not intend to stop the funding of the existing extended colleges.

Improvement of Narasingpur-Hindol Road

3269. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has sought the assistance of the Government for the improvement of Narasingpur-Hindol road in the State;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the improvements made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Child Marriage

3270. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether that despite the worldwide trend towards late marriages, India finds itself among the countries where a majority of girls still marry before they are eighteen;

(b) if so, whether according to the State of World Population 2003, released by the UN Population Fund worldwide, eighty-two million girls in developing countries between ten and seventeen years marry before their eighteen birthday;

(c) if so, the salient features of the report;

(d) whether the Centre has considered this report; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken on the recommendations made by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) No official figures are available regarding child marriages in India since the registration of marriages is not compulsory in the country.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Application of Euro Norms

3271. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the potential of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry growth to respond to the challenges of World;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the recent campaign of European community to apply Euro Norm in India to all the items like medicines, commodities, drinks etc;

(c) whether India is subscribing to WHO and Codex standard;

(d) if so, whether as a result of it the India exports will suffer badly; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir. India is now rated as the 4th largest producer of drugs by volume in the world and the indigenously produced bulk drugs as well as drug formulations are being exported to a large number of countries.

(b) and (c) This Ministry is not aware of any campaign of European Community to apply Euro Norms in India to items like medicines, commodities, drinks etc. However, guidelines developed by WHO on various drugs related issues are actively referred to while framing Indian guidelines or procedures on drug related issues. Further, India is a member of Codex Alimentarius Commission and participates in elaboration of Codex standards. The Codex standards for various food articles and WHO norms are taken into consideration while laying down standards for food articles under PFA Rules, 1955.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of reply at (b) & (c) above.

[Translation]

Insurance to Students

3272. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that a scheme has been formulated by the University Grants Commission to provide free insurance to the students studying in Central Universities of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the insurance companies with which contracts have been signed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the University Grants Commission, there is no such Scheme with them as on date.

[*English*]

Four Laning of National Highway on BOT Basis

3273. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal by State Governments for four laning of National Highway on BOT basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether proposals have been received by the Central Government for State Governments for implementation of the four laning of NH-2 section of Golden Quadrilateral project and four laning of NH-33 from Barhi-Ranchi and NH-33 from Barhi-Baraghora;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details are enclosed as statement.

(d) to (f) National Highways Authority of India is executing four laning of the entire NH-2 from Delhi to Kolkata. Proposals have been received by the Central Government for implementation of four laning of NH-33 from Barhi to Ranchi and Ranchi to Baraghora. Details are enclosed at Sl. No. 10 and Sl. No. 11 of statement.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Project | State | Action Taken |
|---------|---|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Four laning of Pune-Solapur road from km 210/0 to 241/0 of NH-9. | Maharashtra | Technical proposal approved. |
| 2. | Four laning of Gonde-Nasik Pimpalgaon road including Dwarka fly over. | Maharashtra | Technical proposal approved. |
| 3. | Construction of ROB at km 399/0 near Fekri of NH-6. | Maharashtra | Technical proposal approved. |
| 4. | Four laning of Nasik Sinnar road (NH-50). | Maharashtra | Technical proposal approved. |
| 5. | Construction of bridge and its approaches across Pinglai river at km 113/800 on NH-6. | Maharashtra | Work has been awarded.. |
| 6. | Four laning of Pune-Solapur road from km 14/0 to 40/0 of NH-9. | Maharashtra | Work under progress. |
| 7. | Four laning from km 12/200 to 40/0 of NH-50. | Maharashtra | Work under progress. |
| 8. | km 493/0-524/0 (Pune-Hyderabad Section) of NH-9. | Andhra Pradesh | Land Acquisition estimate sanctioned. |
| 9. | km 18/2-222/5 (Hyderabad-Vijayawada section) of NH-9. | Andhra Pradesh | Land Acquisition estimate sanctioned. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 10. | Barhi-Ranchi Section of NH-33. | Jharkhand | This section is proposed for four laning under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana (PMBJP). Bids have been invited for award of work. |
| 11. | Ranchi-Baraghora section of NH-33. | Jharkhand | Part of this section from Ranchi to Jamshedpur is proposed for four laning under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana (PMBJP). Bids for preparation of Detailed Project Report have been invited. |

Per-Capita Expenditure on Health

3274. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the per-capita expenditure on health during the last three years in both Public and Private Sector;

(b) the percentage of GDP spent on health in India during the last three years; and

(c) the target fixed and the achievement made in regard to above mentioned parts (a) and (b) in the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per the World Health Report, 2003 of WHO, the per capita total expenditure on health in the country during 1999 and 2000 was \$ 23 and during 2001 it increased marginally to \$ 24. However, the per capita public expenditure on health remained constant at \$ 4 during these three years.

(b) As per the World Health Report, 2003 of WHO, the total expenditure on health in the country as a percentage of GDP was 5.2 during 1999 and 5.1 during 2000 and 2001.

(c) No, such targets were fixed during the Ninth Plan. However, the National Health Policy, 2002 envisages to increase the total health sector expenditure to 6% of GDP, with 2% of GDP being contributed as public investment by the year 2010.

Combating AIDS

3275. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the number of people suffering from AIDS virus has been constantly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of AIDS afflicted patients in the country;

(c) the details of the assistance received from foreign agencies for the purpose during the last three years;

(d) the details of the funds spent to check AIDS in the country during the above period; and

(e) the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cumulative number of AIDS afflicted patients in the country as on 31st December 2003 is 61201.

(c) and (d) The details of the assistance received from foreign agencies including domestic support, for the implementation of the National AIDS Control programme and funds spent during the last three years are given below:

| (Rupee in crores) | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Year | Funds Received | Expenditure Incurred |
| 2000-2001 | 180.00 | 179.64 |
| 2001-2002 | 229.70 | 228.49 |
| 2002-2003 | 242.00 | 240.00 |

(e) The details of the achievements of the National AIDS Control Programme are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

National AIDS Control Organisation

Subject: Highlight of Achievements of the National AIDS Control programme.

Policy

- (1) Approval of the National AIDS Prevention and Control Policy and National Blood Policy to adapt a more holistic approach towards prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, looking at HIV/AIDS at a developmental problem and not a mere public health issue.
- (2) A policy decision has been taken to dispense with the requirement of mandatory HIV testing of foreigners including foreign students with immediate effect.

Epidemiology

- (3) Conducted sentinel surveillance to track geographical progression of HIV/AIDS epidemic as well as to assess the burden of the disease in the country.

| Year | No. of Sentinel sets |
|------|----------------------|
| 1999 | 180 |
| 2000 | 232 |
| 2001 | 320 |
| 2002 | 384 |
| 2003 | 455 |

- (4) Conducted baseline behavioural Surveillance survey during year 2001 amongst general population as well as groups at high risk to assess vulnerability to HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections in order to take appropriate remedial measures.

Programme

- (5) Launch of National AIDS Control Programme Phase II with effect from 1st April 1999 as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme to combat HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country. State AIDS Control Societies are the implementing agencies for the programme.
- (6) Conducted Family Health Awareness Campaign in the entire country to generate awareness in rural area and urban slums about sexually transmitted infections as well as HIV/AIDS and facilitate treatment for sexually transmitted infections through primary health care system. The coverage of FHAC is given below:

| | Achievements of Family Health Awareness Campaign | | | | | |
|---|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| | May-1999 | Dec-1999 | Jun-2000 | Apr-2001 | Feb-2002 | March 2003* |
| No. of District Covered | 100 | 266 | 418 | 515 | 556 | 384 |
| Targeted Population (in Million) | 57.7 | 175.2 | 226.6 | 335.5 | 364.81 | 260.15 |
| Population actually attended-Camp (in Million) | 55 | 44.98 | 42.7 | 71.2 | 52.65 | 34.70 |
| No. of Cases referred to PHC for treatment of RTI/STD (in Lakhs) | 3.24 | 17.37 | 36.58 | 47.74 | 45.59 | 49.22 |
| No. of Cases Treated out of Referrals (in Lakhs) | 1.68 | 11.12 | 18.66 | 30.59 | 38.05 | 38.54 |

*Reports from 9 State AIDS Control Societies are awaited.

*

9

- (7) About 835, Targeted Intervention projects implemented through NGOs focusing on high-risk population like sex workers, truckers, injecting drug users and migrant workers etc. in various States/U.Ts. The target population were provided free education and counselling services, drugs for treatment of sexually transmitted infection, condoms, etc.
- (8) Modernization of 942 blood banks, 154 Zonal Blood Testing Centres and 80 Blood Component Separation Facility Units in majority of districts of the country to ensure availability of safe blood. Mandatory testing of every collected blood for HIV, Hepatitis B & C, Malaria and Syphilis to make the blood safe from such transfusion transmissible infections professional blood donation has been banned.
- (9) Implementation of prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV in medical college hospitals in 6 high prevalence states namely Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Manipur, Nagaland, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh through 225 centres for prevention of transmission from HIV infected mother to their new born.
- (10). Establishment of 540 voluntary counselling and testing centres in medical college hospitals, district hospitals for counselling & testing for HIV infection. Free treatment for opportunistic infection including Tuberculosis in HIV/AIDS patients in all public sector hospitals setting-up of 47 community care centres to facilitate home based community to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- (11) HIV/STD training has covered in different states 78355 doctors, 69346 nurses and 241078 other paramedical staff.
- to HIV AIDS among rural and urban audiences in the year 2001.
- (14) An innovative campaign underway with BBC World Service Trust and Prasar Bharati on television and radio in the most parts of the country.
- (15) School-AIDS-Education Programme initiated in all States/U.Ts covering higher secondary schools with the objective to sensitize youth about HIV/AIDS. More than 50,000 schools were covered by the year 2003.
- (16) Telephone counselling centres established in 85 major cities/towns to address various enquiries regarding HIV/AIDS by the general public.
- (17) Advocacy efforts involving Hon'ble prime Minister:
- Prime Minister's meeting with Chief Ministers- Prime Minister met the Chief Ministers of six high prevalence States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and Nagaland on May, 22, 2001. The meeting was held to identify implementation of comprehensive strategies in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in these States.
 - Prime Minister launched the Indian Business Trust for HIV AIDS on September, 18, 2001. The trust would work with trade unions and the Ministry of Labour in implementation in intervention programmes for work force.
 - The Prime Minister announced the launch of the Parliamentarian's Forum to fight against HIV/AIDS on 11th May, 2002. This forum has reached new heights when leaders of all three tiers of the Indian democracy gathered in New Delhi on July 26-27, 2003 at India's First National Convention of Elected Representatives on HIV/AIDS, the first ever effort on such a level anywhere in the world. The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, State Chief Ministers, Health Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, Panchayat Members, Mayors etc., attended the meeting. The meeting unanimously adopted a Declaration on Political Leadership in Combating HIV/AIDS in the country.
 - Indian delegation led by Minister of Health & Family Welfare participated in a special session on HIV/AIDS of the UN General

Advocacy

- (12) Conducted IEC activities in the country to raise awareness, permit behavioral change and create an enabling environment for eliminating stigma and discrimination using holistic messaging with stress of the ABC approach. The IEC strategy operationalized at national level and State level, uses mass media, interpersonal communication, advocacy, inter-sectoral collaboration, and involves NGO's to achieve the purpose.
- (13) Produced two chat shows namely "Khamoshi Kyun" in Hindi and "Talk Positive" in English were telecast to address various issues related

Assembly held on 25-27 June 2002 and endorsed the declaration of commitment of UN General Assembly.

- Indian Delegation lead by Minister of Health & Family Welfare participated in XIV International AIDS Conference at Barcelona. Minister of Health & Family Welfare addressed about 12000 audience about the HIV/AIDS scenario in India and various measures being taken by the Government to contain the spread of the epidemic and also expressed strong political commitment to combat the epidemic across the political parties.

Multi-Sectoral

- (18) Involvement of various ministers/departments like Railways, Defence, Labour, Sports & Youth Affairs, Steel, Social Justice & Empowerment and Women & Child Development in prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in their respective fields.

Anti Retroviral Drugs

- (19) Government has waived custom and excise duty on Anti Retroviral Drugs to make them affordable to HIV/AIDS patients. The agenda on Care and Support of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHAs) has been expanded to include the provisioning of Anti Retroviral Treatment for 100,000 HIV/AIDS patients initially, across the six high prevalence states (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur and Nagaland. priority will be given to:
- HIV positive mothers in the interest of child survival, and for saving families and communities;
 - Children with AIDS, below 15 years of age; and
 - People with full blown AIDS seeking treatment in government hospitals.

Research and Development

- (20) National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have entered into an agreement with International AIDS Vaccine initiative to develop indigenous AIDS vaccine against sub type 'C' strain of HIV-I predominant in India.

Programme Finance and Management

- (21) The National AIDS Control Programme has covered all the States and Union Territories in the country, and follows a decentralized approach to implement the programme through 38 State/UT AIDS Control Societies including 3 at Municipal Corporation level.
- (22) A computerized project finance management system (CPFMS) for NACP-II has been designed, developed and fully operationalise to assist projects perform better by reducing delays and financial bottlenecks, speeding disbursements and facilitating project monitoring and control and links expenditure with actual physical progress.

External Assistance to Ports

3276. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ports which obtained external assistance/loan for their development during the Ninth Plan and Tenth Plan so far;

(b) the amount received by each port;

(c) the extent to which the fund has been utilised by these ports; and

(d) the various development activities carried out with the help of external assistance, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):

(a) to (d) Four major ports namely, Mumbai Port Trust, Chennai Port Trust, Paradip Port Trust and Tuticorin Port Trust obtained external assistance/loans for their development during the Ninth and Tenth Plans. Details are given below:

- (i) **Mumbai Port Trust:** The Port Trust obtained loan of Rs. 187.12 crores from Asian Development Bank for the project of upgradation of oil handling facilities at the Port's Marine Oil Terminal. Apart from this, the Port Trust also availed of loan of Rs. 10.59 crores from Asian Development Bank during the Ninth Plan as balance amount from an earlier loan of Eighth Plan for six projects, namely, Replacement of Pir Pau Pier, Replacement of fire fighting vessel, Installation of Vessel Traffic Management System,

(VTMS), Replacement of outer lock gate at Indira dock, Replacement of Caisson gates at dry dock and Modernisation of ship repair facilities. The loan utilized for the projects for which they were availed of.

- (ii) **Chennai Port Trust:** The Port Trust obtained loan of Rs. 18.39 crores during the Ninth Plan period from Asian Development Bank for two projects, namely, Modernisation of West quay berths and North quay berth and Integrated scheme for South quay 3 and modernization of East quay berth. In addition, the Port Trust also availed loan of Rs. 419.37 crores from Asian Development Bank during the Ninth Plan and Tenth Plan for the Ennore Port Project. The loans have been utilized for the projects for which they were availed of.
- (iii) **Paradip Port Trust:** Paradip Port Trust has availed of loan of Rs. 459.36 crores from Asian Development Bank for its Mechanized Coal Handling Project during Ninth Plan and Tenth Plan. The amount has been utilized for the project.
- (iv) **Tuticorin Port Trust:** Tuticorin Port Trust has obtained loan of Rs. 229.93 crores from Japan Bank of International Cooperation for its capital dredging project during the Ninth Plan. The amount has been utilized for the project.

Acceptable Daily Intake in Diet

3277. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) in the diet of every Indian has been taken care of under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the regulatory authority which is taking care of ADI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) is not prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The concept of ADI is used along with residue data generated under supervised trials, average food consumption and average body weight for prescribing the Maximum Tolerance Limits of a pesticide.

The PFA Act, and Rules, Impure and misbranded food. The Registration Committee under the Insecticide Act, 1968, administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, considers ADI at the time of registration of pesticides.

Preparation of Concept Paper by U.G.C.

3278. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UGC has prepared a concept paper for facilitation of innovation in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any controversies surround the concept paper;

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

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has not prepared any Concept Paper for facilitation of innovation in higher education.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Providing of Internet Facilities

3279. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has asked all the cellular and basic operators to provide internet facilities to their subscribers within the stipulated period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the telecom operators have since complied with the directives of TRAI;

(d) whether the basic operators were charging additional amount for providing such facilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has directed all Cellular and Basic Operators that accessibility to internet services be made available as per National Numbering Plan (NNP) 2003 within 45 days of issue of directive (i.e. 29th Dec., 2003) i.e. upto 13th February, 2004.

(d) No additional charge other than the applicable dial up charges is livable. No case of charging additional amount other than applicable, for providing such facility came to notice of the Department.

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

Fool-Proof Entrance Examination

3280. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fraud unearthed recently in the All India Entrance Examination for admission to MD, MS and PG courses conducted by the AIIMS as reported in the Statesman dated January 12, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether some Doctors/officials of AIIMS have been found involved in leakage of papers of Entrance Examination;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure fool-proof Entrance Examination by AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) It has been reported by AIIMS that there was a case of impersonation at one of the examination centers at Jaipur which was detected by the AIIMS official and the invigilator. On the request of AIIMS official, the Centre Superintendent of the centre had filed an FIR with Jaipur police authorities and the matter is under investigation by Jaipur police authorities. The AIIMS has also reported that there was no leakage of question paper and the Institute has already in-built checks in its system to ensure free and fair conduct of Examination.

Monitoring on Re-Use of Stolen Mobiles

3281. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has recently introduced a monitoring mechanism to keep a check on re-use of stolen mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. TRAI has only initiated an exercise to consider whether a monitoring mechanism is required to keep a check on mobile theft.

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

Package for Telecom Sector

3282. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to announce a comprehensive package for the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has set up any task force in relation to national security aspect;

(d) if so the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new proposed comprehensive package is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to provide incentive for expansion of telecommunication services, it has been decided to reduce licence fee for Basic/Cellular/Unified Access Service licensees by 2% of Adjusted Gross Revenue with effect from 1st April, 2004. Further, it has been decided to reduce the licence fee in respect of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service licensees who were granted licences for Circle Service Areas in 1994-1996, further by 2% of Adjusted Gross Revenue for a period of 4 years from 1st April, 2004 subject to the condition that the licensee has to pay a minimum of 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue as licence fee.

Further, Customs Duty reduction w.e.f. 09.01.2004 is as follows:

Customs Duty on specified telecom equipment required for the provision of Basic, Cellular, Internet, very Small Aperture Terminal, Public Mobile Radio Trunking Service and Radio paging reduced from 5% to Nil.

Customs Duty on Cellular phones reduced from 10% to 5%. Customs Duty on other telecom equipment covered under ITC (HS) 8517 and 8525.20 reduced from 15% to 10%. Special additional duty 4% has been abolished.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) The reduction in licence fee shall be effective from 1st April, 2004 as indicated in parts (a) and (b) above. The reduction in customs duties is effective from 09.01.2004.

Working Women Hostels

3283. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some requests for setting up of Working Women Hostels during 2002-03 and 2003-04; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise alongwith the amount sanctioned of the purpose during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The list of requests received for setting up of Working Women Hostels and amounts sanctioned during 2002-03 and 2003-04 is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Proposals received for consideration under the Scheme of Working Women's Hostel 2002-03

| S.No. | Name of the Agency | Amount Sanctioned | Amount Released |
|----------------|--|--|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | | | |
| 1. | Mahila Samajam, Malakpet, Hyderabad. | The proposal could not be considered for want of some information/documents from the agency. | |
| 2. | Sri Padmawati Mahila Vishwavidyalayam, Tirupati. | 40,29,000/- | 12,08,700/- |
| Assam | | | |
| 1. | Roghurtook Club & Library, Karimganj. | The proposal could not be considered for want of some information/documents from the agency. | |
| Chandigarh | | | |
| 1. | Panjab University, Chandigarh. | 54,28,000/- | 16,28,400/- |
| Karnataka | | | |
| 1. | V.M.V.V. Sangh, Hungund, Bagalkot, Karnataka. | 19,50,000/- | 5,58,000/- |
| Kerala | | | |
| 1. | Sri Narayana Charitable Society, Tirur. | 12,62,064/- | 3,78,619/- |
| 2. | St. Maria Gorothy Bhawan, Palakkad. | The proposal was rejected by the PSC. | |
| 3. | Kinfra International Apparel Parks Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram. | 2,22,65,640/- | 66,79,692/- |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----------------------|--|--|-------------|
| Madhya Pradesh | | | |
| 1. | Bal Niketan Sangh, Indore. | 19,50,337/- | 5,85,101/- |
| Maharashtra | | | |
| 1. | New Jai Bharat Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Aurangabad. | 82,74,000/- | 24,82,000/- |
| 2. | Ogawa Society, Nagpur, Maharashtra. | Local Authority Permission document not submitted. Proposal was not considered therefore. | |
| 3. | Maharashtra Homoeopathic Foundation, Sangamner, Ahmednagar. | 55,68,000/- | 13,26,600/- |
| 4. | Maharashtra Mahila Udhya Trust, Pune. | 95,30,325/- | 28,59,098/- |
| 5. | Mahatma Fule Shikshan Sanstha, Nagpur. | Proposal was not considered as the estimates were not correct. | |
| Nagaland | | | |
| 1. | Tribal Christian Girls Hostel, Kohima. | The proposal could not be considered for want of some information/documents from the agency. | |
| Tamil Nadu | | | |
| 1. | Priyanka Women Resources Development Association, Dharampuri. | The proposal could not be considered for want of some information/documents from the agency. | |
| 2. | St. Joseph Society, Madurai | The proposal could not be considered for want of some information/documents from the agency. | |
| 3. | Sri Ponnaiya Ramajayathamal Educational and Charitable Trust, Thanjavur. | 52,00,000/- | 11,70,000/- |
| 4. | Annai J.K.K. Sampoomiammal Charitable Trust, Erode. | The proposal could not be considered for want of some information/documents from the agency. | |
| Uttaranchal | | | |
| 1. | Kumayun Seva Sansthan, Bageshwar. | 27,03,607/- | 8,11,082/- |
| Uttar Pradesh | | | |
| 1. | Chandrashekhar Azad University for Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur. | 44,64,000/- | 13,39,200/- |
| 2. | Sarbjanik Shiksha Unnayan Sansthan, Hardo. | 33,20,250/- | 9,96,075/- |
| 3. | Akhil Bhartiya Mahila Udyog Kalyan and Shiksha Samiti, NOIDA. | The proposal could not be considered for want of some information/documents from the agency. | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| West Bengal | | | |
| 1. | Council for Advancement of Rural and Downtrodden People, Bagnan, Howrah. | 39,83,373/- | 11,95,019/- |
| 2. | All India Federation of SC, ST & Minorities, Midnapore. | 46,20,000/- | 13,86,000/- |

2003-04

| S.No. | Name of the Agency | Amount Sanctioned |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Maharashtra | | |
| 1. | Shree Bhagwanbaba Sevabhavi Sanstha Dist. Beed | Under Process |
| 2. | Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Akhuj, Dist. Sholapur | |
| 3. | Kagal Education Society, Kagal, Dist. Kolhapur | |
| 4. | Dhyanganga Vachanalay Trust, Dist. Pune | |
| 5. | Abhay Shikshan Kendra, Vikroli, Mumbai | |
| 6. | Jeevanjyoti Charitable Trust, Dist. Parbhani | |
| 7. | Mahatma Phule Shikshan Sansthan, Dist. Nagpur | |
| 8. | Mehmuda Shikshan and Mahila Gramin Vikas Bahuiddesiya Sanstha, Dist. Nagpur. | |
| 9. | Ankush Shishan Sanstha Dist. Nagpur | |
| 10. | Bhartiya Vidyapeeth, Pune | |
| 11. | Anand Ashrum Trust, Mumbai Sanchalit Mangal Mandit Mahilashram, Mumbai | |
| 12. | Shree Sadgurupant Maharaj Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Dist. Kolhapur. | |
| Tamil Nadu | | |
| 1. | Annai J.K.K. Sampooraniammal Charitable Turst, Erode | Under Process |
| 2. | Centre for Rural Education and Economic Development, Chidambaram, | |
| 3. | Viswanathan Chettiar Trust, Coimbatore | |
| 4. | Neo Foundation and Social Transformation Trust, Pudukottai | |
| 5. | Saraswathi Educational and Health Trust, Pudukottai | |
| 6. | Annai Theresa Welfare and Educational Trust, Theni | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 7. | Seethakathi Trust, Ramanathapuram | |
| 8. | Perichi Gounder Memorial Trust, Coimbatore | |
| 9. | Rajapalayam Municipality, Virudhunagar | |
| 10. | Gandhigaram Rural Institute-Deemed University, Dindigul | |
| | Assam | |
| 1. | Siva Sundari Nari Shiksha Ashram and antenatal Clinic, Silchar | Under Process |
| | Haryana | |
| 1. | Guru Jambheshwar University, Hissar | Under Process |
| 2. | Maharashi Dayanand University, Rohtak. | |
| | Andhra Pradesh | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh Women Finance Development Corporation, Kadapa. | Under Process |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh Women finance Development Corporation, Ongole | |
| | Karnataka | |
| 1. | Shree Dharamsthala Educational Trust, Mangalore | Under Process |
| 2. | Regional Institute of English, Bangalore | |
| 3. | YWCA, Bangalore. | |
| | Kerala | |
| 1. | P. Sarojini Amma Smarak Mahila Smajam, Manjeri. | Under Process |
| 2. | Nair Service Society, Thripunithra | |
| 3. | Mata Amritanandamayee Mutt, Kollam | |
| 4. | Muslim Educational Society Malappuram. | |
| | West Bengal | |
| 1. | Elmhirst Institute of Community Studies, Shanthiniketan, Birbhum | Under Process |
| | Chandigarh | |
| 1. | Chandigarh Women & Child Development Corp., Chandigarh. | Under Process |
| | Nagaland | |
| 1. | Tribal Christian Girls Hostel, Kohima | Under Process |
| | Mizoram | |
| 1. | Mizo Heimshe Tangruai, Aizwal. | Under Process |

PM's Pilot Project

3284. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has released financial assistance under PM's Pilot Project for providing foodgrains to the undernourished pregnant women,

lactating women and adolescent girls during 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) if so, the amount released during the said period; and

(c) the number of pregnant women benefited under the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, a sum of Rs. 53.96 crore has been released to the States/UTs during 2002-04 (upto 31.1.2004).

(c) Total number of beneficiaries covered under the pilot project is 12.17 lakh (approx.), which included undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant & lactating women.

Malnutrition in Adivasi Areas

3285. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions being made by the Government to check malnutrition in different districts particularly in Adivasi areas of the country;

(b) whether any cases of death of tribal children due to malnutrition have occurred in Maharashtra;

(c) the infrastructure developed by the Government to ensure proper implementation of different provisions pertaining to control of malnutrition;

(d) whether the help of NGOs has been sought in this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) A number of nutrition related programmes namely Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, Nutrition Component of Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), Nutrition Education Programmes, National Anaemia Control Programme, National Prophylaxis Programme against Vitamin 'A' deficiency, National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme), Targetted Public Distribution System and Antodaya Anna Yojana are being implemented by different sectors of the Government to check malnutrition in different Districts in the country including adivasi areas. A sum of Rs. 2271.28 crores during the VIII Plan and Rs. 4556.42 crores during IX Plan were spent on ICDS and plan allocation for the Tenth Plan is Rs. 10391.75 crores.

(b) No such report has been received.

(c) The ICDS scheme has been expanded to 5652 projects including 759 tribal ICDS projects in the country. Besides, there are 43 Community Food and Nutrition Extension Units located in 29 States/UTs.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) 48 ICDS projects are being implemented by NGOs. Besides, cooperation of NGOs is enlisted for various training and awareness generation programmes and implementation of Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act.

Safety of Women at Work Places

3286. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a new legislation in order to ensure the dignity and safety of the women at work places in the wake of Supreme Court's ruling on the matter; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court has pronounced in its judgement delivered in the Vishaka and others Vs. State of Rajasthan and others case that the guidelines and norms laid down therein against sexual harassment of women at work places should be treated as the law declared by that Court under Article 141 of the Constitution of India, until a legislation is enacted for the purpose. The National Commission for Women, which is mandated to review the constitutional and legal safeguards available to women, is in the process of drafting a Bill on the subject.

11.07 hrs.

**RE: VALEDICTORY REFERENCE MADE IN
PART-I OF FOURTEENTH SESSION OF
LOK SABHA**

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): The ruling of the hon. Speaker in the House is always supreme and no one should question it.

Sir, your ruling is not only the ruling but also an honour to the House to maintain the records properly. There was ruling from you yesterday in regard to the dispute whether it is the first year of the Session, first Session or continued Session. ...(*Interruptions*) Let me conclude. ...(*Interruptions*) In protection of the ruling and in honour of the Chair as the custodian of the House, I only submit that there should be a minor correction of the proceedings because on 23rd December in your Valedictory reference you said and I quote:

"Hon. Members, now, we conclude the 14th Session of the 13th Lok Sabha which commenced on 2nd December, 2003."

Since your ruling is that the Fourteenth Session is continuing, this part should be corrected and amended; otherwise it will go against the whole ruling., ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We will examine it and do the needful.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Ramji Lal Suman. I have received a number of notices.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH (Pratapgarh): Sir, a minor girl has been raped by a sub-inspector. ...(*Interruptions*) There are many powerful people behind this rape. So, please give me a chance to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

A minor girl has been raped in my constituency and that too by a sub-inspector. ...(*Interruptions*) It is against the constitutional rights of the minority people. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Today is the day when we are starting the discussion on Budget. But before that I am going to take up a few important issues. So, please sit down. I will give you permission.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, since I have permitted her to speak, let her speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the papers be laid on the Table before Zero Hour.

Once it is over. Zero Hour may follow. All the Ministers are present, therefore Zero Hour be taken up only after papers are laid on the Table. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: A minority girl has been raped in my constituency and that too by a sub-inspector of the police. After that the police has resorted to such atrocities that when the public was doing a peaceful demonstration against this matter, they have beaten up thousands of citizens in my constituency. They closed the *Kachahari* door and beaten up the people in the *Kachahari* itself. When there was a Gandhiji's function going on in my constituency to pay homage to him, the police locked up the *Kachahari* and like in Jalianwala Bagh, they beat up thousands of peaceful citizens. It began like a Jalianwala Bagh episode in my constituency. There are many more people behind it in this rape and the police are hiding the matter.

So, Sir, I would request to the Government through you to have a proper CBI inquiry because what is being published and coming out is very little. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to get the Papers laid on the Table of the House first and thereafter I will take up 'Zero Hour' again.

...(*Interruptions*)

11.10 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Coimbatore Division-II) Limited and the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Coimbatore Division-I) Limited Amalgamation Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1476 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2003.

- (ii) The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam Division-II,) Limited, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam Division-III) Limited, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam Division-IV) Limited and the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam Division-I) Limited Amalgamation Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1477 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2003.
- (iii) The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Salem Division-II) Limited and the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Salem Division-I) Limited Amalgamation Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1478 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2003.
- (iv) The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Villupuram Division-II) Limited, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Villupuram Division-III) Limited and the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Villupuram Division-I) Limited Amalgamation Order, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 1480 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8820/04]

- (v) The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Madurai Division-II) Limited, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Madurai Division-III) Limited, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Madurai Division-IV) Limited, the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Madurai Division-V) Limited, and the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Madurai Division-I) Limited Amalgamation Order, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 16 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8821/04]

- (2) A copy of the Chartered Accounts (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 1-CA(7) 64A/2003 (198) in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2003 under Section 30-B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. 1-CA(7)64A/2003 (205) dated the 15th December, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8822/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Project Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8823/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Shatrughan Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 56 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th January, 2004 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2004 under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8824/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the State Legal Services Authority, Union Territory, Chandigarh (Transaction of Business and other Provisions) Regulations, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. SLSA/98/58 in Chandigarh Administration Gazette dated the 20 April, 1998 under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8825/04]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C.P. THAKUR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the north Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8826/04]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8827/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8828/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academi, Raebareli, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academi, Raebareli, for the year 2002-2003.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8829/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan, for the year 1999-2000.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Mohan, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8830/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8831/04]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lala Ram Sarup Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8832/04]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8833/04]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8834/04]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8835/04]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) by the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Researching Ayurveda and Siddha, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8836/04]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India for the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 within the stipulated period of 9 months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8837/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited, Bulandshahar, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited, Bulandshahar, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8838/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri V. Srinivasa Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Sugar Development Fund (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 953 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th December, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8839/04]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8840/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineering, Noida, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineering, Noida, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8841/04]

- (3) A copy of the Daman and Diu Motor Vehicles (1st Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. ADTr/DMN/104/003-04/27 published in U.T. Administration of Daman and Diu Gazette dated the 30th December, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8842/04]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:
 - (i) S.O. 1387 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Haveri to Belgaum By-pass Section) in the State of Karnataka.

- (ii) S.O. 1388 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Harihar to Maharashtra Border) in Haveri district in the State of Karnataka.
- (iii) S.O. 1389 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Harihar to Maharashtra Border) in Haveri district in the State of Karnataka.
- (iv) S.O. 1390 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Trichy Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (v) S.O. 1403 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 2003 regarding authorisation of officers for acquisition land mentioned in the Notification, as the competent authorities for building, widening including construction of bypasses or realignments on National Highway No. 25 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (vi) S.O. 1406 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening, construction of bypasses on National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanyakumari Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (vii) S.O. 1407 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanyakumari Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) S.O. 1408 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Yelahanka and Channasandra Stations of Hyderabad-Bangalore Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (ix) S.O. 1409 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of on National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section to Madurai-Kanyakumari Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (x) S.O. 1422 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building widening including construction of by-passes on National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanyakumari Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xi) S.O. 1423 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 835(E) dated the 16th July, 2003.
- (xii) S.O. 1431 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Pune to Satara Section) in the State of Maharashtra.
- (xiii) S.O. 1460 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 830(E) dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xiv) S.O. 1461 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in Kancheepuram district in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xv) S.O. 1462 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 45 (Chengalpattu-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvi) S.O. 13 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xvii) S.O. 14 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (xviii) S.O. 29 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xix) S.O. 30 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xx) S.O. 31 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 244 (E) dated the 27th February, 2003.
- (xxi) S.O. 32 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 570 (E) dated the 21st May, 2003.
- (xxii) S.O. 33 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 authorising the Special District Revenue Officer (LA), as the Competent Authority to acquire land for construction of Chennai Bypass on National Highway Nos. 4 and 5 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiii) S.O. 34 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 559 (E) dated the 19th May, 2003.
- (xxiv) S.O. 35 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxv) S.O. 36 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 45 (Chengalpattu-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxvi) S.O. 37 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 45 (Chengalpattu-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxvii) S.O. 38 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 45 (Chengalpattu-Tindivanam Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxviii) S.O. 40 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1196 (E) dated the 14th November, 2002.
- (xxix) S.O. 41 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (Widening) of National Highway No. 7A (Palayamkottai to Thoothukudi Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxx) S.O. 42 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7A (Palayamkottai to Thoothukudi Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxi) S.O. 43 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7A (Palayamkottai to Thoothukudi Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxii) S.O. 1067 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 97th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Ichapuram to Ganjam of Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Ganjam district the State of Orissa.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 1068 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 249 (E) dated the 27th February, 2002.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 1106 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for construction of National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam to Narayani Junction of Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Ganjam district the State of Orissa.
- (xxcv) S.O. 1107 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2003 regarding

acquisition of land for widening including construction of bypass on National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam to Narayani Junction of Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Khurda and Nayagarh districts the State of Orissa.

(xxxvi) S.O. 1108 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Section) in Khurda district the State of Orissa.

(xxxvii) S.O. 1151 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 79A (Krishangarh to Nasirabad and Nasirabad to Baral) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xxxviii) S.O. 1152 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Nelamangla to Tumkur Section) in Bangalore Rural district the State of Karnataka.

(xxxix) S.O. 1184 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 8 (Ratanpur-Gandhinagar Section) in the State of Rajasthan.

(xl) S.O. 1201 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 2 (Sikandara and Bhaunti to Delhi-Kanpur Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(xli) S.O. 1228 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Chennai Vijayawada Section) in Prakasam district the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(xlii) S.O. 81 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building bypass on Sangamner town on National Highway No. 50 in the State of Maharashtra.

(xliii) S.O. 1395 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2003 regarding collection of toll from the users of permanent bridge across river Sirsa on National Highway No. 21 in the State of Punjab.

(xliv) S.O. 95 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2004 regarding collection of fee on mechanical vehicles for the use of permanent Akkulam bridge across Akkulam Kayal on National Highway No. 47 (Thiruvananthapuram-Neyyattinkara combined By-pass), in the State of Kerala.

(xlv) S.O. 1009 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Railway Over Bridge on National Highway No. 67 in Karur district in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xlvi) S.O. 1457 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd December, 2003 regarding rates of base fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 8 in the State of Rajasthan.

(xlvii) S.O. 1466 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2003 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 4 in the State of Karnataka.

(xlviii) S.O. 91 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2004 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of four laned National Highway No. 8 (Kajali-Manor section) in the State of Maharashtra.

(xlix) S.O. 92 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2004 regarding rates of base fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway number N.E. 1 in the State of Gujarat.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8843/04]

(5) A copy of the S.O. 1356 (E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2003 regarding entrustment of National Highway No. 2 to National Highways Authority of India issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8844/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8845/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Ashok Pradhan, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 5 of 2004) Commercial-Public Sector Undertakings (Telecommunications Sector) for the year ended the March, 2003 under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8846/04]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:
 - (i) The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (First Amendment) Regulation, 2003 published in Notification No. 409-5/2003-FN in Gazette of India dated the 2nd December, 2003.

- (ii) The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Second (Amendment) Regulation, 2003 published in Notification No. 409-5/2003-FN in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8847/04]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Department of Culture, Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, (Director) Recruitment Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 439 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2003 together with Corrigenda thereto published in Notification Nos. S.O. 1404(E) dated the 10th December, 2003 and S.O. 9(E) dated the 1st January, 2004 under sub-section (3) of section 31 of the Kalakshetra Foundation Act, 1993:

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8848/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Samath, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Samath, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Samath, for the year 2001-2002.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8849/04]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8850/04]

- (6) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the *National Council of Science Museum, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8850A/04]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 39 of the Export Import Bank of India Act, 1981:

- (i) The Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) General Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. LEG-95 (378) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2003.
- (ii) The Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) General Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. LEG-95 (379) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8851/04]

- (2) A copy of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation General (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 213 in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2003 under sub-section (4) of section 50 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8852/04]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

- (i) G.S.R. 961 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 14/2003-CE (N.T.) dated the 8th March, 2002.

- (ii) The Central Excise (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 35 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2004 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8853/04]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Acharyakul, Wardha, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Acharyakul, Wardha, for the year 2002-2003.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8854/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8855/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, for the year 2002-2003.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8856/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-8857/04]

11.12 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAJIVAN (Banda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the 15th sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sitting of the House held on 18 December, 2003.

11.12½ hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR SOFT DRINKS, FRUIT JUICE AND OTHER BEVERAGES

Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Sir, I beg to present a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions)

of the Joint Committee on Pesticide Residues in and Safety Standards for Soft drinks, Fruit Juice and other Beverages and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

11.13 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

(I) Forty-third to Forty-seventh Reports

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, I beg to present the following Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on energy:

- (1) Forty-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 38th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Energy on Demands for Grants (2003-04) of the Department of Atomic Energy.
- (2) Forty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 39th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Energy on Demands for Grants (2003-04) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
- (3) Forty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 40th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Energy on Demands for Grants (2003-04) of the Ministry of Power.
- (4) Forty-sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 41st Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Energy on Demands for Grants (2003-04) of the Ministry of Coal.
- (5) Forty-seventh Report on "Safety in Coal Mines" relating to the Ministry of Coal.

11.13½ hrs.

(II) Statements

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English

versions) of the following Statements of the Standing Committee on Energy:

- (1) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 20th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 18th Report (12th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of Ministry of Coal;
- (2) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 21st Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendation contained in the 14th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-02) of the Department of Atomic Energy;
- (3) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 22nd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 15th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2001-02) of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources;
- (4) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 32nd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 25th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Nuclear Power Generation-Targets and Achievements' of the Department of Atomic Energy;
- (5) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 33rd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 26th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Small Hydro Power Programme—An Evaluation' of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources;
- (6) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 34th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 27th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-03) of the Department of Atomic Energy;

- (7) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 35th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 28th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-03) of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources; and
- (8) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 37th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 30th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2002-03) of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

11.14 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Sixteenth to Eighteenth Reports

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways (2004):

- (1) Sixteenth Report on 'Resource Mobilisation';
- (2) Seventeenth Report on 'Railway Recruitment Policy'; and
- (3) Eighteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Thirteenth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2003-04) of the Ministry of Railways'.

11.15 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Hundred-forty eighth Report

[English]

DR. RANJIT KUMAR PANJA (Barasat): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions)

of the Hundred-forty eighth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development on Action taken by the Department of Health on the recommendations/observations contained in the 135th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Health.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not accepted your notice for suspension of Question Hour, but I will allow you to make your observations for two minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall give you permission to speak after some time.

...(Interruptions)

11.15½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

Hundred-forty fifth Report

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the 145th report of the Standing Committee on Industry on problems being faced by small scale industries in Procurement of steel (Ministry of Small Scale Industries).

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Christian girl was raped in a church premises in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh. But instead of taking action against the guilty persons, of the Bajrang Dal people, Vishwa Hindu Parishad people, the Christians were threatened so that they may withdraw their complaints and accept that their community people did this. Shri Priyaranjan Dasmuni also raised this issue on 30th January. Hon Minister of Home Affairs and hon. Prime Minister were present in the House and they had said that they would give statement in the House after obtaining necessary information from the State Government in this regard. Today it is 4th of February. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has not given any statement in that regard till date. It is a serious issue. Christian Community in the entire country is being terrorised. The Government in Madhya Pradesh is harassing the people of minority community instead of giving protection to them. The Union Government are not looking into this matter. I would like to know when the hon. Minister of Home Affairs would give his statement. Please request the hon. Minister. He made commitment in the House that he would give statement here after collecting facts in this regard. Today even after four-five days, hon. Minister of Home Affairs has not given any statement in this connection. I would request the hon. Chair to ask the hon. Minister to give statement in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

11.16 hrs.

MOTION RE: SIXTIETH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Sixtieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd February, 2004".

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixtieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 3rd February, 2004".

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: You have brought this issue to my notice, but I already know about it. The Government have accepted that they would give statement. I would ask the Government.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: When would the Government give statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There are just two days, either today or tomorrow.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: This is a very serious issue. When would the Government give statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would inform the hon. Minister as per directions of the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Home Affairs had said that he would give statement with regard to Jhabua issue on the 3rd. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have therefore asked the Government to make statement in this regard and they would do so. Now please sit down.

[English]

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has said that the Government will make a statement on this issue. It may make either today or tomorrow. Please sit down. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Decision would be taken either today or tomorrow. Please speak later on. Now please sit down. We would try that it would taken today itself.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want the 'Zero Hour' to be taken at all or not?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have understood your point. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are being attacked even today. Sir, the Government have not given any concrete reply till date ...*(Interruptions)*. The State Government is doing nothing and no one is listening. On women ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak when chance is given to you. Speak whatever you want to speak at that time only.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, he should make a statement in the House.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Vilas Paswanji, please speak.

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that case has not been registered. I wish to have an immediate reply from the Government ...*(Interruptions)*. Today the situation has become too bad. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If possible, they would give reply immediately.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many a times discussion has been held in the House with regard to the Government's conspiracy of doing away with the minority character of Aligarh Muslim University. The Chair had also given ruling. The Government had also replied to see into this matter, but nothing has been done by the Government in this regard. Rather interference is being made with autonomy of the University. People there are too much annoyed with this. Teachers of this university are holding demonstration

outside. This has created a danger to the minority characters. I feel that the Aligarh Muslim University was established under a special clause and so I would urge that as tomorrow happens to be the last day of this session *...(Interruptions)*. The Government, may as per their assurance give statement in the House as to what action has been taken in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Hon. Mr. Speaker had given the ruling that the Government would call the Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University and talk to him *...(Interruptions)*. This ruling was given by the hon. Chair *...(Interruptions)*. Still this assurance was not fulfilled *...(Interruptions)*. That circular should be withdrawn *...(Interruptions)*. Ruling by the hon. Chair has been violated *...(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker Sir, how is that your directions are being flouted? When I took this matter up, the Minister on your direction agreed to call the Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University at Shastri Bhawan to discuss the issue and settle the matter. But till this date they have not done it. This is an insult to the House and an insult to your direction.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had give the ruling that the concerned Minister would talk to the Vice Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University and resolve the problem. However, that circular has not been withdrawn *...(Interruptions)*. That circular should be withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: I do remember it. Last time, I had started in the House that the hon. Minister would convene a meeting with the concerned Minister to discuss the matter and to give a decision thereon. Please bring this to the notice of the Minister. You should bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister to take decision in this matter.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, I would bring it to the notice of the concerned Minister as per your directive.

MR. SPEAKER: Krishan Dasji, you speak. Ramji Lal Sumanji, now let other hon. Members speak. Opportunity to speak also be given to other hon. Members present here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when will the Government withdraw the circular *...(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: It won't happen. the Government would do it tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you give the ruling in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the ruling on your insistence.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire postal sector in Kerala State is in a standstill for the last one week. All the employees are on strike with regard to an order issued by the Post Master General of the Northern Region in Kerala to privatise the speed post sector in Kerala.

Sir, this is the first time that one officer has given such an order. Against this order all the postal employees have gone on strike. So, I allege that this order is without the consent of the Government also.

From today onwards, all the postal employees are on strike. It is a very serious matter because the entire postal sector is at a standstill.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to ask the officer concerned to withdraw that order with immediate effect. The Government should come forward on this issue because it is a very serious matter. For the past one week, the postal sector is at a standstill. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sunder Lal Tiwari ji, you please speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I have given the notice on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Sunder Lal Tiwari to speak.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rampur Vaghelan legislative assembly constituency in district Satna falls under my parliamentary constituency Rewa. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted Shri Ramesh Chennithala to speak on the same issue. I will give you opportunity to speak after Shri Ramesh Chennithala.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, this is a very serious matter. The Postal Department in the State of Kerala is paralysed totally and the people are suffering because of this. I would request the Minister to take action against the officers who have done all these things.

Sir, I had given a notice regarding the new Civil Aviation Policy, which is going to be taken up by the Cabinet today. It is very unfortunate that the Government did not raise this type of a matter in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Civil Aviation Ministry. In the Consultative Committee, we vehemently opposed the Naresh Chandra Committee's Report itself because it is a biased report. It is helping the private operators; it is going to finish off our Air India and the Indian Airlines. This is a very serious matter.

Therefore, the Government should have a rethink on this and postpone this matter because the term of this Lok Sabha is going to expire. It is a very serious matter, and the Government should put off this new Civil Aviation Policy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, you may ask the Ministry as to what they are doing. Without the consent of the Ministry, the officer concerned has given such an order.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, it is a very serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, on civil aviation, I would like to submit that it was the first industry which was nationalised and it was nationalised after consulting

the private industry which was running it. When they were asked to put in more funds to develop that industry, they disagreed and said that they would not be able to do that. It is only then that it was nationalised.

Now, when the Lok Sabha is going to be dissolved in two days time, if the Government of India is going to take a decision on such a momentous matter, it would not be proper, it would not be appropriate and it would be playing a sort of trick on the Parliament and on the people.

Therefore, we would like to emphasise on the floor of the House that civil aviation sector should not be privatised by a Government which is going to the polls within a month's time or two months time. We would like to put it on the record that if the Government does it now without allowing the Members to discuss, without allowing the country to discuss, that would be wrong and it should not be done by the Government. We are warning the Government, we are warning the executive that this should not be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, the entire postal sector is at a standstill. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARAKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have given a notice on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair.

11.30 hrs.

Re: Need to provide compensation and security to the victims of reported violence in village Badhara in Satna district of Rewa Parliamentary Constituency in Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): On 23rd December in village Badhara in 50 persons armed with the weapons like rifle and sharp edged weapons etc. set afire the house of Ummed Shukla by pouring two drums of diesel. The motive for the act was electoral rivalry. Besides they also set seven other houses on fire. On being resisted by women, the culprits raped them which included a 15 year old girl and also a woman who had delivered a baby 15 days ago. The culprits set 8 houses on fire and reduced them to ashes. When the culprits were trying to burn alive eight children on fire by locking them into a box, police intervention took place that resulted in saving the lives of the children. The FIR

in this regard was registered in the Rampur Baghelan police station and eight of the offenders were arrested that also included the son of a local MLA. However, owing to the pressure of the politicians the case transferred to the CID police from the local police and even the CID officer investigating the case was also transferred. The persons whose houses were set on fire are not getting justice and the Madhya Pradesh Government did not give even a single rupee as compensation to the affected poor and aggrieved persons. I expect from the Government to constitute a Committee to probe into the matter so that justice could be imparted to the poor persons ...(*Interruptions*). Since today the discontent is simmering in the mind of the people. Whether the Government continue to be a mute spectator ...(*Interruptions*). Mr. Speaker, Sir, two women had been raped. I demand the CBI inquiry be held in this regard. Hence, I demand that a Committee be set up at the centre to probe into the matter ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Sudheeranji, now you speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. A.K. Premajam, please take your seat. I am going to call your name after Shri V.M. Sudheeran.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please take note of this.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has got a CBI inquiry conducted in this regard. We would investigate into the matter by collecting more information in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (*Khajuraho*): Neither hon. Prime Minister nor hon. Deputy Prime

Minister is present in the House during the proceedings. All the benches are empty except that of hon. Finance Minister ...(*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we had decided to start the discussion on the General Budget today.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Renukaji, you started to speak as soon you come. Please wait for some time.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we have to start the discussion on the General Budget. The hon. Leader of the Opposition is going to initiate the debate. But as the hon. Members requested to raise some very important issues, I am going to permit them. But if this is the way you want to do it, then non 'Zero Hour' would be continued further and I would go to the discussion on the General Budget straight. So, please cooperate.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Tiwariji, you have made your statement. Hon. Minister has replied on behalf of the Government. CBI inquiry has began still you give whatever information you have, proper inquiry, would be held.

[*English*]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: No CBI inquiry is being held ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, whatever Shri Sudheeran speaks will go on record and nothing else will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)^{*}

^{*}Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Sir, I could not hear. What did the hon. Prime Minister say?

MR. SPEAKER: How can you hear when you make noise yourself.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajurao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Any Minister who wants to leave the House amidst its proceedings, has to seek your permission. So many Cabinet Ministers are not present. I would like to know whether all these Minister who are absent have taken your prior permission?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: During the Zero Hour, only a statement is to be made and the Minister is not to reply. The Minister can reply provided he has been given proper notice and when some other device is used. You may understand the rules of Zero Hour. I need not explain the rules; you know it and you may sit down now.

Now, Shri Sudheeran can make his submission and nobody else will speak. Hon. Minister has taken its note. What else do you want?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All the hon. Members are requested to sit down.

Other hon. Members will be given only two minutes each and not more than that. Shri Sudheeran will make his submission.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey): Sir, the decision of the Union Government to grant fishing licences to foreign vessels is highly detrimental to the entire fishing sector of our country. It will endanger the very existence of lakhs of fishermen and their families.

The Government of Kerala, fishermen's organisations, people's representatives have all protested against this decision. But the Government seems to be very passive and it seems to be very indifferent. They have ignored all these things and have moved clandestinely as if there is some secret deal; and they decided like this with scant respect for transparency.

The Coordination Committee of various organisations of fishermen has observed *hartal* in Kerala yesterday to protest against this decision. This is a very serious

decision which is adversely affecting more than 75 lakhs of traditional fishermen.

So, I request the Government and I request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly intervene in this matter, and to take immediate steps to see that this anti-people decision is cancelled so that the fisheries sector is saved.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, all of you can associate your names with that issue.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Thank you very much. Since the last week, the postal employees in the northern region of Kerala have been on strike and not a single person is working there. From today, the entire Postal Department in the whole of Kerala is on strike. The reason is this. Even before the Government of India thought of privatising and introducing the amendment Bill, one officer in Kerala has passed an order to privatise Speed Post Service. It is against this illegal and unjust activity that the strike has started. So, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to get a response from the Government, especially from the hon. Minister looking after this particular Department. Thank you very much.
...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): The Government goes on announcing schemes, without allocation of money. I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister. The Resource Development Minister has gone. Some Education Centres were announced last year and hundreds of them had been set up. For the last ten months, no allocation from the Centre has reached the States, despite Utilisation Certificates being sent.

I want to point out that these were supposed to be jobs for unemployed graduates, who are to get stipends under this scheme. For 10-12 months, neither salaries nor money for paying for the material used, electricity, etc. was given. Minimum requirements have been denied. They are all asking for salaries to be released to them.

The Finance Minister, before making any new announcements and before giving crores of rupees by way of exemptions to the rich and the mighty, should think about releasing money to these poor unemployed graduates who have been working for 11 months without salary, without any allowances and without any support. It is a serious matter and I do want the Finance Minister to take note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh is very pathetic. Through you I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this issue. It is for the first time in the history that the price of sugarcane is not shown on the slip of the farmers. Last year billions of rupees of farmers were outstanding which have not yet been paid to them. Neither the price of the sugarcane is shown on the slip nor remunerative price of sugarcane is being paid to the farmers. Billion of rupees of farmer are outstanding. It is on account of this that farmers are aggrieved. Ten sugar mills in my area have been closed down. When there was strike it was assured that units would be reopened, however, these mills could not be started till date. The condition of the farmers is very pathetic. The Government of India should give order to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to act towards the payment of remunerative price of sugarcane to the farmers. Recently the Prime Minister has announced to provide five billion rupees for the said purpose. ...*(Interruptions)* Today the condition of the sugarcane grower is very pathetic. I would like to request you to urge the hon'ble Minister to instruct the UP Government that it should act towards the payment of remunerative price of sugar cane to the farmers and the closed mills should be restarted. The closed mills have not yet been started. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister you please note this subject.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): The hon'ble Minister is sitting here. He had listened to the hon'ble Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to take up the discussion on the Interim Budget as quickly as I can.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam): Sir, the postal employees in Kerala are on strike for more than one week. ...*(Interruptions)* The workers are demanding immediate withdrawal of this unjustified and arbitrary order of the Post Master General. ...*(Interruptions)* I urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter and take steps to withdraw the arbitrary order immediately.

11.42 hrs.

Alleged enrolment of bogus voters on a massive scale in scientists colony of BARC, Mumbai

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I would like to draw your, and through you the attention of the Government to a very-very sensitive and security issue.

[Translation]

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is located in my Parliamentary constituency. Even if a Member of Parliament wants to enter the research centre premise he has to seek entry pass and has to intimate the authorities 24 hours in advance. There is Scientist colony that has four separate buildings that having 10 wings in each of them. Last week it came to my knowledge that there are 1217 senior citizens residing there and shocking and surprising fact is that out of them 312 people are illegal resident. Earlier I had heard only but now I find that the voter lists of Mumbai that has recently been published by Collectors contains the names of all those residents. There are 312 such names. How did they get entry in the voter list. What will be the security of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. When I asked about it to the Collector and BARC, they gave me the lists of legal residents. Both the lists are not the same. I would like to submit that investigation should be held in this regard and action should be taken against those who are responsible for such irregularities. On the other hand the names of the five lakh voters of Mumbai who had cast their votes in 1999 elections have been detected by the electoral officers. The reasons given by them is that since middle class voters were not at their residence so their names have been detected. If you read their names you will be shocked. From where did they come, who were behind such act? Shocking and surprising thing is that names were included during the previous enumeration. Whether it was done in connivance with the state government staff involved in enumeration or terrorist organisation are behind this irregularity? Inquiry should be held in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* The names of five lakh persons have been deleted from the voter list. I would like to submit to the Minister concerned that it is a very sensitive issue. It should be brought to the notice of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE

(SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): I will bring it to the notice of the Minister concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: To what Minister will you inform regarding it?

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: I will bring it to the notice of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Who will be Minister.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: I will bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She will bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, as a disciplined Member, I have given a notice for raising a matter after the Question Hour. But you have dispensed with that. Therefore, may I raise the matter which was mentioned there because I am committed to these people from Aligarh Muslim University? I do not want to take much of your time.

A great agitation is going on and a great resentment is there. There is a feeling that there is a deliberate attack on the minority character of this great institution. They have organised a march and are coming here. There was a direction by you to the hon. Minister to make a statement. That was on the 22nd December, 2003. I have got the debate with me but no statement is forthcoming. Tomorrow the House is adjourning and the 13th Lok Sabha is also ending day after. Therefore, kindly see that today itself—when they have come here—the Minister should make a statement and make their position clear. So, that is my demand. Kindly direct that your direction should be carried out.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sumanji, you have given your statement. Why are you rising again and again? I have said that the Government should give statement on this issue today or tomorrow and the Minister had accepted it. Since Somnath Chatterjee was not here so, I gave him time to speak.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, time is limited. It should be done either today or tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I go to the Budget. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to share.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI (Jalaun): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice that three persons have been mercilessly killed in my area. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Tomorrow I will give you chance and you will be first to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you a chance tomorrow. Today discussion is being held on the Budget so I will give you chance tomorrow.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Sir, a decision has been taken by the French Government saying that the Sikhs will be disallowed to wear turbans in public schools and Government offices. I requested the NDA Government to press for the right of the Sikhs to wear turban with the French Government.

In the United States, hate crime is going on against the Sikhs on the pretext that they are mistaken as Talibanis and Afghanis.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue tomorrow. Now remaining all such issues will be taken up tomorrow. Tomorrow, we can give one hour for discussion. Your notice also can be taken up tomorrow.

11.47 hrs.

INTERIM BUDGET (GENERAL)—2004-2005 DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL) 2004-2005 AND

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL) 2003-2004

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as per decision taken in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on

29th January, 2004, six hours have been allotted for the combined discussion on the Interim Budget (General) for year 2004-05, Demands for Grants on Account (General) for the year 2004-05, Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2003-04, and related Appropriation Bills. If the House agrees, there may be no lunch break. The combined discussion may commence immediately and be concluded by 6 p.m. today. The Minister of Finance may reply after that. After passing of the Demands for Grants on Account and the Supplementary Demands, the related Appropriation Bills may be passed. Thereafter the Finance Bill, 2004, may be taken up and passed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we agree for the suspension of the lunch hour. But it is literally a Budget not merely a mini-budget or Interim Budget. A lot of cut motions are there. Therefore, I request you not to restrict it up to 6 o'clock. It may go beyond that. Tomorrow, is the last day of the House and today is the only day when the Opposition can contribute in the budget as they like. Therefore, please do not restrict it up to 6 o'clock. It may go little beyond that also.

MR. SPEAKER: If it goes a little beyond, it will be permitted.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): There is Interim Budget, Excess Budget, Supplementary Budget, and Appropriation Bills also.

MR. SPEAKER: It may take a little more time.

The House will now take up together General Discussion on Interim Budget (General) for 2004-05, discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for the year 2004-05, and discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2003-04. Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants on Account have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating both the name of the Ministry and the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Only those cut motions will be treated as moved.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, we, the Members who are given the opportunity to speak towards the end should not be given two minutes to speak. Time should be rationed from the very beginning because the proceedings are being televised. So, you should show sympathy to those Members who would be speaking later.

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2005 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 62, 64 to 70, 72, 73 and 75 to 103."

Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2004-2005 submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha

| No. & Name of Demand | | Amount of Demand for Grant 'On Account' submitted to the Vote of the House | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| | | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Ministry of Agriculture | | | |
| 1. | Department of Agriculture and Cooperation | 1203,13,00,000 | 31,58,00,000 |
| 2. | Department of Agricultural Research and Education | 584,44,00,000 | — |
| 3. | Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying | 276,52,00,000 | 4,64,00,000 |
| Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries | | | |
| 4. | Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries | 241,34,00,000 | 54,00,000 |

| 203 | Interim Budget (General) 2004-05 Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2004-05 | FEBRUARY 4, 2004 | and Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) 2003-04 | 204 |
|---|--|------------------|--|-----|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | |
| Department of Atomic Energy | | | | |
| 5. | Atomic Energy | 603,80,00,000 | 501,11,00,000 | |
| 6. | Nuclear Power Schemes | 437,67,00,000 | 752,54,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers | | | | |
| 7. | Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals | 27,19,00,000 | 11,67,00,000 | |
| 8. | Department of Fertilisers | 6078,40,00,000 | 43,99,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Civil Aviation | | | | |
| 9. | Ministry of Civil Aviation | 147,37,00,000 | 15,02,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Coal | | | | |
| 10. | Ministry of Coal | 106,61,00,000 | 42,83,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Mines | | | | |
| 11. | Ministry of Mines | 202,21,00,000 | 58,76,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Commerce and Industry | | | | |
| 12. | Department of Commerce | 595,87,00,000 | 175,33,00,000 | |
| 13. | Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion | 200,13,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Communications and Information Technology | | | | |
| 14. | Department of Posts | 2010,12,00,000 | 105,80,00,000 | |
| 15. | Department of Telecommunications | 669,67,00,000 | 33,00,000 | |
| 16. | Department of Information Technology | 245,33,00,000 | 16,50,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution | | | | |
| 17. | Department of Consumer Affairs | 13,78,00,000 | 3,00,00,000 | |
| 18. | Department of Food and Public Distribution | 9508,93,00,000 | 157,41,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Defence | | | | |
| 19. | Ministry of Defence | 1870,76,00,000 | 145,27,00,000 | |
| 20. | Defence Pensions | 3749,91,00,00 | — | |
| 21. | Defence Services—Army | 9476,36,00,000 | — | |
| 22. | Defence Services—Navy | 1808,40,00,000 | — | |
| 23. | Defence Services—Air Force | 2931,86,00,000 | — | |
| 24. | Defence Ordnance Factories | 943,54,00,000 | — | |
| 25. | Defence Services—Research and Development | 784,31,00,000 | — | |
| 26. | Capital Outlay on Defence Services | — | 7491,00,00,000 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| Department of Development of North Eastern Region | | |
| 27. | Department of Development of North Eastern Region | 348,19,00,000 18,55,00,000 |
| Ministry of Disinvestment | | |
| 28. | Ministry of Disinvestment | 55,00,00,000 — |
| Ministry of Environment and Forests | | |
| 29. | Ministry of Environment and Forests | 428,15,00,000 5,58,00,000 |
| Ministry of External Affairs | | |
| 30. | Ministry of External Affairs | 1077,55,00,000 125,54,00,000 |
| Ministry of Finance | | |
| 31. | Department of Economic Affairs | 852,82,00,000 514,25,00,000 |
| 32. | Currency, Coinage and Stamps | 311,27,00,000 163,83,00,000 |
| 33. | Payments to Financial Institutions | 1171,80,00,000 373,71,00,000 |
| 35. | Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments | 8931,52,00,000 — |
| 36. | Loans to Government Servants etc. | — 200,00,00,000 |
| 38. | Department of Expenditure | 8,56,00,00 — |
| 39. | Pensions | 1565,99,00,00 — |
| 40. | Indian Audit and Accounts Department | 352,85,00,000 2,67,00,000 |
| 41. | Department of Revenue | 213,40,00,000 2,37,00,000 |
| 42. | Direct Taxes | 355,32,00,000 35,00,00,000 |
| 43. | Indirect Taxes | 419,03,00,000 67,94,00,000 |
| 44. | Department of Company Affairs | 18,00,00,000 1,00,00,000 |
| Ministry of Food Processing Industries | | |
| 45. | Ministry of Food Processing Industries | 38,56,00,000 — |
| Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | | |
| 46. | Department of Health | 884,81,00,000 118,57,00,000 |
| 47. | Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) | 75,07,00,000 17,00,000 |
| 48. | Department of Family Welfare | 2232,12,00,000 — |
| Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises | | |
| 49. | Department of Heavy Industry | 53,29,00,000 157,04,00,000 |
| 50. | Department of Public Enterprises | 10,88,00,000 — |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | | |
| 51. | Ministry of Home Affairs | 235,73,00,000 9,35,00,000 |
| 52. | Cabinet | 88,15,00,000 2,33,00,000 |

| 207 | Interim Budget (General) 2004-05 Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2004-05 | FEBRUARY 4, 2004 | and Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) 2003-04 | 208 |
|---|--|------------------|--|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | | |
| 53. | Police | 3634,80,00,000 | 498,65,00,000 | |
| 54. | Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs | 252,13,00,000 | — | |
| 55. | Transfers to Union Territory Governments | 202,34,00,000 | 136,32,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Human Resource Development | | | | |
| 56. | Department of Elementary Education and Literacy | 2001,56,00,000 | — | |
| 57. | Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education | 1685,79,00,000 | 1,00,000 | |
| 58. | Department of Women and Child Development | 1148,65,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Information and Broadcasting | | | | |
| 59. | Ministry of Information and Broadcasting | 421,12,00,000 | 83,62,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Labour | | | | |
| 60. | Ministry of Labour | 348,57,00,000 | 2,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Law and Justice | | | | |
| 61. | Election Commission | 3,83,00,000 | — | |
| 62. | Law and Justice | 1219,90,00,00 | 34,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | | | | |
| 64. | Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | 169,74,00,000 | 32,01,00,000 | |
| Department of Ocean Development | | | | |
| 65. | Department of Ocean Development | 76,36,00,000 | 33,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs | | | | |
| 66. | Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs | 1,96,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions | | | | |
| 67. | Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions | 49,38,00,000 | 38,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas | | | | |
| 68. | Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas | 1191,55,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Planning | | | | |
| 69. | Ministry of Planning | 43,63,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Power | | | | |
| 70. | Ministry of Power | 701,29,00,000 | 879,20,00,000 | |
| The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission & the Secretariat of the Vice-President | | | | |
| 72. | Lok Sabha | 67,60,00,000 | — | |
| 73. | Rajya Sabha | 29,97,00,000 | — | |

| 209 | Interim Budget (General) 2004-05 Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2004-05 | MAGHA 15, 1925 (Saka) | and Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) 2003-04 | 210 |
|-----|--|-----------------------|--|-----|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | |
| 75. | Secretariat of the Vice-President | 44,00,000 | — | |
| | Ministry of Road Transport and Highways | | | |
| 76. | Ministry of Road Transport and Highways | 1791,92,00,000 | 2410,98,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Rural Development | | | |
| 77. | Department of Rural Development | 6054,29,00,000 | 2,50,00,000 | |
| 78. | Department of Land Resources | 421,49,00,000 | — | |
| 79. | Department of Drinking Water Supply | 1320,46,00,000 | — | |
| | Ministry of Science and Technology | | | |
| 80. | Department of Science and Technology | 406,50,00,000 | 23,57,00,000 | |
| 81. | Department of Scientific and Industrial Research | 431,97,00,000 | 1,37,00,000 | |
| 82. | Department of Biotechnology | 107,82,00,000 | — | |
| | Ministry of Shipping | | | |
| 83. | Ministry of Shipping | 182,02,00,000 | 102,54,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Small Scale Industries | | | |
| 84. | Ministry of Small Scale Industries | 133,13,00,000 | 5,00,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment | | | |
| 85. | Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment | 457,14,00,000 | 43,25,00,000 | |
| | Department of Space | | | |
| 86. | Department of Space | 722,31,00,000 | 188,11,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | | | |
| 87. | Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | 861,80,00,000 | 6,95,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Steel | | | |
| 88. | Ministry of Steel | 22,70,00,000 | 5,67,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Textiles | | | |
| 89. | Ministry of Textiles | 441,98,00,000 | 151,56,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Tourism and Culture | | | |
| 90. | Department of Culture | 22,78,00,000 | 15,17,00,000 | |
| 91. | Department of Tourism | 75,75,00,000 | 98,17,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Tribal Affairs | | | |
| 92. | Ministry of Tribal Affairs | 45,15,00,000 | 14,42,00,000 | |
| | Union Territories (Without Legislature) | | | |
| 93. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 302,33,00,000 | 69,44,00,000 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 94. | Chandigarh | 300,81,00,000 50,78,00,000 |
| 95. | Dadara and Nagar Haveli | 151,27,00,000 9,93,00,000 |
| 96. | Daman and Diu | 82,50,00,000 9,83,00,000 |
| 97. | Lakshadweep | 72,89,00,000 12,68,00,000 |
| Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation | | |
| 98. | Department of Urban Development | 320,58,00,000 589,64,00,000 |
| 99. | Public Works | 229,47,00,000 80,16,00,000 |
| 100. | Stationery and Printing | 49,02,00,000 7,00,000 |
| 101. | Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation | 150,38,00,000 103,85,00,000 |
| Ministry of Water Resources | | |
| 102. | Ministry of Water Resources | 264,48,00,000 1916,00,000 |
| Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports | | |
| 103. | Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports | 150,59,00,000 4,75,00,000 |
| total Revenue/Capital | | 93466,83,00,000 17017,65,00,000 |

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, or certain further sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the

31st day of March, 2004 in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof, against Demand Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 38, 40, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 59, 60, 62, 66, 67, 68, 70, 72, 73, 76, 77, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 87, 89, 90, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102 and 103."

Supplementary Demands for Grants—Third Batch (General) for 2003-2004 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

| S.No. | No. & Title of Demand | Amount of Demand for Grant to be submitted to the Vote of the House | |
|--|---|---|-------------|
| | | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Ministry of Agriculture | | | |
| 1. | Department of Agriculture and Cooperation | 2,00,000 | — |
| Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries | | | |
| 4. | Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries | 50,00,00,000 | — |
| Department of Atomic Energy | | | |
| 5. | Atomic Energy | — | 1,00,000 |

| 213 | Interim Budget (General) 2004-05 Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2004-05 | MAGHA 15, 1925 (Saka) | and Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) 2003-04 | 214 |
|-----|--|-----------------------|--|-----|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | |
| 6. | Nuclear Power Schemes | — | 257,60,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers | | | |
| 8. | Department of Fertilisers | 88,38,00,000 | — | |
| | Ministry of Coal | | | |
| 10. | Ministry of Coal | 1,00,000 | — | |
| | Ministry of Mines | | | |
| 11. | Ministry of Mines | — | 93,84,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Commerce and Industry | | | |
| 12. | Department of Commerce | 5,61,00,000 | — | |
| 13. | Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion | 1,00,000 | — | |
| | Ministry of Communications and Information Technology | | | |
| 14. | Department of Posts | 211,16,00,000 | — | |
| 15. | Department of Telecommunications | 275,62,00,000 | — | |
| 16. | Department of Information Technology | 7,51,00,000 | 20,00,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Defence | | | |
| 19. | Ministry of Defence | 248,92,00,000 | — | |
| 24. | Defence Ordnance Factories | 238,04,00,000 | — | |
| | Department of Development of North Eastern Region | | | |
| 27. | Department of Development of North Eastern Region | — | 1,00,000 | |
| | Ministry of Disinvestment | | | |
| 28. | Ministry of Disinvestment | 20,63,00,000 | — | |
| | Ministry of Environment and Forests | | | |
| 29. | Ministry of Environment and Forests | 1,00,000 | — | |
| | Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs | | | |
| 31. | Department of Economic Affairs | 3,00,000 | — | |
| 33. | Payments to Financial Institutions | 786,00,00,000 | 2,00,000 | |
| 38. | Department of Expenditure | 1,20,00,000 | — | |
| 40. | Indian Audit and Accounts Department | 46,18,00,000 | — | |
| 43. | Indirect Taxes | 139,00,00,000 | — | |
| | Ministry of Food Processing Industries | | | |
| 45. | Ministry of Food Processing Industries | 1,00,000 | — | |

| 215 | Interim Budget (General) 2004-05 Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2004-05 | FEBRUARY 4, 2004 | and Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) 2003-04 | 216 |
|---|--|------------------|--|-----|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | |
| Ministry of Health and Family Welfare | | | | |
| 46. | Department of Health | 90,02,00,000 | — | |
| 47. | Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy | 1,00,000 | — | |
| 48. | Department of Family Welfare | 1,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | | | | |
| 51. | Ministry of Home Affairs | 32,64,00,000 | 3,05,00,000 | |
| 52. | Cabinet | 48,15,00,000 | 4,38,00,000 | |
| 53. | Police | 845,37,00,000 | 251,00,00,000 | |
| 54. | Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs | 3,00,000 | — | |
| 55. | Transfers to Union Territory Governments | 1,24,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Human Resource Development | | | | |
| 57. | Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education | 4,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Information and Broadcasting | | | | |
| 59. | Ministry of Information and Broadcasting | 1,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Labour | | | | |
| 60. | Ministry of Labour | 1,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Law and Justice | | | | |
| 62. | Law and Justice | 1,00,000 | 1,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs | | | | |
| 66. | Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs | 1,72,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions | | | | |
| 67. | Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions | — | 60,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas | | | | |
| 68. | Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas | 1,00,000 | 319,36,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Power | | | | |
| 70. | Ministry of Power | 1,00,000 | — | |
| The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President | | | | |
| 72. | Lok Sabha | 2,95,00,000 | — | |
| 73. | Rajya Sabha | 7,54,00,000 | — | |
| Ministry of Road Transport and Highways | | | | |
| 76. | Ministry of Road Transport and Highways | 4,28,00,000 | 1,00,000 | |

| 217 | Interim Budget (General) 2004-05 Demands for Grants on Account (General) 2004-05 | MAGHA 15, 1925 (Saka) | and Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) 2003-04 | 218 |
|---|--|-----------------------|--|-----|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | |
| Ministry of Rural Development | | | | |
| 77. | Department of Rural Development | 3,61,00,000 | | — |
| 79. | Department of Drinking Water Supply | 20,01,00,000 | | — |
| Ministry of Science and Technology | | | | |
| 80. | Department of Science and Technology | 1,00,000 | | — |
| 82. | Department Biotechnology | 1,00,000 | | — |
| Ministry of Shipping | | | | |
| 83. | Ministry of Shipping | 2,00,000 | | — |
| Ministry of Small Scale Industries | | | | |
| 84. | Ministry of Small Scale Industries | 1,00,000 | | — |
| Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | | | | |
| 87. | Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | 100,00,00,000 | | — |
| Ministry of Textiles | | | | |
| 89. | Ministry of Textiles | 3,00,000 | | — |
| Ministry of Tourism and Culture | | | | |
| 90. | Department of Culture | 6,71,00,000 | | — |
| Ministry of Home Affairs Union Territories (without Legislature) | | | | |
| 93. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 100,000 | 8,36,00,000 | |
| 94. | Chandigarh | 1,00,000 | 2,17,00,000 | |
| 95. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 75,52,00,000 | | — |
| 97. | Lakshadweep | — | 2,24,00,00 | |
| Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation | | | | |
| 98. | Department of Urban Development | 75,51,00,000 | 250,01,00,000 | |
| 99. | Public Works | — | 1,00,000 | |
| 101. | Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation | 1,00,000 | 1,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Water Resources | | | | |
| 102. | Ministry of Water Resources | — | 1,53,00,000 | |
| Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports | | | | |
| 103. | Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports | 1,00,000 | | — |
| Grand Total | | 3433,87,00,000 | 1214,22,00,000 | |

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the last debate of the 13th Lok Sabha. I feel that the way Government have held this Session, is a violation of constitutional values and parliamentary conventions. The way Government have declared important economic decisions even before the starting of the Session, is actually a mockery of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act that was passed by this House last year. Crores of rupees of the public have been spent by the Government lavishly on the advertisements of their 'feel good factor' that has deeply hurt the feelings of the people. However, what can one expect from such a Government which have been involved in the scams, be it defence related scams, or petrol pumps, or allotment of DDA land or the share market, UTI, HUDCO, Tehelka issue or the Judeo Video tape issue.

A proposal has been made in the Interim Budget for creation of Defence Modernisation Fund. It took five years for the Government to understand this fact which has been proposed by us since a long time. Thousands of crores of rupees allocated for defence modernisation were actually not spent. What happened due to all this? It proved harmful for our national security and in dangered the life of our brave soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir even the C. and A.G has criticised the Government in this regard. C. and A.G. observed that transparency has not been maintained in defence deals. Whether the country can ever forget the scam occurred in the purchase of coffins. Last general election was held in the background of the Kargil war. Can I remind the House about the Subramaniam Committee Report of the Government on which discussion has not been held deliberately in the House for the last four years. In fact it is a very big example of the Government neglecting the Parliament about important issues like national security.

Tall claims have been made with regard to economic progress in the Interim Budget, but the facts speak of themselves, first of all the hon. Finance Minister.

[English]

is taking the credit for declining interest rates, but I believe, this is a most cruel joke on crores of families who have seen the value of their savings fall very steeply.

In fact the pace of economic progress has actually declined during the last five years and the rate of

investment has also lowered. Even the growth rate in agriculture and industry sectors has also come down but unemployment problem is increasing rapidly. I find just one problem everywhere and that is 'unemployment' Crores of young boys and girls are facing the depression of a dark future. Small and rural industries have got badly affected. Future of lakhs of people working in the Khadi sector is in dark and we all know that these people belong to the weaker sections of the society. Public Sector that has given employment to lakhs of Dalit. Tribals and has also extended great contribution in the development of backward areas of the country has been damaged deliberately. Public Sector Undertakings are being sold at throw away price to certain people. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a mention of second 'Green Revolution', thanks to God that they did not try to take the credit of the 'Green Revolution' initiated by Indiraji. The Government have become aware just a few weeks before the elections and now they have declared to launch Second Green Revolution. Many of the hon. Members in this House and outside were trying to draw the attention of the Government towards the pitiable condition of farmers and land labourers. As per the Government records, farmers have committed maximum number of suicides during the last five years. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister of Finance has again made announcements in the Interim Budget to make sugar industry self dependent, but I wish to ask him as to whom he wants to mislead now? Many of us have witnessed the devastation of farmers in the country. Farmers growing many crops like sugarcane, paddy, wheat, potato etc. are under the burden of debt. Everyone is aware that neither the Government could pay outstanding amount of farmers to them, nor could give them the minimum support price, nor could they get the sugarcane of the farmers properly sold in the factories. I, through you, would like to know from the Government as to why no attention has been paid to save the farmers from this pitiable condition during the last five years?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government was talking about restoration of peace and creation of conducive atmosphere in the country as also about the gross national content. But it does not behave them as they have completely spoiled atmosphere of social harmony in the country.

12.00 hrs.

Sir, one doesn't feel good hearing such things from the Government that have supported the organisation spreading the feelings of hatred and who have not left even a single stone unturned in dividing the society for

their narrow motives of winning the elections. Social justice has suffered maximum in the present Government's tenure. It is the Dalits, Adivasis, minorities and women who have been the victims of atrocities in the regime of the NDA Government. So far as empowerment of women is concerned, one can very well understand the intention of the Government that despite our full support, the Government could not get Women Reservation Bill passed in the House.

Sir, what to talk of labourers, employees working in un-organised sector, it seems that this Government do not care for their pain, as despite our support, this Government did not try to make any law for safeguarding their interests. Contrary to this, many States where Congress is in the power have taken many new steps in this direction. Besides agriculture, it is the Handloom Sector that generates maximum employment in the country, but I am very sorry to say that this Government have not made even a single mention for the welfare of weavers in the Interim Budget.

Sir, the Government are claiming that our country has made progress rapidly in many sectors during the last five years. Leave aside other progresses, only one example in this matter is sufficient that the basic need for our citizens in order to be self-reliant is that of education, but the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was launched with great enthusiasm but it has been total failure. Youth's mind is being poisoned with communalisation of education and not only this, the autonomy of many higher education institutes, established with lot of efforts during the last many years, has being withdrawn.

Sir, not only the educational institutes have been ruined but the Constitutional bodies viz, CAG, CVC, Election Commission and Human Rights Commission have also not been spared. Senior leaders, Senior Ministers of the Government have also lowered their dignity. It has happened in this House and powers of Investigating agencies as also commissions of enquiry are being snatched away, CBI could not file even appeal in connection with Ayodhya case and even the investigating officer was removed from the Liberhan Commission. As such, what else can we say.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at this juncture, when we all are heading towards contesting elections, I, on behalf of my party would say that we are proud to perform our role as a positive and concrete opposition. I am confident that our support and contribution to the Government in making various laws would be viewed as a positive gesture in the history of this country. I feel sorry that the Government

had never ever made much efforts to reach a consensus, but despite that we never deviated and always extended our co-operation in the matters of national interest.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is nothing to be surprised that Finance Minister have said lots of words in praise of hon. Prime Minister. After all our hon. Prime Minister has been active in public life since, the last more than half a century. He must be knowing about Dev Anand's film 'Asli-Naqli', but the fact is that the hon. Prime Minister has been changing his attitude on majority of important issues during the last four and a half years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Atal ji is never 'atal' (sticks to) on many issues—be it the matter of corruption amongst his colleagues in the Cabinet, or the Ayodhya issue, or massacre in Gujarat, or relations with Pakistan, or the Jammu and Kashmir policy. Neither the attitude of the hon. Prime Minister is conspicuous, nor there is any firmness in it. So far as the hon. Finance Minister is concerned, I can only say that why this Government have not been so kind enough towards Rajasthan when the State was reeling under drought continuously for four consecutive years.

Mr. Speakers, Sir, hon. Prime Minister had recently made an appeal in connection with the elections. I feel that this is another example of the double standards adopted by him. On the one hand he makes appeal to the people to practice patience while on the other hand his close associates use unwanted and unrestrained language. Contrary to this, I feel that we all are committed to hold such elections campaign in systematic manner which will also reflect the real concerns of people and would also strengthen the unity of Indian Society.

CUT MOTIONS

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (PAGE 1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need for economic measures for protection of coconut growers. (11)

Need for measures for protection of fishermen. (12)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (PAGE 1) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to discuss the State of affairs of jute growers, J.C.I. and Jute Industry. (16)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to Move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (PAGE 4) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to re-introduce the Minimum Export Price (MEP) for coir to save small scale sector. (1)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (PAGE 9) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need for early commissioning of Ajmer Airport. (1)

Need to withdraw restrictions imposed on subsidy on Haj flights. (2).

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF POSTS (PAGE 14) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to revise norms and increase the number of post offices and postal facilities in the Malappuram district of Kerala because of the difficulties of terrain as also increasing number of posts offices outside Kerala. (1)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS (PAGE 15) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to address the acute shortage of BSNL prepaid cards in Kerala.

(4) Need to remove the acute shortage of cables in Ponnani Parliamentary Constituency (Kerala circle). (5)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PAGE 19) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to upgrade defence preparedness for assuring continued National Security and utilising allotted funds with approved plan for Tenth Plan. (3)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PAGE 30) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to persuade Gulf countries such as UAE for providing greater facilities and conveniences in their Consulates in India for attestations of documents particularly of those seeking work in those countries. (1)

Need to make arrangements in Kerala to provide attestations of documents of the large number of those seeking work abroad. (2)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PAGE 30) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to discuss the foreign policy. (3)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (PAGE 31) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to withdraw 8% service tax on parallel colleges in the interest of middle class and poor students. (2)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (PAGE 31) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to punish the culprits involved in U.T.I. Scam. (4)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (PAGE 46) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to expedite CBI investigation in the purchase of medicines in the Health Ministry. (1)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF AYURVEDA, YOGA & NATUROPATHY, UNANI, SIDDHA AND HOMOEOPATHY (AYUSH) (PAGE 47) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need for greater boost to Unani System of Medicine. (2)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PAGE 51) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to withdraw POTA. (1)

Need to take up the matter with Maharashtra Government for implementation of Srikrishna Commission's Report (5)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PAGE 51) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to make the functioning of CBI more transparent and effective. (6)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD POLICE (PAGE 53) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to give reservations to every minority for adequate representation in police, para military forces and intelligence agencies. (7)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION (PAGE 57) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to withdraw Service Tax on parallel colleges in the interest of middle class and poor students. (2)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PAGE 57) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to check unnecessary expenditure by government on advertisement in print media. (2)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD LAW AND JUSTICE (PAGE 62) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need for appropriate measures and legal framework to ensure disposal of civil and criminal cases within reasonable time schedule. (1)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD LAW AND JUSTICE (PAGE 62) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to bring the legislation on Lok Pal. (2)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (PAGE 67) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to provide reservation in services to every minority in proportion to its population. (1)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF PLANNING (PAGE 69) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to check avoidable expenditure by Government on advertisements in Print Media. (1)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT LABOUR (PAGE 85) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need for full implementation of 15-point programme for the welfare of minorities and also to expand the programme. (1)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (PAGE 87) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100.

Need to increase funds under MPLADS (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme). (1)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the speech delivered by the leader of the opposition does not bear any relation with the Budget. Her speech is politically motivated which has brought down the standard of discussion on Budget speech to a very low level. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You should also listen to him. Ramdas ji, please sit down. You should listen to his speech also.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not even started my speech on the Budget and he is interrupting me. God knows what would happen further. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You continue your speech. There is nothing to worry.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: First of all, the hon. Leader of opposition has mentioned about the non lapsable budget of rupees 25 thousand crore sanctioned for Defence purposes and said that initially no consideration was given towards this. She also mentioned about the Report of Subramaniam Committee and Kargil war and said that no attention was paid towards our soldiers who were fighting to death in Kargil. I would like to ask the hon. Leader of opposition and her party that Shri George Fernandes was prevented from speaking here in the House, no discussion was held on Defence nor any question was allowed to be asked in this regard in the House for three years ...*(Interruptions)* The party here which ...*(Interruptions)* whether it has ever happened in the history of any country that the Members either stage walk out, or create pandemonium, or start shouting whenever the hon. Minister of Defence rises to speak that too consecutively for three years and then it is being blamed that no discussion was held on Defence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Tiwariji, he also has the right to speak, please sit down.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that nothing more can be shameful to that no discussion was attended on defence matters in the House for the last three years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI (Rewa): They are amongst those who have done a number of scams. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): No other thing than this, can be more shameful that a Minister alleged to be indulged in corruption, is re-absorbed in the Cabinet ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yes, I will tell you right now.

MR. SPEAKER: You can also make a speech.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: You will get many chances to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: He is saying that the hon. Minister was prevented from speaking for three consecutive years. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I wanted to apprise him that the opposition was asked to hold discussion on any issue. When the discussion was held thrice in a week, then why not did they demand to hold discussion on the Subramaniam Committee? Actually they set aside all matters related to defence because Shri George Fernandes was, required to make reply on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): We, repeatedly made demands, records are evidence to it, but the Government did not accede to hold discussion on it. No democratic country of the world would have ever faced such a situation that the Government are not ready to hold discussion on such an important issue related to security, it is really shameful for this Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has submitted his point. We have listened to Sonia ji's speech very quietly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everyone knows that no one interrupted when hon. Leader of Opposition was on her legs. Same attitude should be adopted for others also. I request all hon. Members sitting here that they can deliver speech as per their wish, but they should not interrupt others.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What did he do, he has spoken these things for Atal ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would request all the hon. Members in the House that as it is very important issue hence it should be held properly please do not interrupt. I would again give you chance to listen to him and to give him reply. Members who wish to speak, can do so, but please do not interrupt, this is against the etiquettes, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would expect that nothing is recorded excepting the speech of Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, instead of starting from Budget Speech, Sonia ji started her speech with this subject, and she also talked about scams. Congress Party is a synonym of corruption since first day till date. But I want to ask only two questions. Why did she not mention BOFORS and why money was taken from Saddam. We may maintain friendly relations with Saddam but in that course. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: The Government failed to deliver anything concrete regarding the BOFORS allegations levelled upon Congress for the last 15 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: They could not do anything regarding BOFORS allegation. ...*(Interruptions)* He is saying that no mention was made regarding BOFORS. ...*(Interruptions)* They may raise the BOFORS issue with some substantial evidence. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: One may develop friendship with any one. ...*(Interruptions)* One may make friends it is good to form friendship. We may develop friendly relations with all other countries but to take money for it. ...*(Interruptions)* I want to tell him that nothing can be more painful than this. The allegations levelled by the Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, I am not yielding.

MR. SPEAKER: If he is on a point of order, you have to sit down for a minute. Let me listen to him.

Shri Jaipal Reddy, can you tell me under which rule are you raising your point of order?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has made an allegation against the Congress Party. In regard to funds from Iraq, he has made an unsubstantiated allegation. For making such an allegation, he should have given a notice and he should have given some token evidence. He has made a wild allegation and he has tried to draw inferences on the basis of a wild, unsubstantiated allegation. He has given no notice for that. Therefore, I request you to expunge all those remarks from the record.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Whether the allegation levelled by Shrimati Sonia ji were given in writing ...*(Interruptions)* whether all the allegations she mentioned here were given in writing. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, you need not have to reply to his point of order. You can go ahead with your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is their say regarding the allegations levelled by the Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab Shrimati Bhattal, against the Punjab Chief Minister, the allegations levelled against Shri Antony by Shri Karunakaran, the allegations levelled against Shri Jogi ji and about the allegations being levelled by their own party members as Shri Vaghela is doing against Amar Singh ji Chaudhary. The important people of their own party are levelling allegations against their own Chief Ministers. What is their reaction in this regard? They have not mentioned anything in regard to the scams. ...*(Interruptions)* I was surprised when he said that in the entire budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you disturb him like this, there will be no proper discussion in the House. Please do not disturb him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Had you disturbed your leader when she was speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is propriety to take up state subjects here. ...*(Interruptions)* If they have any courage, then the Chief Minister of Punjab ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am telling the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now they mentioned about unorganised sector. For the last 50 years Congress party or any other party did not formulated any scheme for the slum-dwellers, people living on pavements, rickshawpullers and agriculture labourers. In this budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is not aware of the history of the country itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: If Congress has done nothing then how they got defeated in Delhi.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You are not aware of the history. Who constructed Bhakhara Nangal? Did you constructed it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER; Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, you can go ahead. Only your speech is going on record. You can go ahead.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the first time, it was stated that they would be given a family pension of Rs. 500 throughout the life. For the first time, hon. Jaswant Singh has provided for accident insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh 35 thousand and safety insurance cover of Rs. 30 thousand to unorganised sector. Such a step was not taken for the last 50 years. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER; Please do not indulge in speech making and giving reply too.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: This is not a vegetable. I cannot allow you to go on records like this. He is distorting facts.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Just now the question was raised. *...(Interruptions)* Just now they mentioned about the plight of the farmers. It was mentioned that farmers have committed suicide. Farmers committed suicide in Karnataka and Maharashtra where Congress Party was in power. Farmers committed suicide in those states only where Congress party was in power. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Farmers committed suicide in Punjab also. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They were in power in Punjab also. *...(Interruptions)* Credit cards were issued to 3.5 crore farmers whereby a loan of Rs. 60 thousand crore was given to them. Was any farmer given credit card in their regime? Not a single farmer was given credit card. Shri Jaswant Singh has stated that each and every farmer of the country will be issued credit card by 31st March and a loan of Rs. 1 crore would be given to them. Sonia ji has to reply in this regard that farmers

were given loan at 18% in the regime of Congress Party whereas now they are getting loan at 9% interest. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What is he talking. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: Ask how much interest they are charging. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please ask her to sit down. She is disturbing me. If they continue with this, we will also not allow any hon. Member of the Congress party to speak. What is this? I am not being allowed to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: He is speaking loudly. What is this *...(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What I am speaking is correct *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotra ji, you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yesterday, hon. Jaswant Singh ji has issued directions to the effect that the interest rate be reduced further to less than 9 per cent. During the Congress regime the interest rate was 18 percent while at present interest rates have fallen to 9 and even 7 percent and still it is being propagated that the condition of farmers is worsening and injustice is being done to them. *...(Interruptions)* It was also alleged that nothing was done for the welfare of the weavers. one crore and twenty five lakh weavers have been brought under the purview of the said Credit Card system. *...(Interruptions)* The same loan is being extended to them. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): What had they been doing for the last five years. Since election are approaching, so it is a ploy to reap political gains. *...(Interruptions)* This is being done to mislead the country. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI: It is not the Farmer's Credit Card, it is rather BJP's commission and *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not counter his points during your speech? This goes against the decorum of the House. Please listen carefully. If hon. Members from both sides speak simultaneously it will not be possible to conduct the House. You will get an opportunity and you are at liberty to criticise the Government. You have every right to do so. You may give vent to your feelings when

it is your turn to speak. When the leader of the opposition was delivering her speech nobody disturbed her. You also cannot disturb him. You may say anything in your speech. This is not the way to behave like this. Do not make me strict.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They enmeshed this country into a debt-trap for the last 40-50 years and burdened it with loans amounting to crores of rupees. There is not a single country left in the world from which India did not take loan. Whenever the meeting of the Paris Aid Club was held, the Minister of Finance here was a perturbed lot as to what announcement would be made there, how much debt burden would increase and how loan would be repaid. The country was burdened with loan. Four-five days back hon. Jaswant Singh ji has reimbursed the entire loan of Canada payable till 2020. The Canada Government is asking why India is returning the loan that was to be paid till 2020. We are returning the loan amounting to Rs. 15,000 crore. It is not trivial thing that the Government of India have also given a hundred crore rupees as loan to IMF from which we used to take loan every year.

India has given loan to 15 countries. While the prior Governments had put this country under a debt burden, the present Government has made this country a money lender. We are giving loans to other countries while earlier foodgrains were imported by India from many countries of the world. Today, they are alleging that the condition of farmers is pathetic. The farmers have produced so much of grains. They used to beg for grains from the entire world. Foodgrains were being imported in the country till 1997. Foodgrains were imported from America with the condition that India should go in for devaluation otherwise foodgrains would not be given. Foodgrains were imported from Mexico, Australia and Canada. There used to be long queues while at present we are exporting foodgrains to thirty countries today. Thirty countries are purchasing foodgrains from us. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Are we not importing grains today? ...(Interruptions) Even today grains are being imported. The hon. Member's assertion is far from truth. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: What are you talking? Will you feed us on sugar supplied by our enemy? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Renuka ji why have you come to sit here?

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Renuka incamates everywhere. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Congress Members have forgotten those days. The Budget was discussed yesterday. The Minister of Finance mentioned that our foreign exchange reserves have crossed a hundred billions dollar. There was a time when. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Please tell us what has added to our foreign exchange reserve. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please direct them not to interrupt my speech. ...(Interruptions) If you please, I will sit down. Should I sit down if they are bent upon me every second? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please stop now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if they continue with this we will also not allow them to speak. If they behave like this then we will also not allow them to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Look, I have given them the hint. I have told him twice and thrice. Hon. Malhotra ji has every right to speak. Everyone should listen to him.

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: Then I will also tell who is the real Gandhi and who is the fake one ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This why you will be wasting the time of the House. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Look, I have to conduct the House. I have told them. Now please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRTI JHA AZAD: This wouldn't do. We will also disclose it as to who is the real Gandhi and who is the fake one. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malhotra, you can continue with your speech. Please ask your Members to sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now please allow Shri Malhotra ji to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying to you that the size of our foreign exchange reserve was one hundred billion dollars on 19th December that increased to approximately 104 billion dollars after fifteen days and it is growing by a quarter billion after every two-three days. During their rule the gold of the country had to be mortgaged to augment the foreign exchange reserve and 40 tonnes of gold was mortgaged to get some foreign exchange. Today our economic condition is so strong that while in the past Indians used to invest their money abroad, now the foreigners are flocking to India to invest here. In view of our strengthened economy. Today our foreign exchange reserve stands at 104 billion dollars and no foreign power can dare to threaten and impose sanctions against our country and those who had imposed sanctions had to withdraw them ultimately. We have so much of foreign exchange with us that our economic condition is quite strong. What else it is other than shining India and to robust economic growth? It is being asked as to where is the feel good factors in our country and it is being repeatedly objected to. Besides several other things are also being said. It is being said that there is no feel good factor. Rather there is feel bad factor in our country and such things are being said.

The entire world is accepting that our GDP growth rate is 7.4 per cent. Hon. Jaswant Singhji has just stated that it is likely to be around 7.5 to 8 percent this year. During the Congress era, even it was debatable whether a growth rate of 3 to 4 or 5 is sustainable or not. Now we are converted among the top five to six economies of the world. Today our GDP growth rate is 8.4 percent tomorrow it would increase to 9 percent and when our Government again comes back to power it would touch 10 percent as well. What can be better proof of a better economic condition than this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him. Let him speak, there is no harm in listening to him.

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA: Elections are yet to be held and they are talking about forming their Government once again.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1956, patients used to succumb to their illness on roads for want of medical facilities. Then Congress continued to rule for further 40-45 years but they failed to set up another hospital like AIIMS but during our regime 12 hospitals have been opened on lines of AIIMS under the stewardship of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. People from abroad are coming into India to get treatment for it is better as well as cheaper. Earlier people including big leaders used to go abroad to seek treatment but now the treatment in India is costing on 1/4th 1/10th of the expenditure that takes place and it is certainly an achievement of this Government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention two more things. He has stated that there is dearth of employment opportunities in the country and unemployment has increased. 1 lakh 80 thousand villages of the country were not connected by roads in India but the work of developing roads in these villages has been going on for the last three years by allocating Rs. 60000 crore for them. So far roads have been developed in 30000 villages. The Finance Minister has made an outlay of one lakh crore rupees for the Golden Quadrilateral project that seeks to spread the network of highways in the entire country. This is leading to the construction of roads in one hand and providing employment to lakhs of people on the other. More than two to three crore employment opportunities are being generated under the scheme. Four to five years ago no one in the country had even heard about information technology.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: One officer working under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana was short dead.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: During the Congress era, 11 kilometres of road used to be developed in an year while during the tenure of the present Government 11 kilometres of six lane roads is being added every day that is providing employment to crore of peoples. A network of roads is being spread throughout the country.

He has asked as to where does the shining India exist. I can cite hundred of examples in this connection. However, I would like to state one thing that a dejected

and depressed person can not feel good and he finds grief even in joy. As such, how can a person feel good that is why he is not accepting it. Whereas crores of people of India and entire world are saying that India is shining. Recently results of two surveys had been highlighted. One was conducted by 'Aaj Tak' which predicted that NDA is likely to get 340-350 seats in the forthcoming elections while the second survey also predicts a gain of 350 seats for our alliance. Still if he maintains that there is no feel good factor in the country it is certainly surprising.

Reference was made about the Prime Minister. It was also said as to whether the Prime Minister is really wielding power or is there someone behind the scene. I would like to say to them that hon. Atal Bihar Vajpayee is the undisputed and the only leader of our 25 allied parties but I would like to ask the opposition as to who their leader is. The opposition should declare as to who is their leader ...*(Interruptions)*. There is no leader of opposition ...*(Interruptions)*. Soniaji should declare about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): 24 parties are fearful of one Soniaji. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Soniaji has herself stated in media and everywhere in the country that she is not their leader and it would only be decided after elections. However, some sycophants are saying that she is the leader ...*(Interruptions)*. The battle of election is on and hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee is the leader of NDA. However, Congress Party maintains that the leader would be decided after the election. They would decide about commander-in-Chief after the war is over. How can they fight the war without the Commander-in-Chief...*(Interruptions)*. Soniaji has said that some restraint be exercised and dignity be maintained and levelled some allegations. I do not want to level allegations. I do not want to harp on those questions but I am not raising the issue of her foreign origin because there is no other issue before us ...*(Interruptions)*. Any other issue would have been raised if there had been any clearcut issue ...*(Interruptions)* and has there been any Commander-in-Chief. An army without its Commander and one lacking majority meets in its doom. It would have been better if no mention had been made about the hon. Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would certainly like to say that ...*(Interruptions)*. The relief to the government employees, unemployed, poors has been given in the budget. It would have been better if the discussion had been held in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the lotus will certainly blossom once the sun has risen and no vulture would be able to stop it. It is not the fault of the sun of someone shuts his eyes and start denying that sun is rising. Hon Jaswantji has presented a glorious budget that has been welcomed throughout the country. But we can not heed if opposition do not welcome it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal—not present.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, he will be coming a little later.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Raranjpe—not present.
 Kunwar Akhilesh Singh.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Interim Budget. The situation under which the NDA Government has brought this Bill, that shows that the Bharatiya Janata Party has deceived the country as much it could but now it will not get any opportunity to deceive again in future. During the elections of the 13th Lok Sabha Prime Minister of the country, hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji had promised to the people to provide employment to one crore youth of the country every year. Instead of providing employment, the Government has snatched the employment of the people by making disinvestment of public sector undertakings.

Today, the Government has once again tried to mislead the people of the country. Hon'ble Minister of Finance has presented the Interim Budget. By doing so the Government has once again tried to deceive the innocent people of this country.

Today many things are being said about development. However, through you I would like to tell the hon'ble Finance Minister that no other Government had increased the prices of diesel so much as his Government have increased during its tenure of 4 years and 3 months. Since independence no Government have increased the prices of diesel to such an extent. After the formation of 13th Lok Sabha the way the prices of Kerosene oil has been increased by this Government during its tenure such increase has never been effected by any other Government during its tenure. Certainly BJP Government have deprived the poor people of the basic amenities. Government claim that they have done good to the poor people, farmers and the labourers of the country.

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

However, the reality is that during the tenure of this Government, the farmers are compelled to commit suicide. We have raised the issue of farmers in this House many times but the Government did not pay any attention to it. All of us have been elected from the sugarcane producing regions. You have allowed the discussion on the issue of sugarcane in the House several times and we have repeatedly demanded that the minimum statutory price for sugarcane should be fixed at least Rs. 80 per Quintal. If the Price of sugarcane is not fixed at Rs. 80 per Quintal then the farmers will not get the price which they were getting earlier. Today, the fertilizers and the petroleum products like diesel, petrol and kerosene oil have registered a steep hike. Under such a situation, when the prices of farmers produce are steeply falling how can the Government claim that farmers are prosperous. Nothing could be more shameful than this. I would like to know from the Government about this.

Sir, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan are sugarcane producing states. Uttar Pradesh, is the largest producer of sugarcane. Last year sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh sold their produce at 95—100 per quintal. Perhaps at that time there was coalition government of Bharatiya Janata Party and Bahujan Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh. At the behest of Government, the sugar mill owners of Uttar Pradesh went to the court and the court has given the judgement that the sugar mill owners will make payment according to the price fixed by the state Government rather they will make payment according to the statutory price fixed by the Central Government. On the order of the Hon'ble court the sugarmill owners refused to procure sugarcane on the support price fixed by the State Government and this created crisis before the farmers. Under such a situation when the farmers of Uttar Pradesh raised their reasonable demands then three farmers were shot-dead by the Police personnel. This issue created uproar in the House and the hon'ble Prime Minister assured that the maximum price of sugarcane will be fixed and protection will be given to the farmers. But with regret I have to say that the minimum statutory price of sugarcane was fixed at Rs. 69.50 per quintal during the last year and Rs. 73 during the current year when discussion has been held on this issue many times in the House. Today the sugarcane farmers are selling their produce at Rs. 85-86 per Quintal in Uttar Pradesh on the basis of 8.5% average recovery, however two years ago they sold their produce at Rs. 95-100 per Quintal on the basis of 10% recovery. I would like to ask that if this is the policy of the Government then how can the farmers be benefited?

Sir, it has been mentioned that the Government will implement developmental schemes. Hon'ble Prime Minister visited eastern Uttar Pradesh in 1998 to see the catastrophe of flood. During this tour, he came to Gorakhpur also. There he said that when they will come to power they will solve the problem of flood occurring caused by the rivers originating from Nepal and due to which the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are suffering heavy loss of life and property and will provide relief to them. Now this Government is about to go but it has not yet fulfilled its promise. So far no working group has been set up by the Government with the Government of Nepal. The Government has not done anything to protect Bihar and Uttar Pradesh from the catastrophe of flood occurring due to Nepal.

Every year the states of Bihar and U.P. have to suffer a heavy loss of life and property due to floods but so far the Government have not taken any step to check floods. The Government have enough funds to spend on all other schemes but to protect eastern U.P. and Bihar from the catastrophe of flood, it has not funds. Besides, it claims that they are making efforts to remove regional imbalance. I would like to know as to how the Government will remove this regional imbalance. I would like to tell that the Government have been continuously neglecting the people of that region, which is famous for its freedom fighters and the birth place of Lord Rama, lord Mahaveera and Lord Buddha. Today they are saying that they are making effort to remove regional imbalance. In the name of Lord Rama, they have come to power thrice by hook or crook. They had said that if they come to the power then they will construct Ram temple there itself. After the formation of their Government in both Lucknow and Delhi, they put this issue on the back burner. I believe that we are the descend ants- of Suryavansh but I would like to clearly say that nobody has disrespected lord Rama like BJP. They have traded in the name of Lord Rama. They have cheated and hurt the sentiments of the people of the country in the name of Lord Rama.

The fertilizer Factory of Gorakhpur is lying closed for years. The Government had promised to reopen this factory. For this purpose, a group of seven Ministers was also constituted. But ironically, not a single meeting of the GOM has been convened till date. Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier when you were minister, at that time you were also one of the member of that Group. No efforts have been made to ascertain the possibilities of reopening of Gorakhpur Fertilizer Factory. Hon'ble Chandra Shekharji has raised this issue in the House not once but many times but no effort has been made to reopen that factory.

In my Lok Sabha Constituency Maharajganj, there is a Sugar Factory under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India which is lying closed since 1994. I have raised the issue of reviving the sugar factory not once but four times in the House but no attention has been paid towards this issue. Recently, the present Minister of Textiles, Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain went to Gorakhpur but he played politics there and said that he is not aware of the fact that there is any Sugar factory in Anand Nagar under his Ministry. While I have personally met him for this purpose and requested him not to give step-motherly treatment to my parliamentary constituency as nothing is being done there. The assistance given to the NTC Mills of Kanpur should also be given to the sugar mills of Farendia. Justice has not been done to those labourers till date. Yes of course, the Government did play politics there. They tried to divide them and then they claim that honour of the country has risen before the world. No sooner did this Government come into power, an Indian aircraft was hijacked from Kathmandu, the capital of the only Hindu country of the world i.e. Nepal. Hijackers take the aircraft to Kandahar. The Government, under pressure, release most dreadful criminals and very humbly send them to Kandahar. Is it not true that the soul of democracy 'Our Parliament' is attacked and the hon. Prime Minister observes all this as moot spectator. Even the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, which is called as the 'Mukut' (crown) of this country, was attacked, but the Government did nothing. Whether it is not true that the Akshardham Temple was attacked during this Government's tenure? Whenever the enemy feel, they cause massacre sending their squad of terrorists and then calls them back. Now where did the nuclear power of the Government vanish despite making nuclear bomb? The country, whose chivalrous army divided the enemy country into two parts in the 1971 war is now put into chaos every now and then by the said enemy as per their wish. Our hon. Prime Minister says that their foreign policy has been very successful. I, very humbly, would like to put that the way this Government has put a blow on the honour and dignity of the country by becoming a mere puppet in the hands of America, is an example which is one of its kind after independence. The leaders of Non-Aligned Movement were Nehru, Karnatha Wasir and Tito, but today India, which used to play a crucial role in Non-Aligned Movement, has become isolated from the rest of the world. Despite this isolation, they say that their foreign policy has been successful.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to put that the way the Government have shown beautiful dreams to the common people and grabbed power by hook or crook, is now

going to suffer when the tenure of the Government is coming to an end as they are now betraying their friends who helped them at that time. The treatment meted out with our colleagues of the DMK is an evidence in itself that Shri Vaiko, at the time of discussion on POTA in this House, had himself said that persons opposing POTA are anti-national. We all opposed when Shri Vaiko was arrested under POTA. We had expressed apprehensions that POTA would be politically misused and people in the State Governments would misuse it. For example, POTA was misused in Uttar Pradesh. Shri Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhैया, a close associate of the BJP, who was Cabinet Minister in the Government of Uttar Pradesh was arrested under POTA because he did not support the Government. Even at that time, we had said that this 'black law' should be banned as it will be misused. But the Government did not pay any heed towards this at that time. Though you, I would like to submit that the Government setting aside the Parliamentary traditions got this law passed in the Joint Sitting only on the basis of their majority. And when the reality of the Government was revealed, these associates of the Government being victim of this 'black law', be it Shri Vaiko or Shri Karunanidhi, withdrew their support from the Government. I would urge upon other allies of the NDA that they would also be treated similarly as the DMK Party and Shri Vaiko have been treated. So, even now we have tomorrow's time left to think properly and teach them the right lesson at the end.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, no effort was ever made to see whether the schemes started by the Government have been implemented at local level or not. Even the share market scam occurred in the present Government's tenure. A Joint Parliamentary Committee was constituted for enquiring into it and the Government acted adversely when the report of this committee was laid on the Table. In the last session, we took part in the debate held on the action taken report on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. But we found that the hon. Minister of Finance, presented the distorted version of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee. The rise or fall in the share market, is an evidence of the fact that an artificial market has been created in the share market. Soon after the Lok Sabha elections the true picture of Indian Share Market would come. I would like to submit in the House that the Government shall have to appoint one more Joint Parliamentary Committee on the share market scam after the new Lok Sabha is constituted.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are proclaiming the 'feel good factor' with regard to the economy of the

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

country, a parliamentary team to the villages as to what is the condition of farmers there and what kind of life is the common man leading. The common man is suffering due to price rise. He is deprived of the basic facilities even after 56 years of independence. Therefore, I would like to submit that the Government should practice what they preach. They are misleading the people of this country through wrong statements, they should prevent themselves from such things. The first question that arose before the country after independence was that of what the leaders preach and what they actually practice. It has created mistrust between the common people and the leaders. We could have lead our democracy on the right path had we removed this feeling of mistrust. I would, therefore, request those in the Government not to give so much of incorrect statements otherwise, the word 'mistrust' would become a synonym for Government. I, therefore, through you, urge upon the Government to show the actual picture of the Budget presented by them as this Budget is anti-farmers, anti-poor and thus, I oppose it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prakash Pranjpe to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Sir, there is no senior Minister present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is there. A Minister is present in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Sir, there is no Cabinet Minister in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, you are the Speaker of the House. This is the most crucial Session ending tomorrow. We are discussing the Budget here. They have declared so many things outside. You please look at the seriousness of the Treasury Benches. They are busy in all other activities and not in parliamentary activities. That is why I feel about it. ...*(Interruptions)* The nation is watching them through the television as to how serious is the concern of the Treasury Benches to respond to the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)* Of course, in their television they are showing that India is shining. But here they are all sleeping or smiling outside. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): The ruling party people are Collecting donations from industrialists. Big industrialists are with them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, please go ahead with your speech.

...(Interruptions)

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is a Minister present in the House. The convention requires that there should be one Minister present. The Cabinet Minister is present here. The Minister of State for Finance is also present here.

...(Interruptions)

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, the decorum of the House requires that when the Leader of the Opposition was speaking, the Leader of the House should have been present. ...*(Interruptions)* Is this the feel-good factor that they are all absenting themselves from the House? So, please adjourn the House till the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Minister of Finance come and listen to the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, that is not the point. please sit down. Shri Paranjpe to speak now.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Sir, I am standing here on behalf of the Shiv Sena to support the Interim Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, The Minister of Finance should remain present here. The Government should keep in mind the decorum of the House where has feel good factor gone to feel good.

MR. SPEAKER: He might be out for five-ten minutes.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I am standing in support of the Interim Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me tell you. You are aware that other Cabinet Ministers are present here. The Minister of State for Finance is also present. This has been the case number of times.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a serious matter. The Minister is not present in the House. He should remain in the House. If the economic issue is not taken up seriously the country cannot proceed on the path of Development. It is not an ordinary discussion only two Ministers are sitting here.

[*English*]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Sir, there is no Cabinet Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing wrong happening in the House. Shri Paranjpe, please go ahead.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, I am standing in support of this Interim Budget. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: When the coalition partners start speaking the hon'ble Minister comes. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): A number of good things have already been given by the hon. Minister of Finance. One thing that I will appreciate basically is that in the case of land acquisition, a person who is going to receive the money will not be taxed from today onwards.

Sir, I am not going to speak much on the budgetary side of the Budget. But I will be happy if our hon. Minister of Finance can listen to our problems which not the Department but the bureaucrats are creating. I want to give only two examples here. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, you may request the hon. Minister of Finance to listen to me instead of talking to some other Members. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, we are concerned about the nation, we are concerned about the common man, we are concerned about saving money. In economics it is said that whatever you save is gain. I have given a very nice suggestion during the discussion on the regular Budget earlier that some technocrats want to preserve and protect our foodgrains. On the present practice of fumigating the foodgrains again and again, you are spending crores of rupees. This new scheme will not only kill the insects but it will kill the eggs of the insects also and the foodgrains can be preserved for ten years minimum without any fumigation system.

Unfortunately, after moving for 18 months with the bureaucrats, the technicians have already advised that—yes, this type of system is ideal and we want to have at least five pilot projects of this system. When I spoke on this issue during the regular Budget, I was happy to note that our hon. Minister of Finance immediately responded when I made a demand of Rs. 5,000 crore specially to be transferred to the FCI, especially for adopting this. Ultimately, after the discussions with all the technocrats, it was decided to have only five pilot projects costing Rs. 110 crore only. I have given a written letter to the hon. Minister of Finance and to the hon. Prime Minister also.

The Secretary dealing with the foodgrains says that—'the manufacture of methyl bromide is not my business; so, I will not demand money from the Finance department.'

13.00 hrs.

The Secretary (Expenditure) of the Ministry of Finance says that he will not give the money unless and until they demand it. I really wonder that when we want to preserve the foodgrains, the wealth of our country, the bureaucrats are making me dance from one door to another door. ...(*Interruptions*) Let me say that. I am saying about whatever feelings are hurt. Ultimately, we work for the common man. We want to give quality food for the common man and we want to see that our exported material is not rejected on quality basis. Today is the last day and I hope the Finance Minister, though he generally never replies, will reply saying that the amount of Rs. 110 crore has been transferred to FCI to adopt this policy. I have given a letter to the Finance Minister saying in writing that if this is not done, I will have to sit on a hunger strike in front of Prime Minister's office.

Secondly, there is one anomaly, which is doing great injustice to the road transporters. The letter has already been issued to our hon. Minister. Sir, the service tax on commission is charged when an agent is working for air. The rate is eight per cent and it is charged only on the commission which the agent gets. For railway also, eight per cent service tax is levied on the commission which an agent gets. But for road transport, eight per cent service tax is charged on the basic price of the ticket, that is, Rs. 4,000. Actually, it should have been Rs. 32 instead of Rs. 320. The Minister has been convinced. The letters have been given. I will be thankful to him also if he can immediately give instructions to collect service tax from road transport agents on the commission which they get and not on the price of the ticket.

[Shri Prakash Paranjpe]

Another wonderful thing is also there in the same business. Suppose, one bus wants to travel from Mumbai to Delhi and it passes through four States, all the States are levying passenger tax; all the States are levying road tax and they have to pay everywhere toll tax also. My request to the Finance Minister is that this passenger tax and road tax should be abolished immediately and only toll tax should be in place.

Unfortunately, what is happening is that when March comes near, all the concerned revenue people say that they have been given a target and according to the target, they have to collect the money. From these transporters, officers are collecting money retrospectively for the last three years. So, it is a great injustice to them. So, my request to the hon. Minister would be about charging of service tax on the commission which they get and abolishing the road tax because when a plane is crossing all the States, it is not taxed; when a train is crossing four States, it is not taxed, then why should only buses be taxed when they are crossing four States? So, abolition of this passenger tax and road tax should be done immediately. They are ready to pay toll tax. When you are charging toll tax, how can you again charge road tax also? This anomaly should be cleared as early as possible.

There are a number of things about which I can say very well, but since we have to support this Budget. and elections are coming forward, my only request to the Finance Minister would be that though the Finance Minister has assured that salaried people will be given some concession in the regular Budget, I will be more happy if he can declare at least some concession to the salaried people. Then, the question of winning elections will not be difficult. Everybody knows that this Budget is a goody-goody Budget. That is what they say. But really speaking, this interim Budget, giving justice to everybody from the common man to the industrialist. Such types of Budgets are expected when the leader is our Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I hope, the Finance Minister also knows the problem of a common man. That is why, I am happy to say that justice has been done to a common man and justice has been done to the workers who are working with the Government. All angles have been touched. Only because this Budget is an Interim Budget, everybody has not been satisfied, but our Finance Minister has tried his level best under the leadership of our Prime Minister to give justice to all sectors of my country.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has presented what is being popularly described as Interim Budget. It is a three-in-

one Budget. One, it is a part of the NDA's election manifesto.

On page 9, a lot of things have been stated that they will revisit the present exemption limits with regard to the indirect taxes; they will do this; and various other things. Never before has such a thing been done. But since this is the election year, they are making promises—as they do in their election manifesto—without caring to fulfil them. They have done it in the past also because they know that they are not coming back to fulfil them. There is no chance for them to come back.

Secondly, they have presented the Budget for the full year. The Demands for Grants and the Annual Financial Statement presented are for the full Financial Year, though these could be revised, as is normal, at the time of the presentation of the regular Budget. But they know that they will have no opportunity to present the regular Budget, still they are preparing a regular Budget.

Thirdly, I will come to Vote-on-Account. This may again be divided into two parts, and the most unethical part has been the sops that have been declared. They are neglecting 97 per cent of the Indian population and catering to three per cent of the Indian population involving about Rs. 12,000 crore. Foreign travel is cheaper; foreign liquor is cheaper; but it has been announced today that kerosene is to be dearer. In addition to that the LPG is going to be dearer.

Sir, with lesser employment opportunities for the Indian population; with lesser absorption of foodgrains by the Indian population; with lesser purchasing power—as is revealed through various Government Reports—they tell the countrymen that you feel good, rather, they say that you should feel good. Hundreds and crores of rupees are being wasted on this fraudulent exercise to create an illusion, but the people do not believe that.

The greatest joke and the cruellest joke is on page 2 where the Minister says that the employment has increased. This Government itself has admitted that the employment situation and jobs in the organised sector including the public sector has declined by a whopping 1.5 per cent. It was revealed by the *Economic Survey*, and within a few months by Alladin's lamp it has started shining in the employment sector.

What is the picture given by the most dependable analysis about the destruction of jobs? More than eight lakh jobs have been destroyed deliberately in the

organised sector. That is the picture of lesser and lesser employment opportunity. More and more people are being retrenched or are being driven out, which they describe as the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and the Voluntary Separation Scheme, etc. In the rural sector, even the average male agricultural labourer gets 100 days of employment. This is the worst scenario in the rural employment, since the last 50 years.

What is the situation with regard to the availability of foodgrains? As far as this is concerned, we do find that the people are having lesser absorption of foodgrains than they did during the last several decades. It is the lowest, but they suddenly claim that India has started shining.

They have made a lot of promises about the senior citizens, about the women, about the unorganised sector, but they have not fulfilled any one of them.

I will talk about the Public Distribution System first and then come to other things.

The Public Distribution System is in a horrible situation. It has been dismantled deliberately by this Government. Deliberately, the whole Public Distribution System is being dismantled by them by way of increasing the prices of foodgrains, like rice and wheat. If you look at the conditions in the *Antyodaya* Scheme, we do find that in spite of the promises made by this Government, lesser number of rural poor have been absorbing minimum calories or the minimum nutritional requirement. That is the picture given in many reports, including the reports of this Government.

If that is the picture of rural India, what is the picture in the urban sector? In the urban sector, people are having lesser access to the public utilities. Due to the wrong policies, they are telling the people to pay more for electricity, otherwise the State Governments will not get the necessary support from the Central Government. There have been, of course, exceptions where Governments, like the West Bengal Government, even under such compulsions, have always been taking care of the people so that they are not affected; the poorer sections are not affected. However, in other States, we do find that the people do not have or have a lesser access to the public utilities.

The Minister says that he will make arrangements for better credit to the farmers at nine per cent interest rate. Why did the public sector banks not provide the stipulated 18 per cent credit to agriculture, as per the

priority sector lending? What have they done? This issue was raised again and again. While the interest rates on the deposits have been brought down, during the last 18 months alone, I had been brought down by three percentage points. Are the small borrowers getting the benefit? Are the rural artisans getting the benefit? The answer is 'no' because only the corporate sector, the big borrowers, who have been indulging in fraudulent practices, who were responsible for the NPAs and the credit restructuring mechanism, they are, sometimes, enjoying an interest rate which is lesser than the primary lending rate. It is a fraud being committed.

I may point out that even in the Statistical Commission Report, Dr. Rangarajan said that the measurement of inflation in our country has been absolutely wrong. In the WPI, the service sector is not being taken into account, although the service sector accounts for more than 50 per cent of the GDP. When the costs of medical service, education, transport and everything else are going up, they are excluding this from the WPI. Thus, taking into account a reduced inflation rate, they are calculating the interest rate, and they are duping the people. It is another fraud.

Money is being taken away from the genuine depositor and being handed over the corporate sector. The Government boasts of foreign exchange reserves of 100 plus billion dollars. Is that a good thing?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Because others are investing here, we are paying more.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: There have been economists who have been repeatedly questioning this Government on this saying that this is not a healthy feature, that the Government is unable to absorb this. We are providing cheaper credit to the United States and others at the cost of our small depositors. They are enjoying at the cost of our small depositors. We cannot use our savings. The quantum of our national savings is declining. We are only dependent on the households. People are still depositing their money in the banks. Why is it so? It is because they do not have enough social security. People are putting their money in small savings instruments in the banks in spite of the interest rates being slashed down because this gives them social security.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Please tell us as to whose is this foreign money? *

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Doctored figures!

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The Governor of Reserve Bank of India has warned a few days back that this distortion should be corrected. You are looting money from the small depositors and putting it in the pockets of the corporate sector serving the American interests internationally. Is India shining?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: India is signing its death warrant.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Where has been your increasing investment in rural infrastructure? You have been promising Rs. 60,0090 crore, Rs. 50,000 crore, etc. Where would the money come from? Have you done any exercise on that? ...*(Interruptions)* You promised many things last year but not fulfilled any of them. The Government is indulging in a fraudulent exercise.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Coal Minister has announced projects worth Rs. 10,000 crore but there was no money in your budget.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Where is the feel-good factor?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: When Rome is burning, Nero is singing. That is their feel-good factor.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You talked about the bumper crop from a low base of a drought year. The rain God has favoured the country. Because of the good monsoon, you say that there is a feel-good factor. But, if you look at the agricultural production for the last several decades, what is the scenario? Investment is declining. You are calculating industrial production from a period of recession, from a low base. Things become clear, if you compare these figures with the figures of 1995-96, 1996-97 or of 1987. We have been criticising the Congress Government because they did not fulfil their promises in many sectors. However, if you compare the performance of this Government, you will realise that your performance is worse in terms of food availability, food production, industrial production, investment and everything.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In terms of railway accidents also.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In such a situation, Sir, this Government is claiming an unprecedented growth of seven per cent, as if the figures are their servants, as if they can call them and use them as they want. The average is 5.5 per cent.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: It is really a cruel joke. We cannot believe that people sitting on the Treasury Benches, who claim themselves to be responsible, can indulge in such blatant untruths.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, have you allowed Shri Rupchand Pal to take the help of advocates while pleading his case?

MR. SPEAKER: Why did you think so?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: So, many people are helping him, Sir.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What is wrong there?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Employment opportunities are declining. There is lesser availability of foodgrains. There is lesser per capita calorie intake in rural areas.

There is lesser investment. The amount of public rural development expenditure this year, is the six per cent of the GDP, which is less than half as compared to the same in the Seventh Plan. In the Seventh Plan, the amount of public rural development expenditure was 14.5 per cent of the GDP. And, now it is only six per cent of the GDP! In such a situation what do we find?

This Government is speaking about the capital markets. Have we not gone through the Report of the JPC? Have we not gone through the observations made by the Regulator, the SEBI? Warnings have been issued that the bubble will burst, and the hon. Minister is saying that there is a reason for great satisfaction of the healthy capital market!

I am just putting one question. The JPC had stated at one point of time that: "we have asked several agencies including the RBI that which are the corporate houses indulged in the irregular practices. There is an abominable nexus between the brokers, the corporate houses and the financial agencies. Give us the names." But unfortunately, such names were never provided by any regulator and the JPC was compelled to make an observation that the corporate houses-brokers-banks nexus has caused havoc in the capital market, and the small investors are still now out of the market. Is it a healthy market? But they are calling it a healthy market.

The FIIs are investing by the Mauritius route. They are investing only one dollar and taking away 100 dollars. And, the Finance Ministry's top officials are involved in insider trading. I have mentioned it earlier also that the SEBI inquiry has shown that some top officials of the

Finance Ministry had been indulging in insider trading which caused volatility in the banking and PSUs schemes. What has been done on that? But no answer was given. Unfortunately, what happened? Whatever he says—we have great respect and regard for the hon. Finance Minister—but he takes the House so casually. Sometimes, we have raised very valid and important points. But he did not care to reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am just concluding. One of the greatest examples of the fraudulent exercise is that money has been taken away from this year and put in another year, taking away from the revised estimates and putting in another form in another department. This is—what should I say—a fraudulent exercise just to dupe people. Nothing new has been given. I could have given umpteen number of examples including the social sector where money has been taken away from the welfare measures, from the children welfare, from the women welfare, from the unorganised sector. I would cite one blatant example of indulging in non-truth. It is the example of the Ministry of Coal. The Minister of Coal, six days after taking charge, goes to Kolkata. She announced that Rs. 6,000 crore are being given for the revival, for the hospital and so many things. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: (Bankura): There is no money. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: But I find, Sir, in the Expenditure Budget of 2004-05 not a single paisa mentioned, as declared by the hon. Coal Minister in Kolkata. Where will the money come from? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: For hospital, there is no land. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, there are so many things where this Government is not only doing fraudulent exercises and duping the people, by imposing burden on the poorer section while giving relief to the richer sections, their friends. Therefore, this Government has no moral right to continue even for a moment.

The people of this country are waiting to give their verdict to throw out this Government lock, stock and barrel. They want to save this country from this worst form of Government that has been imposed on them.

With these words, I believe that our countrymen will not accept whatever has been promised by them. 'Feel good factor', that is title which is to be created; they will see the game in it and give a right reply to this fraudulent exercise. The countrymen will never condone these people.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava is permitted by me to lay his speech on the Table of the House. Those hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House can do so.

Now, hon. Deputy-Prime Minister, Shri Advani will make a statement on an important issue of killing of a girl in Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

*SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, congratulating on the development of Jaipur airport into international airport in Interim Budget introduced by the Minister of Finance, I demand that the said airport should be named after former Maharaja of Jaipur, Swai Man Singh and also install a statue of Mansingh ji in airport. I also demand that fund should be provided at the earliest to complete Bilaspur project for Jaipur city so that drinking water problem of Jaipur may be solved. I congratulate the Central Government for the implementation of Prime Minister's Health Protection Scheme, reduction of interest rate on crop loan, making Farmer's Credit Card available to farmers by 31 March 2004, extending credit card limit from 2 lakhs to 10 lakhs for small scale entrepreneurs and for special programme launched for setting up Rural Technology Centre and restoration and development of traditional pasture and under the 'Maru Gochar' Scheme in the interest of Rajasthan people. I also welcome the steps taken to accelerating the construction work of Narmada canal for providing irrigation facilities to farmers in arid region, to give special status to Indira Gandhi Canal, to set up All India Institute of Medical Science in Rajasthan on the line of AIIMS, Delhi and to set up convention Centre in Jaipur for the promotion of tourism. I also demand for giving A-2 status to Jaipur city.

13.26 hrs.

STATEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Re: Incident of Rape and Killing of a Girl in Jhabua District of Madhya Pradesh

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the 30th January 2004, hon. Members of the Lok Sabha raised an issue relating to the incident of rape and killing of a girl in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh. I had assured that I would make inquiries from the State Government and come to the House in that regard.

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

The facts of the case as reported by the Government of Madhya Pradesh are that on 11.1.2004, the deadbody of one Hindu girl aged about 10-11 years who was allegedly raped and killed in the bathroom behind a missionary school in Jhabua city was recovered. In connection with the incident, a case under sections 376 and 302 IPC was registered on 11.1.2004 night against unknown accused in Police Station of Jhabua and investigation was taken up. The *post mortem* of the dead body was conducted on 12.1.2004. On the basis of evidence collected in the course of investigation, the accused, a Hindu, aged about 32 years was arrested on 15.1.2004. The articles seized during investigation have been sent for DNA examination to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata and Regional Forensic Science Laboratory, Indore.

As this unfortunate incident was alleged to have taken place in the premises of a missionary school, there was some tension between the two communities, which led to clashes in some parts of the Jhabua District. There was an incident of pelting of stones on a vehicle carrying a priest and two nuns in Antervelia, which is a sub-divisional headquarter, on 13.1.2004. The situation was brought under control by the police and criminal cases were registered in this regard in Kalyanpura Police Station and investigations started.

Another incident took place on 14.1.2004 when some persons tried to stage a *dharma* in front of the missionary school at Jhabua. There was pelting of stones on the school and on the police vehicles. The police used force to disperse the crowd and control the situation. In connection with this incident also, some criminal cases have been registered in Police Station, Jhabua.

To control the situation, the district authorities promulgated prohibitory orders under section 144 of the Cr.P.C. Additional companies of Special Armed Forces and Rapid Action Force were deployed to assist the local police in controlling the situation. With a view to maintain law and order and communal harmony in the district, precautionary measures have been taken. The situation today is fully under control.

I have also gathered that the Chief Minister of the State visited the place on the 31st or sometime during this period. According to our friend, Shri Atkinson, he has spoken to the Bishop of the place who has also met the Chief Minister. He said that the situation is normal today.

13.30 hrs.

INTERIM BUDGET (GENERAL), 2004-2005 DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT- (GENERAL), 2004-2005

AND

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS-(GENERAL), 2003-2004—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Leader of Opposition is not present here. Actually I was going to congratulate her for her remark about Devanand and his film. I see a lot of Hindi Films and I am a fan of Shri Devanand. The Government have awarded him with Dada Saheb Falke award and the Leader of Opposition in her speech had also mentioned about it. I would like to extend my thanks to her.

13.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I will come to his films *Asli Nakli*, *Kala Bazar*, *Kala Pani* and *Jewel Thief* later. I could not understand one thing that on the one hand Shri Priyaranjan Dasmuni says that "Since it is a Vote on Account, no policy statement may be made" and on the other hand the Leader of Opposition and some of the Members of opposition say that nothing more has been mentioned in that. How come both things may be true? We have given Vote on Account. In fact the hon'ble Minister of Finance has not presented only Vote on Account rather, he has presented an account of four-and-a-half year of the NDA Government. The achievements made by the Government in the last four and half years has been given in it. The taxes which have been collected in four and half years—has gone up by 83 per cent. It is not a vote on account. It is an account of the Government's performance. It is the *vikas* and the *vision*. We have come with a vision and the progressing towards development. The development and vision for 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2020 are before us. The Government have vision to connect by 2007 all the villages having one thousand settlements with roads. Similarly, hilly settlements in Kashmir and North East having population of 500 are proposed to be connected with rest of the country by 2008. Vision means far sightedness. It is said that everyone have eyes but not essentially the vision. We have eyes and the also

the vision. The Prime Minister has given a vision to make India at par with the most of developed nation of the world by 2020.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my colleague Shri Rupchand Pal has left the House and now I intend to make clear as to what really is the truth. I am a student of commerce and economics. Shri Pal submitted that as per the RBI report, the foreign exchange reserves are increasing and he also talked about corporate and small investors also. However, I would like to know whether he has forgotten the past? In 1991, BJP was not in power and neither BJP nor NDA had been in power till then and the country had not seen any Congress Prime Minister by then. It seems as if Shri Rup Chand Pal has all forgotten about the past when the country had to mortgage the gold to repay the instalment of the World Bank's loan. I won't be able to forget that day of January 1991 when a steamer sailed past the Gateway of India in Mumbai because it was symbolic of our falling fortunes and national disgrace. The steamer had been sailing to England to carry the gold of country which was to be mortgaged with the Bank of England in lieu of the foreign exchange that was to be released to us. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): It is factually wrong. It did not happen in the Congress regime.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Whatever I am saying had happened during the regime of the Prime Minister of Congress. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the House should not be wrongly informed.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I am going to give you the facts and figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

The honour of our country was at stake in 1991. Shri Shivraj ji was pointing out that in 1991 the gold was mortgaged during the Prime Ministership of Shri Chandrashekharji. But I would like to ask whether his Government was responsible for mortgaging and it suddenly made our foreign exchange reserves plummet to new low and did they take so much loan with an year? It could not have happened within a year. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The gold was always sent out by others and we had brought it back. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, I am not yielding.

[Translation]

I have the figures with me and I have given the copy of this book at Congress leader also.

[English]

"India is emerging as economic superpower". All the compilation of the data that has been done by me and that data has been corrected from the Reserve Bank of India Economic Journal and Library".

[Translation]

All of it is mentioned in the booklet. It is not my personal view. What was the quantum of the foreign exchange reserve of the country in 1951 and how much was it in 1991? It was made clear by the hon. Finance Minister in the budget on 21st December, 2003. On 19th December, 2003 our foreign exchange reserve crossed hundred billion dollar mark. How much of foreign exchange reserve could Congress maintain during its forty years of rule? At the time of independence of our country it was 2161 million dollars and 3962 million dollars in 1989-90. It was not even one billion and figures are reviling it all. At that time how much was the foreign debt our country? During whose regime that World Bank loan was taken for repaying the instalment for which the gold was mortgaged? What was the value of rupee due to strengthening of the foreign exchange reserve position? You see, how the rupee stood vis-a-vis dollar in 1950. It was five rupees and 76 paise for one dollar then and how far did it devalue in 1991, 93, 94 and 1995. For the first time in 2003, the rupees appreciated by 5.2 percent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I come to the issue of segregating grain from chaff. The respectable leader of opposition made a reference about the hon. Prime Minister and talked of identifying what is true and what is not. She gave the example of Devanand. I said that I am also a fan of Dev Anand. Dev Anand is still a hero even after being in the film industry for the last 50 years. Similarly among politicians, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee remains as popular a leader despite 50 years of being in public life.

Though there are actors like Dev Anand and the leader like Atalji yet, there are several others who make such an early exist and vanish from the scene as quickly as being elected only for on time to Lok Sabha and get lost into oblivion.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

Hon'ble Speaker, is not present here. A drama 'Asali Gandhi' was staged in Gujarati and Marathi in which it had been depicted as to who is the real Gandhi and who is masquerading as Gandhi. They dare to talk about real and those who is masquerading. If simile of Dev Anand is given then we also have to give the analogue of Asli (true) and Nakli (fake) Gandhi. On the one hand there was Mahatma Gandhi who despite being at the helm of affairs refused to come into power and on the other hand there is that Gandhi who did not think about taking the country's citizenship till 25 years of staying here and decided to call herself Swadeshi when sensed the opportunity to get into power and then raised the issue of who is the real and unreal Prime Minister in the House. I dare challenge anyone who speaks like this to do self introspection and find out who is real and who is unreal and a foreigner? One was a real Swadeshi Gandhi who took pride in being an Indian. He was well versed about history, culture and traditions of this country and there are fake Gandhis in the country who do not know even an iota about the history and culture of the country. They talk about decorum and who should talk about decorum and values, the one who is the son of the soil. If the rhetoric about real and unreal is to be persisted with then I would submit that the truly Indian leader of opposition is to be seen in Rajya Sabha. Lok Sabha has seen so many leaders of opposition. I would like to know as to how many times in the past the leader of the opposition used to take part in the proceedings of the House and for how much time they used to participate in the Question Hour and other discussion? Further how many times the question of public importance and sentiments of the people used to be raised by them?

It is unprecedented that during the fifty years of Indian democracy, only one leader of opposition has read out the prepared speech umpteen times. I do not want to comment who prepared the speech. Does it behove the leader of opposition of a democratic country to continue to read the prepared speech for four and a half years. At least for a few times that might have been spoken spontaneously. I found out in the library that on an average 300 to 500 questions were asked or the speeches delivered by the hon. leader of the opposition during the five year term. They discharge their constitutional obligations quite diligently.

One of my colleagues said to me not to go this far to cite example but rather to see the role played by the leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha during the last five and half years of tenure as to how many prepared speeches had been read out and how many times did he participate in other proceedings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to add further that

[English]

There is no question of a 'feel good' factor. It is a 'feel great' factor for the people. It is not only 'feel good' but 'feel great' factor for the people.

[Translation]

During the last four and a half years, we have been accused of keeping an eye on the elections. Everyone is aware as to who plays vote banks politics. I do not claim that all had been achieved in there five and a half years, but you can draw an analogy as to how much has been achieved in these four and a half years *vis-a-vis* what was achieved in the past. That is why it is not just 'feel good'. It is true that umpteen times the Deputy Leader of Opposition reiterated both inside and outside the House as to whether

[English]

it is a 'feel good' or 'feel bad'? It is correct to say that for us it is 'feel good' factor, for the people it is 'feel great' factor and for the opposition it is 'feel bad' factor. I certainly agree with it. I would like to put one more point before you. We discussed employment, fiscal deficit and foreign debt. I have with me a chart appearing in economic survey 2002-03. If the economic survey of the year 2003-04 had been published then this chart, which shows the outstanding liabilities of the Centre, then it would have revealed that people are really feeling great. As Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra said that for the first time in 55 years, Central Government have repaid a loan of Rs. 25,000 crore. Out of that amount, Rs. 14,669 crore was due for repayment only after three four years. If you want this table to get an idea of outstanding liabilities then I would send it to you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please also tell us about the total liability of the Government.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I will tell you about that also. If you wish, I can send this to you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I would accept what you say, but you have to tell me about the total debt?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I knew that you would ask about that. I have learnt a lot under you and you have also been the chairperson of Parliament's Finance Committee.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I will accept your words. You tell me.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, the outstanding liability of the Central Government in the year 1991 was 31,525 million dollars. In the year 1997-98, it went up to 55,332 million dollars. You could see the growth. This is not economic growth. This is the growth of external liability. What was the amount when this Government came to power? It was 58,437 million dollars. So, from 1991 to 1998, in a span of seven years the figure was doubled from 31,525 to 55,332 million dollars. Now, it is near about 65,000 million dollars. Why should the people not 'feel good' about it?

[Translation]

I am not talking about that only. I will speak about foodgrain production and steel and cement production, too. You may look at the chart showing cement production between the year 1981 and 2003. The same chart for finished steel is also available. Last time hon. Shivraj ji had asked a question about small scale industry. I will quote the figures.

[English]

In 1994-95, what is the performance of the small scale sector? The total comes to 25.71 lakhs including the registered and unregistered. And in 2002-2003, it went up to 35.72 lakhs. Employment also went up from 146 lakhs to 200 lakhs.

[Translation]

Where employment has not increased? I said it last time also and since then I have collected figures and reproduced there in the booklet. In the last four years and a half about 10 lakh youths in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Navi Mumbai, Delhi and Gurgaon have got jobs. Youths will get salary between 5000-20000 monthly and where he works, he will also indirectly provide job opportunities to rickshawpullers and teashellers and other petty traders.

[English]

I am talking about direct employment. I am not talking about indirect employment at all.

[Translation]

We were talking about infrastructure. Hon'ble Shivraj ji may not be here, but day before yesterday he was displaying some advertisement. They were raising issues like Government election etc.

[English]

This is not my newspaper. This newspaper has been referred to by hon. Members from the Opposition several times in the House. And what have they given in that? "India shining but Maharashtra leads." They further wrote. The State competes with the Centre through a controversial Rs. 25 crore advertisement campaign.

[Translation]

They talked a lot about expenditure incurred by the Union Government on campaigns, but the Maharashtra Government which does not have money to pay its debt of Rs. 1 lakh crore, who is not paying salary to their teachers for four months they are spending Rs. 250000 crore on advertisements. Where is code of conduct, where is morality here.

[English]

I am not talking about the Budget or the Vote on Account. Various newspaper editorials say about it. One can go through today's editorial of *The Business Standard*. It is mentioned there like this:

"The first impression created by Jaswant Singh is that his Interim Budget is everything that it should be: restrained with regard to new announcement in view of the coming elections and showing healthy fiscal numbers. The fiscal deficit is better than anyone forecast and is back to the level where it was six years ago."

Another newspaper has written "A very Jaswant Singh-Measured, sober and quite proper" Another newspaper has said:

"The real story behind Jaswant Singh's vote-on-account or interim budget, call it what you will, is the fiscal correction that the government has apparently effected."

Further they say:

"Fiscal deficit is expected to be 4.8% lower than the 5.15% average for the period 1992-93 to 2001-02."

Fiscal deficit has come down to 4.8%. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I can quote several examples. They tell you that the FM is trying hard to combine good economics and feel good politics. It is nine marks out of ten. I do not talk about feel good. Who has written about feel good. That does not belong to the BJP and the newspaper also does not belong to the BJP. And what is that article? Forget the feel good politics. Shri Vajpayee has done real work for the farmers. The author is^a,

gentleman called Surinder Sood. He has written that the NDA Government will be remembered for extending them to agricultural support. Kisan credit cards have been a major factor in improving credit, lifting of QRs on the exports and special zone will also boost farm growth.

Sir, this newspaper has written that Rs. 29,532 crore additional tax have been raised in five years. I have not written this. I have annual report of manufacturing companies. What are their balances and Profit and Loss Account? It says that India shines into the last quarter with 1500 corporates showing profits. Net profit is up by 53 per cent and the sale is up by 17 per cent. Why can the people not feel good?

[Translation]

Sir. They mentioned LPG connections. When I entered Lok Sabha in 1999, I had to make several rounds to get coupon, because there used to be a huge number of people seeking LPG connections.

[English]

In these four and half years, 3.80 crore new LPG connections have been given. During forty years of their rule, only 3.20 crore LPG connections have been given. But in four and half years, we have given 3.80 crore connections.

[Translation]

Sir, I can similarly talk about several things. The hon. Members of the opposition mentioned about express highway. In their tenure 556 kms. Of such highways were constructed. Our Government took up this work seriously. Hon. Prime Minister adopted this programme. When inaugurations under the scheme take place, it is alleged by the Members of the either sides that local MPs are not invited. Complaints in this regard are made to the Collector. Our Government in its short tenure constructed 14558 km. length of highways and by the year 2004, 24,000 kms. of roads are proposed to be built. They worked to create divisions in the country and we are trying to unit it.

Now, I would like to tell you something about food stocks.

[English]

What is the food stock? Abundant food stock of wheat is available amounting to 28.80 million tonnes as on 1st January, 2003.

[Translation]

I can present a chart in support of my claim, but before that I would like to say something about common man. The system of public distribution system is meant for common men which include tribals, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and slum dwellers. This chart was prepared during their Government.

[English]

In 1992-1993, how much allocation of wheat and rice was made available? It was 9.25 million tonnes. Whose regime was it? What is the allocation now? In 2002-03, it is 29.45 million tonnes.

[Translation]

I am proud that this Government is considerate about common man, the poor man. We have arranged to provide grains to 7.5 crore people under Antyodaya Anna Yojana for the poor. I would like to congratulate hon. Finance Minister for that.

Sir, vote-on-account would be passed in the House today and tomorrow is the last day of 13th Lok Sabha. I would like to inform the House that on last Saturday, a health mela was organised in my constituency for slum dwellers wherein about 50,000 people visited. I have thanked hon. Health Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj for that.

Last year also, a health mela was organised there. I took inspiration from hon. Speaker in the matter. He organised two health meals. It is a very useful exercise. I am not sure about MPs but people get lot of benefit through it. They visit there and if the involvement of their representatives is there, it becomes more effective.

[English]

Hon'ble Finance Ministry is a very senior leader in our NDA Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Kirit Somaiya, in the Leader's meeting, this matter was raised. The hon. Health Minister said that by the time the Lok Sabha would be dissolved, they could say that the Members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha Inaugurated it or they associated with it. It is likewise. Probably, from her Ministry, the information must have been passed on to you. It is for your information that I am telling this.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Thank you, Sir, I would like to submit that the health fair will run upto 15th February. Tomorrow the term of this Lok Sabha will be over. Our job is finished, however, I would like to request hon'ble Deputy Speaker that he should give some guidelines as the association of local Member of Parliament is very much essential to ensure public involvement in it. The health fairs are yet to be organised in the areas of opposition Members. They should also be involved in health fair to be organised till 15th February as that will prove more successful. I would not like to appreciate the Minister of Health much, however, I would like to mention three things.

[English]

I will not take more than five minutes.

[Translation]

Public security insurance scheme has been launched, pay one rupee and get insurance cover of 30 thousand rupees. It is a beautiful scheme. In one and half rupees one can get insurance cover of parents entire family, mother, son and children. Public insurance cover in one and half rupees, what an excellent health insurance scheme has been introduced. It has been stated that 6 AIIMS hospitals would be set up in four years and for this provision has been made in every segment like health, human resources development and education. I can present all these things before you.

One Member has made a very good statement here. He has mentioned telecom along with the foreign exchange.

[English]

Last time also, I had referred to the figure. Till 1998, the total number of telephone connections in this country was to the tune of 1.92 crore. On 1st January, 2004, we have crossed the 7 crore figure.

[Translation]

Only one crore telephone connections were provided till 1992 since the introduction of telecom in India. In the year 2003, in one single year, we had added 1.04 crore telephone connections. Often it is mentioned about infrastructure and trade. Let us discuss all these things. We are ready to discuss whatever you want. Last year, I had mentioned about BPO Human Resource is another area. The Government have done such basic development. Presently there are five major pharmaceutical companies in India. There are big multinational companies in America. ...*(Interruptions)* I will conclude by saying one thing.

[English]

What has the Government done? First, it has concentrated on infrastructure development. Simultaneously, another area is finance. It is to make available finance easily to the common man. It is not only easily available but also a cheaper finance.

[Translation]

Last time too I had mentioned about housing finance. Thereafter, I had released one more figure. Farmer's credit card is totally rural. Nearly 25 lakh families opted for housing finance in 482 cities in India during the last 5 years.

14.00 hrs.

But everything is available here in instalment. The loans are available to farmers on easy financing. TV, fridge, house, scooter, vehicle and even bicycle are available to people on easy loan facility. If one wants to marry, even the ornaments of brides are available on instalments.

[English]

What is the position of retail finance now? It is Rs. 1,66,000 crore and seven or eight years before, it was less than Rs. 6,000 crore.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude after saying one more thing. We should appreciate the Planning Commission as keeping our sentiment in view it launched advertisement campaign. I would like to present before the cross section of societies, leadership of society, elected Members of Parliament, State Assemblies, Zila Parishad, Labour leaders, the leader of social organisations and the leaders of professional organisations my picture 'Sujalam Suphalam Bharatam'. It is true that we have dreamed which we want to translate into reality. The present Government have also seen a dream and in fulfilling those dreams we have achieved our goal of progress during the last five years. Why is the Planning Commission giving advertisements? Planning Commission is asserting that it is not America and Russia. We have shown it, the entire country have proved it. I will not say that only NDA, BJP or political parties have done it, rather it has been done by the entire country. Today our foreign exchange have crossed 100 billion dollar mark and the hon'ble Minister of Finance have asserted that GDP rate will be 8.4 percent.

[English]

Yes; I can tell you, in the entire period of last 12 months, rate of growth of GDP was 8.4 per cent.

[Translation]

And it will be more than 8.4 percent. The leaders of manufacturing units exporters are telling. All these things have been said because we are easily going to cross 8.4 percent. The birth rate which was 2.6 percent in 1999 has been brought to 2.25 percent by the efforts of the Government. Similarly infant mortality rates has been reduced to 64 percent from 70 percent. All these facts have been taken from the advertisement figures.

[English]

If they want to say that these figures are bogus, let them challenge the Planning Commission and the Reserve Bank of India which have been founded by them?

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[Translation]

So, I would like to submit to all of you that 39 lakh new employments have been generated in the country between 1994 and 1999. During the present Government's regime per year 82 lakh employments have been generated which is evident.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we want to build the leadership and gain the confidence of the common people. I can say that we have proved it and have achieved that goal. We will continue to proceed in that direction and will bring India at par with five big nations of the world by 2020.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I normally speak in English, but today I want to speak in Hindi.

Sir, the Finance Minister is leaving the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, his junior Minister is here. He only wants to go for food.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have also not taken my food. Plenty of food is there, 'feel good' factor is there and so without food also he can spend time here.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before presenting my arguments before you, I would like to initiate my speech by quoting a message given by Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation. It applies not only on us but on others also.

[English]

"No great work is done by tricks."

[Translation]

Nothing great can be done by tricks. I will not speak anything in my speech which contradicts the figures presented by the Government. I will not cite an example which is not supported by the Government. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, hon'ble Finance Minister started his speech with:—

[English]

"On this occasion, I share with the country and the House a sense of great satisfaction at the robust showing of our national economy..."

[Translation]

We all are aware of his command over English language and he has drafted well—

[English]

the robust showing of our national economy."

[Translation]

He has emphatically used the words from Oxford dictionary. Hon'ble Finance Minister and others in the House are aware. He further stated—

[English]

"The country's macro-economic situation is better than it has ever been in the last fifty years."

[Translation]

We did not inherit the independence but achieved it after a great struggle. They are saying that all the Prime Ministers right from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru were ineffective and it is in the last four years that the country has progressed during their tenure only. We got the independence on 15th August, 1947. At that time, the country was in bad shape and now it has come out shining. I will cite a few examples regarding it. On 17th September when hon'ble Finance Minister was giving his first speech in the House, Congress while discussing the supplementary demands presented some figures showing that the Mid-Term Review is incorrect. Mid-term Review shows decline. I am quoting the hon'ble Finance Minister what he stated when Shri Manishankar Aiyar presented the figures. I quote:

[English]

"I would submit to all the hon. Members that the Supplementary Demands are naturally over-shadowed by the large coverage of the Mid-Term Review."

[Translation]

"Hon'ble Finance Minister, are you listening. I am putting forth what you have stated:—

[English]

"I would request the hon. Member to appreciate whether it is a quarterly review or a media review or a subsequent review about the Budget, they cannot cover the totality of the country. It is only a quarterly report."

[Translation]

I agree with the statement given by hon'ble Finance Minister. This Government is playing a trick with the country. It is using quarterly report. This quarterly report is:—

[English]

"The latest estimates of GDP also came handy to the BJP's electoral cause. Data released by the Central Statistical Organisations (CS) indicates that the economy grew at a healthy rate of 8.4 per cent in the second quarter of the current year, 2002-2003's reserves. However, the optimism has to be tempered by several factors."

[Translation]

Second quarterly report has shown that the growth rate is going beyond seven percent and on the basis of this figure they are projecting the idea like "India Shining". I would like to state that the Government is claiming that they are going to face the mandate after completing its tenure of five years. Five years means completion of 9th Five Year Plan and onset of 10th Five Year Plan. However, the Finance Minister has not disclosed the results of 9th Five Year Plan. The Planning Commission has published the posters by taking pictures of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri K.C. Pant. The Planning Commission should publish a fresh poster and if Government have scarcity of funds then the opposition will contribute from MPLAD Fund. But a poster from the side of Yojna Bhawan should be brought out depicting that—

[English]

98 percent of it was handled by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee—

[Translation]

What does these figures show down or dusk.

I am mentioning the growth performance target fixed for 9th Five Year Plan. It was 6.5 per cent, but the achievement was 5.35 percent. That means it was below

the target. Is it down or dusk? What was the target and achievement during the 8th Plan in the field of agriculture? During 8th Plan, it was 4.69 and in the 5 years of 9th Plan during Atal ji's tenure it is 2.6. In the manufacturing sector, the growth rate was 7.58 but during 9th Five Year Plan during the tenure of Shri Atal Ji, it was 4.51. Is it down or dusk? In toto—it was 6.68 during the 9th Plan and 5.35 in 9th Plan. Hon'ble Finance Minister has left the House. He has played trick for which people of Rajasthan will give him reply. Very cleverly he has tried to hide the performance of the NDA Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan. They have tried to hide damage done by them during the Five Years. The Government has shown the growth registered in second quarter on the basis of increase in agriculture. This increase was the result of the efforts of the farmers living in pitiable condition. In December, hon'ble Finance Minister himself stated that the state of economy cannot be judged by the quarterly report only. However, today he is denying it. At present they are only referring to quarterly results to feel good. We are calling it a trick.

[English]

Why Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government does not have the guts to come before the people of India to say 'You get me a mandate for five years. I completed five years including 1999-2000 and I could not fulfil any of my target and I failed'?

[Translation]

Why do not they show the documents? They are referring to a quarter comprising of two years of 10th Plan and stating that we are making progress but not referring to the previous years of their tenure. Hon'ble Finance Minister has left the House. The State Minister of Finance is present here. This book has not been published from the office of Congress Party. I am showing it to you. Please pay attention to it. This book is—monthly Economic Report, Government of India, Ministry of Finance, December, 2003. Who presented this report—hon'ble Finance Minister. Distribute its copies to all in the House, to the alliance parties of NDA and press correspondents also. In December, 2003 this book was published from the office of hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Jaswant Singh ji and released by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. This book states—

[English]

Core infrastructure sectors achieved an average growth rate of 3.9 percent in April to October, 2004 as compared with 6.5 percent in the earlier year.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

[Translation]

In comparison to last year's 6.5 percent, in the end of this year, we have achieved only 3.9 percent and that too in the core infrastructure sector. This is not my statement. What did they say about—broad money growth. Where is Kirit Bhai? How deeply he goes through the book? Broad money growth was 8.9 percent during the period from March 31, 2003 to November 28, 2003. The growth of November 2003 was only 11.8 percent. This was stated about inflation rate which was 5.38 percent of the week ended December 6, 2003 compared to 3.27 percent of the previous year. That means inflation rate has increased in comparison to the last year. I have not said this, it is their statement. They have not put all these things before the print media and House. I was surprised twice while going through this book that is it right or wrong. Then I called the Finance Minister. They stated that this report is of their division, only then I brought the report. If the Finance Minister has courage, he may challenge that I am wrong. I present that report. What next they did?

[English]

Exports grew by 8.4 percent, in dollar terms, in 2003-04 compared to 19.1 percent previous year. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Shri Arun Jaitley has been assigned the portfolio of Commerce Ministry. Last year the foreign trade which was 19.1 percent has come down to 8.4 percent this year and for that they are projecting feel good factor. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not mine ...*(Interruptions)* I read it again ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Last year also it was our. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He does not know. ...*(Interruptions)* Exports grew by 8.4 percent. I do not know Gujarati. I am telling in Hindi. Export was increased by 8.4 percent. It was 19.1 percent in October 2003-2004 in dollar terms. It was during the last year. Import was increased by 21.5 percent which was only 13.2 percent earlier. This is not my report. It is their report. The Government have four figures to hide all these things, this background and to hide the documents of 9th Plan. First Figure before the public is that the Government

has accumulated an amount of 100 billion. From where this amount of 100 billion was earned? Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee should be the number one leader of the world for this work. Is it earned from export earnings or from agriculture produce? No this money has been deposited in our country by some people from the point of view of earning interest. How it can be said deposits, the ratio of short term deposit is more. Hon'ble Finance Minister, please clear whether long term deposit is more or the short term deposit. ...*(Interruptions)* Short term deposit is more. ...*(Interruptions)* He should study economics. If he has not what can I do. ...*(Interruptions)* Asian crisis was held for short term deposit. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): Please state about the exports. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am telling, exports grew by 8.4 percent, in dollar terms, in April-October 2003-04 compared to 19.1 percent in April-October, 2002-2003. They are feeling happy with this figure. Feel Good. ...*(Interruptions)* I would say something more to elaborate the feel good factor. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Please state the total export in billion dollar. ...*(Interruptions)* Please state the figure. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am coming to the total. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will both of you continue to converse with each other, I am also there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per the bulletin of RBI, export growth is 8.5 percent and import growth is 20 percent. I have been the Commerce Minister. There is no doubt. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Digvijay ji I am happy if you also want to participate in the debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Then I withdraw.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented so many figures. Through you, I would like to request Shri Digvijay ji.

Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs who remains a very busy person in dealing with the external affairs of the country, that he should also try to find out what is going in the country and ask his PA to fetch him the copy of the monthly economic report of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, December, 2003. After going through it the hon. Minister should himself judge as to whether he should be living in feel good or feel bad factor. I would request him to study the report today evening and know the opinion of his family Members about the economic condition of the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have referred to every aspect of 100 billion foreign exchange reserves. This is not our earning. This is the deposit of foreign investors and if we fail to utilise and invest it properly, we will have to pay 25 thousand crore rupees of interest on it at the rate of 4 percent. If they start withdrawing their deposits as it happened in Korea we would be bankrupt. This was the cause of the Asian crisis. I don't want our Government and the country to be ruined but it is my duty to quote the figures and apprise the Government of the ground realities of the situation.

Another ground for feel good factor is the Golden Quadrilateral Project. The Government boasts that neither Panditji nor Lal Bahadurji nor India Indiraji nor Morarji nor V.P. Singh did anything in this regard and suddenly, for the purpose of travelling in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Nobody said this. We never said it. We only said that while previous Government constructed 11 kilometre highways per year we constructed 11 kilometres per day. We never said anything about Panditji or V.P. Singh ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Listen for a minute. It says: "The country's macro economic situation is better than it has been in the last 50 years". doesn't it reflect that? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: That is correct.

[Translation]

We never referred anybody but shouldn't we count on our achievements?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Alright.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Panditji, apart from being the former Prime Minister has been is one of most respected leaders in the country. Who can forget Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the country, he is a respectable leader ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, both of you are very senior Members.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: If you say such things, BJP will push you out of NDA.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Even if I am expelled from the country, I would always maintain that Panditji has been a very respectable leader in the country.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am grateful to you that still there are people on that side who consider that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was an architect...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I would like to congratulate you. I don't have the words to congratulate you.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Digvijay Singh, if you want to seek any clarification from him and if he yields, then I will give you the floor.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, I am just correcting him...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to know the total length of the National Highways in the country. It must be more or less around 50 thousand kilometres and all these highways have been constructed during the regime of one Government or the other. What was required to build these highways? Acquisition of land was the prime requirement without which these highways wouldn't have been constructed. The acquisition order were made after acquiring the land enough to develop 2 to 3 lanes. Only two States in the country have not witnessed adequate

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

acquisition namely West Bengal and Bihar and in the rest of the country the national highways have been developed after acquiring a land for four lanes. I would certainly like to congratulate in Vajpayee Government for laying blacktop over these highways with the money allocated for converting the highways into double laned or three laned. However wrong message is being conveyed by giving the constructed length under the Golden Quadrilateral Project to either 550 thousand kilometres or 150 thousand kilometres by this Government. My submission is that 50 thousand kilometres if multiplied by 3 (lanes) automatically comes to 150 thousand kilometres because the three lanes have to be added (multiplied) in the already acquired land for this purpose. Correct details should be given in this regard. I rise not to condemn any achievement of the Vajpayee Government. I also remember that Vajpayee is the same person who had called Shrimati Indira Gandhi as Goddess Durga in 1971 in the House, though he may now say that nothing has been done in the past 50 years. In one of the Seminar, Vajpayeeji had turned Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru as the architect of modern Indian Democracy. Today the BJP make propaganda that the achievement in the last 50 years has been nil. Everything is being done by the present Government only that is to say India is now shining...(Interruptions) and that earlier the country was at decline. Is Morarji Desai responsible for pushing the country to that situation?...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Munshiji, you don't feel hurt, we have not said so...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, are you yielding to him?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We don't say such things, you need not get hurt. You have some achievement under your belt but we have bigger share of them...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is referring to their third achievement. Their first achievement is 100 billion dollars which will be utilized in the villages but what they mean by this has not been made clear to anyone. Their second achievement is golden quadrilateral scheme and third one is foodgrain stocks. Hon. Finance Minister has himself said in his speech yesterday.

[English]

"The Government is thinking of a second Green Revolution."

[Translation]

They talk about second Green Revolution. It means they accept that first Green Revolution has already taken place. And in whose regime it happened? This first Green Revolution happened in the regime of Shrimati Indira Gandhi which strengthened the country to fight a war with Pakistan and help Bangladesh in liberating.

[English]

We have produced 120 million tonnes of foodgrains.

[Translation]

He himself admitted that the first Green Revolution was brought by the previous Government and now they are thinking in terms of ushering in the second Green Revolution. I appreciate your thoughts. When he is himself admitting that the first Green Revolution has already taken place then why is he trying to bring home the message that nothing was achieved in the 50 years and the previous Government remained inactive. What are the achievements of this Government? The first major achievement of the Government in 1999 is Kargil. Who won the war—India. Who was given the credit—Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and who lost their lives and achieved martyrdom—the jawans of the Indian army. Nothing was told as to why this battle started and what mistakes were made?

Subramaniam Committee submitted its report on Kargil and the report of the Committee explicitly mentioned that had the action been taken on the intelligence report, the martyrs of Kargil could have been saved from losing their lives. That report is still there. Our jawans lost their lives due to the negligence of the Government in 1999 and on what note the year 1999 ended? Who betrayed to start Kargil—Shri Parvez Musharraf who was the then General of Pakistani Army. What was done by the present Minister of Finance in 1999? A very dangerous terrorist was handed over to Afghanistan, Azhar Masood, the terrorist was set free to be safely delivered to Taliban. This is the achievement of the year 1999. What were the achievements of the year 2000. The UTI scam deceiving poor investors occurred in 2000 which involved a huge amount of Rs. 25000 crore rupees. The Government may feel good because UTI scam took place. Tarun Tejpal

was punished for making tehalka exposure and his company was brought to ruins by the Government. The company exposed the money racket but its journalists ended up behind the bars but none of the persons involved in UTI scam was punished by the Government. All this is the achievement of the year 2000.

What is the achievement of the year 2001? It is tehalka scam. What is the other achievement of the year 2001. If I say, it should hurt them. They say that it is a strong Government under the standardship of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and hon. L.K. Advani as his deputy. I would like to throw some more light on the achievement of the year 2001. No country dared to set its eyes upon India's Parliament for the last 50 years and on 13th December, 2001, the terrorists attacked the Parliament and the helpless Government couldn't do anything despite having the intelligence report to this effect. The unarmed security staff of Lok Sabha-Rajya Sabha Secretariat and some police personnel sacrificed their lives to save the day for India. This reflects no bravery of this Government.

The Government deliberately avoided taking action on the intelligence report. This is the achievement of the year 2001.

How much was achieved in year 2002. The achievement of the year 2002 is that the Prime Minister prior to his visit to Combodia had to feel sorry of the impression they would get in Combodia if the Gujarat riots continued to take place that way. Hon. Prime Minister himself said this. The achievement of the year was 2002 then concern to save their honour abroad.

Come 2003 and attack on Iraq took place. This House is a witness to what development took place. During the regime of Panditji and Lal Bahadur Shastri we led the Non Aligned Movement and always maintained that the external aggression against our country would be strongly resisted. When attack on Iraq took place, the entire House went uproars for making the Government to come out with a statement and the demand went on for seven days and ultimately came this suggestion from the Government that the statement would be made in Hindi and not in English. Why was it so? George Bush only understands English, the condemnation will be done in Hindi and not in English to leave a scope for interpretation. This is a new achievement of our country.

What is the achievement of 2004—feel good. Last week I had visited my constituency. I asked the villages there whether they have heard about feel good. They replied that they are aware of Khajoor Ka Gur, Ganney

ka Gur, Tilhan Ka Gur but where from this feel good comes. I replied that it has come from America and it tastes sweet and has to be consumed sometimes. However, once you consume it, it would lead to incurable pain. Now the Government had feel good in it beggy. BJP president has rightly pointed out that let the feel good factor be publicised as much as possible in village and there is no need to wish for them in traditional way...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): I am on a point of order. I will tell you as to what the feel good means. Feel good does not denote any kind of gur (jaggery)...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: OK, what is the Hindi translation of feel good. She has good knowledge of Hindi language...(Interruptions). I will not use any unparliamentary words...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you use unparliamentary word, I will expunge them from the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Nobody knows the Hindi equivalent to feel good. Some one equates it with pleasant atmosphere another says it is the pleasant feeling and a some other say it is the feeling of happiness. Perhaps the Health Ministry would be able to define it better. An advertisement appears very frequently on TV below which is written Sukhad Anubhuti (Pleasurable Sensation).

[English]

All the contraceptives which are produced in India for family planning and control.

[Translation]

The people would have to understand its connotations on their own. Let a Committee be set up under the Chairmanship of someone from NDA to translate in Hindi as to what the feel good is all about.

[English]

Sir, in the United States, this English has come from the local and colloquial use of United States and especially from California. The Californians feel that if you can just name anything which is going to happen,

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

whether it happens or not, in advance, you can feel good. So, this import is a very successful import in India—feel good.

[Translation]

I would like to congratulate BJP for raising a new slogan and I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for it. I am short of words else I would have used much of them. BJP raised a new slogan in the country—say feel good and forget Jai Shri Ram I would like to congratulate BJP for giving up Jai Shriram and catching up with feel good. Digvijay Singh has left the House. At least he remembered Nehruji. I don't know what his fate would now be in NDA.

[English]

Sir, I will now come to the subject of education. Who is sitting here in the place of the Finance Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): I am sitting here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, he is there. He is from Goa.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the feel good factor has so much obsessed the Government that nobody is there in the treasury benches. Nobody has shown so much disregard for the House. The debate is reflective of how much arrogant the Government has become. Education Murli Manohar Joshi is not present in the House. Not even the Minister of State of his portfolio is present in the House. The education is the fundamental to the country's development. I have with me the report of the Ninth Plan.

[English]

I would like to quote from the achievements of the Ninth Plan. Will he keep the copy of it with him to read it in the Night?

"The dropout rate at the primary level declined, though to a substantial extent from 40 to 43. But at the ultimate stage it fell from 56 to 54."

In the context, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan came up.

[Translation]

Sonia Gandhiji mentioned about it. No state has received more than 20 percent funds allocated to them in regard to Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (Education for all). To some no funds were made available leave apart the inadequate funds. They are talking about education. Now I come to Science and Technology as to how Murli Manohar Joshi has handled this department and what kind of achievement he has made?

Now, I come to the biggest issue i.e. of farmers. What has been done by this Government for the farmers who are responsible for causing the quarterly jump in GDI growth rate by raising the agricultural output that in turn has enabled this Government to save its face and harp on the slogan of feel good? Hon. Finance Minister mentioned the measures proposed to be taken by the Government for the farmers. He mentioned that the interest rate on crop loans has been reduced to 9 percent. NABARD and public banks have been directed to work in this direction whereas the Government claims that the farmers have been given credit card facility there. An MP from Bihar a part of ruling NDA Government. This House is not a place to tell lies. Sir, I have the figures of three states namely Bihar, UP and Rajasthan with me. Not even 25 percent farmers in these states have received credit cards till date and those who have received...(Interruptions) The State Governments don't issue the credit cards. Rather the job has been entrusted to the banks. Leave alone receiving the credit cards from banks, the farmers are asked and harassed to submit so many papers and perform so many formalities that they are forced to withdraw. The Finance Minister should present the bankwise details especially those of Bank of Baroda, Central Bank of India, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur etc. in the House and apprise the House about their performance in this regard. And what did the Finance Minister do today? He just ended up making fun of the farmers as he boasted during his speech that a farmer can benefit so much from these credit cards while in reality nothing is happening.

[English]

"...the existing Kisan Credit Card (KCC) will hereafter be modified, upon individual request, for use on ATM machines, wherever such facilities exists."

[Translation]

Listen what did he modify?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You tell us as to whether any ATM machines exist in areas where farmers reside who is being made fun of? Where will they go and operate ATM?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): It will only happen once the Government start making provision to do so...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Now when elections are due, these sops are being given...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a Member like Dasmunsi is saying such things. The follow up action will be taken once the orders by the Government are given...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Where will the farmers in rural areas go and find ATM machines? I am unable to understand that if the Government have failed to install even 25% of the ATM machines in cities then when would it install ATM machines in all the villages before the elections and how the farmers will operate it. My colleague has rightly said that there is no need for ATM machines in villages but then the farmers will have to go to city to use their ATM cards.

I would like to quote some figures here which the hon'ble Minister had not mentioned in his Interim Budget speech. After Cabinet's decision, I read in the newspaper that the NABARD would create a fund of Rs. 50,000 crores to cater to the needs of farmers. The Government should present the annual bulletin of NABARD in the House and they will find that NABARD could mobilize only Rs. 3000 crores to Rs. 5000 crores during the last three years. Its capacity is only this much and therefore it cannot provide more than this. That's why the hon'ble Finance Minister has not mentioned a word about this in his speech as it seems that NABARD might have objected saying that not only they even we also will get trouble. However, now the responsibility of generating 50,000 crore rupees is being given to NABARD.

[English]

If this is not an insult, a mockery, cheating and fraud on the farmers, what else can it be?

[Translation]

The Finance Minister has not uttered a single word regarding waiving off debt though the farmers of our country are relating under heavy debt burden. As regards debt, I would like to read out the speech of Finance Minister-

[English]

"Prescriptions relating to Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), in relation to crop loan accounts, have posed problems in the provisioning of credit to farmers where seasonality and uncertainty of farm incomes are not fully captured."

The Finance Minister further stated—

"A Committee has been set up under Dr. V.S. Vyas, an eminent agriculture economist, to address this issue. Suitable remedial measures will be recommended within 90 days".

If elections are held after 90 days or before, suppose if elections are held before, the Government cannot bring even a legislation or an ordinance to exempt these NPAs. The Indian Banks' Association cannot do it, after the appointment of the Debt Recovery Tribunal because the law was passed by this Parliament.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, it is a very important point.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): This is nothing except a cheating with the farmers. How can the Finance Minister bully the nation and the people in such a fashion.

[Translation]

You are going to create problems for the farmers whose earnings account for growth rate of 7%.

[English]

This is what has been done by this Government.

[Translation]

On one hand the farmers are being insulted and on the other they are being asked to chant the mantra of 'feel good'. What will they say they, are under so much pressure. It is the statement of Finance Minister that the Government has constituted a Committee regarding

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

waiving off the loan of farmers. He has not said that the debts will be waived off rather he said that after investigation the Committee will submit its report within 90 days and after that the Government will waive off debts, issue credit cards to farmers and install ATM Machines. He has not made it clear as to where and when the ATM Machines will be installed but asking for vote which means that they are offering the farmers a petty amount in return for their valuable votes. But I would like to say that this will not do. The farmers of this country are sensible. When they toppled Indira Gandhi Government in 1977, they can topple anyone. If they want they can topple your Government or us also. You have played with their self respect and cheated them and hence have to face its consequence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I would like to say something about Defence. The Finance Minister has proudly said that we are creating fund of Rs. 25,000 crore for modernisation of Defence. But everyone is aware that the best mechanism to reduce fiscal deficit is to have a control on revenue expenditure. You tell me as to what I have said is correct or not. If this Government propose to reduce fiscal deficit by controlling capital expenditure then it means the Government is incompetent. The Finance Minister has shown a fiscal deficit after reducing the capital expenditure which includes an amount of Rs. 5000 crore of defence which had not been utilised. Add to that a subsidy of 3000 crore rupees and it becomes 8000 crore rupees. The defence has not been protected, by not reducing the capital expenditure and by showing the fiscal deficit under control. What else I can say than this? I would like to tell the hon'ble Finance Minister and the entire NDA Government, present Governor, former Member Hon'ble Madan Lal Khurana ji that two important reports were presented in the House i.e. 19th and 21st Reports of the Standing Committee on Defence. In these reports it had been stated that the Defence Minister has shown negligence in regard to capital expenditures and in providing arms and ammunitions to the soldiers and despite that the Government are exclaiming about feel good factor. Where is the feel good factor? Many pilots lost their lives in mig-crash. Their wives submitted a memorandum to the hon'ble President. However, the Minister of Defence himself got into the cock-pit to show the whole world that nothing happened to him and he remained safe. It was shown on TV as to how the hon'ble George Fernandes got into the cock-pit and got out very safely. The pilot who had accompanied him was a senior pilot. But who will look after the families of young pilots who have lost their lives in mig-crash? I would like to say that the maximum number of pilots lost their lives in mig crash

during the tenure of this Government. The Government decided to procure AJT. I challenge the hon'ble Finance Minister that when he was the Defence Minister at that time the Cabinet of hon'ble Atalji had decided to procure AJT. The hon'ble Defence Minister made a statement in the House that AJT will be procured from the British Hawk. But whether it is not a fact that first this decision was withheld as some Members of the Cabinet were of the opinion that it should be procured from Czechoslovakia instead of British Hawk. If you say feel good to the wife of mig-pilot, she will say I hate you. I spit on your face. That is all you have done from Defence.

Finally, I would like to narrate a story and the hon'ble Finance Minister must have to give reply to it. On 27th January 2004, I wrote a letter to the Defence Secretary and forwarded a copy of the same to the Minister of Finance, Minister of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretary, the Minister of Home Affairs and to the hon'ble Prime Minister. The letter is as under:—

[English]

"Since our Party is not addressing issues to Defence Minister for reasons known to you. I have no other option but to address to you on a very vital matter linked with the interest of our nation and interest of Defence. It is brought to my notice that the High Court of Justice in France at Paris has recently passed a very critical judgement against the contract of Dassault/Thales, manufacturers of the Mirage aircraft, in respect of the last sale to the Government of India headed by Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In fact, the Thales supply all the avionics is now placed in a question mark for their contract. It is understood that Defence Ministry is in touch with Indian Embassy in Paris ascertaining the facts and complete details of Thales and their status. It is surprising that while the fact in cognisance have been widely reported in the European media and recorded in the proceedings in the High Court of Justice in Paris, how can one proceed to complete finalisation of substantial contract with the same company Thales for our submarines and such decision at the eve of election, by any authority, be it Cabinet or CCS? It would raise lot of questions and apprehensions. It is further amazing that the entire procurement action has been planned with a single vendor basis where prices are artificially high without exploring of several alternatives and cost factor, how can the Government settle with such shabby company of such things? Is it a fact that the technology of the said submarine is not even a proven one to be in the use of even in

the French Navy. I am further given to understand that Thales' integrity in question by the CVO in Defence Ministry in the past, and the former Chief of Naval Staff of Pakistan was extradited from USA for illegal and improper dealings with Thales. It is my duty to communicate to you to put up on record that detrimental to the interest of the country and the integrity of the Government such clandestine deal should not be executed without a comprehensive opinion of Law Ministry, CVC, CAG, and Defence Standing Committee."

Now the Standing Committee is not there. I would appeal to the hon. Minister that nobody has acknowledged my letter till now.

[Translation]

If Thales submarine deal is being finalised then the House should be taken into confidence that the Court has not given its verdict with regard to the matter taken up in a French High Court for payment of Commission to the agent. If the Court has given its verdict than what it is? The House should be apprised of it and it should also be made clear as to what connection Union Defence Ministry has with the Thales?

Finally, I would like to tell one thing. During his speech, hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya has asked as to who our leader is? I respect Atal Ji. I respect him not because he is the Prime Minister but because he is a learned, diligent and progressive Leader of our country and the House as well. I am to learn a lot from him. Our leader Shrimati Sonia ji has stated that Atalji do not stick to his words. Therefore, it is difficult to judge who is right and who is wrong. Shri Govindacharya ji also expressed similar view about the leader and Shri Kirit Somaiya ji hurled several abuses against Soniaji and said that she is a foreigner. I also say, Yes, she is a foreigner as she is born in an alien country. But Gurudev Tagore ji used to say Aryans, non-Aryans, Mangols, Pathans, Muslims and Buddhists came to this country and this country absorbed everyone in itself as an ocean does. It has been stated by Gurudev Tagore.

[English]

SHRI KHARBAELA SWAIN (Balasore): They are the people of this country. Do not mislead the House of your theory. ...*(Interruptions)* They are not from outside. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, please take your seat. When your turn comes, you can

refute it. You are going to participate in the discussion. You will get a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I want to tell that our leader is married in Gandhi family and she is not born in India. Despite this all, the NDA Government did not guts to make an amendment to the effect that a person who is Indian national by birth only can occupy this post. His party was in power still they did not carry out such an amendment. Indira Gandhi married her to her son Rajiv Gandhi as per Hindi rites. In the same family Indiraji's blood-soaked dead body was taken to the hospital by her and Kamla Nehru died while Panditji was in jail. Gurudev Tagore brought up Indira Gandhi. Smt. Sonia could not even see the face of her young husband aged 40 years. Her husband was assassinated in Sriperambur. Today, Shri Pramod Mahajan leaves no opportunity to attack his daughter Priyanka and son Rahul. This country will stand testimony to the coming events. But, with due regards to Atalji, I would like to say that the people of her family spent their life in jail for the sake of country's freedom, Rajiv Gandhi was not even born at that time whereas Atalji and Advaniji were young at that time. Today, a school going child gets up and says I will salute you ten times. The struggle for India's freedom was fought by Gandhi ji. Did you and Advani ji suspended even a day in jail during that period? I would like to ask, is there any record in this regard? No, it is not.

I conclude with these words.

*SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance and Government of India to some of the points raised during the discussion on the Interim Budget (General)-2004-2005.

Indians thought that after getting independence the aspirations of the countrymen would be fulfilled. India lives in villages. The rural people depend on agriculture and cottage industries. Even after half a century since independence basic facilities like drinking water are not available in the villages although crores of rupees have been spent in the name of development. There is no proper arrangement for good and quality education. Educational Institutions are not there. Medicines and electricity is not available. Proper infrastructural facilities for development of agriculture and forests is still not there. Although the country is now independent, it is still governed by the system of British Raj. Police and

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Salkhan Murmu]

administrative services have become synonyms of exploitation and corruption. SPs and Collectors behave as British administrators did in district headquarters today. Common man does not have access to them. Under this system the development works undertaken with the aim of providing basic facilities to the people of the villages tend to add to their woes and create problems for them. Each district of the country gets an annual grant of more than Rs. 100 crores from the state and the centre but there is no proper record as to how this amount is utilized. Besides the Collector, several other officers and employees work in various departments in the districts but there is no record of their work performance during a particular year. Till now many budgets have been presented, many developmental schemes have been launched but it is not known as to why even after the lapse of half a century, basic facilities are not available in the villages. Today there has been a record production of foodgrains in the country, but even then foodgrains are dearer. People are dying of hunger. In order to make the teeming million of Indian populace happy and prosperous, we need not be contented merely by presenting the Budget but we should think seriously as to how and when we can provide basic facilities to each and every citizen of the country.

The local Adivasis and aborigines are facing injustice because no decision has been taken on the domicile policy and reservation policy in Jharkhand. The dalits, backward classes and the Ansaris (Muslims) comprise the original residents of Jharkhand. In this state only local people should get employment in Class II and Class IV jobs. But employment is being given to outsiders. So, the educated unemployed youth of Jharkhand are a distressed and depressed lot. As a result of this, local youth have either associated with terrorist organizations or are inclined to join the terrorist ranks. So, the Central Government should make a provision in the Budget underlining measures for providing employment to the youth of Jharkhand under just politics. On the contrary, instead of understanding the just annoyance of youth, the Government are afflicting torture on them with gun and lathi. The atrocity perpetrated by Police and administration is at its zenith in Singhbhum district of Jharkhand. The original innocent residents of Jharkhand are being arrested and implicated under POTA leaving Kashmir far behind in the matter of atrocities.

So, the Central Government should make provisions in the Budget for providing more facilities to the educated youth of Jharkhand. Jharkhand provides maximum mineral forest and human resources to the country. In comparison there is lack of basic facilities. The pace of development

is very slow in Santhal Pargana in Jharkhand. There is acute shortage of electricity, road and irrigation facilities. Even railway facilities are not available. Funds should be provided for all this work.

There is a need for funds for the development of Singhbhum district in Jharkhand. Western Singhbhum district is very backward in the matter of development. There is a great need to augment water, electricity, irrigation, medicinal, educational and railway facilities in the State. The Kolhan, a university should be established in Chaivasa so that educational facilities are provided to regional residents of the State. Statutory recognition should be given to their language and their Barang Kshiti script and they should be put to use in reading and writing. Mineral resources are in huge quantity in western Singhbhum. Goods trains run for transportation of iron ore, but the number of passenger trains is less. So EMU facility should be provided from Tatanagar to Barbil via Chaibasa without delay. If this rail section is extended and constructed with coromandal railway section via Keonjhar district of Orissa, minerals could be transported and train facilities could be provided in the remote areas of the State. So special attention should be paid in the Budget provisions to Jharkhand and western Singhbhum. It is the highest revenue earning state.

Jharkhand is a rich state in the country. But development of this area will only be possible by activities related to agriculture and forests. So sufficient funds should be provided by the Centre to this State through Budget otherwise youth will fall prey to terrorist activities and the country would have to repent later for this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope that the hon'ble Minister of Finance would pay attention to these points and take positive action.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the name of the next speaker, let us dispose of Item Nos. 20 and 27.

14.54 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Nineteenth Report

[English]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Sir, I beg to present the Nineteenth Report (Hindi and English versions)

of Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Secondary and Higher Education)—All India Council for Technical Education.

14.55 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Fifty-second to Fifty-sixth Reports

[English]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Auranagabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development:-

- (1) Fifty-second Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (2) Fifty-third Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (3) Fifty-fourth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development);
- (4) Fifty-fifth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2003-2004) of the Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation); and
- (5) Fifty-sixth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-seventh Report on 'Implementation of Part IX of the Constitution' of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).

14.56 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Matters under Rule 377 listed for today are treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (I) Need to conserve and beautify the historical pond at Sagar, Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): The pond built by Lakha Banjara, situated in the middle of the Sagar city, the headquarters of my Parliamentary constituency is a place of historical importance. Due to negligence over the years it has lost its past identity. There has been rapid encroachment all around it. The citizens of Sagar have an emotional attachment with this pond. And they have been demanding its renovation and beautification for past several years. I too have raised this issue in the Lok Sabha several times. In response to my Unstarred Question on this issue during the Sagar Pond has been included among the 14 ponds in the National Lake Promotion Scheme and a proposal has been sent to the World Bank for its development. But it could not be ascertained when this proposal was sent nor could the amount sought for this be known. I do not know the present position of the proposal.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to take up the renovation and beautification of Sagar pond on priority basis.

- (II) Need to provide connectivity to Bhubaneswar Airport with Varanasi via Gaya and upgrade it as an International Airport to promote tourism in the State

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): The sharp decline in the flow of tourists and particularly foreign tourists to Orissa is a matter of great concern. According to a recent estimate, the tourist inflow to Orissa has fallen from 30,000 to about 3,000.

The reasons for the decline in the flow of tourists to Orissa are not far to seek. One of the main reasons of

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Ananta Nayak]

the decline in tourist traffic is the absence of air connectivity between Bhubaneswar and Varanasi via Gaya. Earlier when Orissa has connected with Varanasi, the State was receiving about 30,000 foreign tourists. As Gaya receives a number of Buddhist tourists from South Asian countries and Orissa has plenty of places of Buddhist interest, it would be worth connecting Bhubaneswar with Gaya. International tourists coming to Varanasi will also visit Bhubaneswar with Gaya. International tourists coming to Varanasi will also visit Bhubaneswar via Gaya. Tourists from Japan and South East Asian countries are keen to visit Orissa because of the Buddhist link in Orissa. This would be possible if the Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar is developed and upgraded as International Airport. It is also necessary to introduce domestic flights between Varanasi and Bhubaneswar via Gaya.

As such, I demand that the Bhubaneswar Airport is upgraded as an International Airport with new air connectivity between Varanasi and Gaya without any further delay.

- (iii) **Need to meet the demand for additional mobile phone connections and Sim cards in Bokaro, Dhanbad, Giridih and other districts in the State of Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): The Government have fixed the pulse rate of calls from land line phones to mobile phones at 60 seconds. But the pulse rate in the Bokaro Steel city and other cities in Jharkhand is 30 seconds. This results in additional burden on the consumers in rural areas and small towns.

BSNL is not providing adequate number of mobile connections and Sim Cards in Jharkhand State. This has led to increasing black marketing. Similarly the charges for STD Fax in Delhi apart from telephone meter reading is Rs. 20 per fax.

Therefore, I request the Government that 60 seconds pulse should be made applicable all over the country, Sim Cards and mobile connections should be provided as per demand in all the districts of Jharkhand especially in Bokaro, Dhanbad and Giridih and fax service charges should be charged according to the rate fixed by the Government.

- (iv) **Need to expedite completion of Subarnarekha Irrigation Project in Ranchi Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand**

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi): The work on the Multi-purpose Subarnarekha Project at Chandil

Saraikela Kharsewa in my Parliamentary Constituency, Ranchi is going on a slow pace for last several years. Electricity was to be generated under this scheme. Due to delay, this project has not benefited those for whom it was meant. Canals have not been constructed in required numbers. The farmers are yet to reap the benefits of irrigation. During the rainy season several villages are inundated by rain water. Due to this several persons and cattle perish. Crops worth several crores of rupees are destroyed. Those displaced and those whose lands have been acquired have not been provided employment and compensation as per rules. Such persons have no other means of livelihood. Due to delay the cost of the project has gone up more than ten fold. The cost is increasing with passage of time.

I request the Central Government, through the august House, that directions be given for early completion of the Subarnarekha project and the reasons behind the delay be probed.

- (v) **Need to clear the proposal for laying Gadchiroli-Desaiganj rail line in Maharashtra**

[English]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): Sir, Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra is the District Headquarter and is totally naxalite affected areas. This is the most backward area, not only in Maharashtra but one of the most backward districts in the country. This is among the 25 most backward districts in the country, identified by the Union Government for development under SAM VIKAS YOJANA. This Gadchiroli district needs to be connected with Railway Line which will go a long way in its industrial development. The Union Government has been requested many times for a Railway Line from Gadchiroli to Desaiganj, which is a distance of only 52 kilometers and shall cost only Rs. 76 crores. The State Government of Maharashtra has already agreed to bear the 50% cost of this Railway Line and have informed the Railway Ministry accordingly. Now, I request that the Gadchiroli-Desaiganj Railway line should be cleared by the Union Government on priority basis.

- (vi) **Need to take up gauge conversion work and introduce additional trains in the State of Uttaranchal for its speedy development**

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): No provision for new trains, new railway lines and for the conversion of meter gauge lines into broad gauge has been made

in the budget of 2003 for the newly created State of Uttaranchal. Due to this there is immense difficulty in the matter of all round development of Uttaranchal State and in promoting tourism. This is also causing loss.

I demand from the Government to make a provision in this Budget for laying a new rail line, the conversion of meter gauge line into broad gauge line in Uttaranchal and to conduct a survey and give sanction for them. Steps may also be taken to introduce Shatabdi or Jan Shatabdi trains especially from Kathgodam to Jammu and Kathgodam to New Delhi. Apart from that necessary provision for a new rail line for Dehradun linking Tanakpur, Khatima and Rudrapur and a new train between Mumbai-Kathgodam may please be introduced.

Therefore, I request the Government to conduct a survey and give sanction so that the above mentioned work could be included in this year's budget itself to link the entire State of Uttaranchal with railway network.

- (vii) **Need for taking measures for allround development of Goalpokher area in Uttar Dinajpur district, West Bengal**

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): It is a fact that both the West Bengal and Central Government missed out almost in every Plan the inclusion of an area in the district of Uttar Dinajpur-known as Goalpokher, in the Plan Development process. This area has become more important since the merger of part of Bihar to Bengal in 1950's, where part of Bihar population merged into Bengal and Urdu speaking minority, Bengali speaking refugees and other minority population are suffering for not having higher education, infrastructural facilities, hospital for treatment and telecommunication facilities. It is surprising that no girls' education at the level of higher secondary stream is in existence either in Goalpokher-I and II Block and there is no college.

Chakulia Block, which is Goalpokher II Block, for the first time got a PMGSY Scheme on my recommendation to connect Goalpokher-I Block. Time and again I have addressed this issue to Government of West Bengal and the Union Government specially the Planning Commission. I am surprised to see that even in this Annual Plan, so specific support has been given to these two Blocks of West Bengal adjoining Bihar. There is no Block level Health Centre in Goalpokher-I, Internet and mobile services in Chakulia Block and Goalpokher-I Block.

I draw the attention of the Union Government to immediately apprise this to the Government of West Bengal to include a comprehensive plan of action in the Annual Plan immediately for this part which came from Bihar to Bengal.

- (viii) **Need to confer legal rights on people settled on forest land in Rajasthan and other parts of the country**

[Translation]

SHRI BHERULAL MEENA (Salumber): Before, and after independence till date settlement of forest land had not been made. People have been forming forest land and are in occupation they are getting electricity and water regularly carrying on business. Such lands have developed into towns and made wards etc. But the ownership of these lands continue to be shown as forest land, whereas such lands were being cultivated, business undertaken on it and used for construction of dwelling units even before the Forest Act 1980 came into being. In the absence of settlement of forest land the people all over the country living on such lands face difficulties daily. In entire Rajasthan and especially in tribal areas most of the land is classified as forest land. Several districts of Rajasthan such as Udaipur, Dungarpur, Banswara, Jalore and Bhilwara fall under such classification. Recently, the Central Government have asked the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh etc. to start the process of giving ownership rights to people who are in occupation of forest land before 1980. Hence I request the Government to enact forest land law on the pattern of revenue land settlement as it is absolutely necessary all over the country in the public interest. This will give the people legal ownership rights of the lands and the forest land can also be demarcated.

- (ix) **Need to provide adequate job avenues to retiring defence personnel and accept the demand for implementing the scheme of "one-rank-one-pension"**

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): For those serving the country through defence forces, retirement comes early in life. In almost all the cases, defence personnel have all their domestic responsibilities to be fulfilled with their children still studying at the time of retirement. With the lack of opportunities for appropriate employment elsewhere, these defenders of our frontiers and national integrity face cruel uncertainties of life. This is a major reason why the youth today do not show that

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

enthusiasm which they did decades back to join the defence forces.

It is our duty to assure them economic security in life. Therefore, I urge the Government to immediately promise all retiring defence personnel lateral entry in civil services and para-military forces at an equivalent rank. Also I urge the Government to accept the long pending demand of ex-servicemen for "one rank-one pension."

(x) Need to accord early clearance for implementing the Janjhavathi Irrigation Project in Parvathipuram Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO (Parvathipuram): The Janjhavathi project envisages to utilize 4 TMC of water from river Janjhavathi to provide irrigation in 24,636 acres of land in my parliamentary constituency of Parvathipuram in Andhra Pradesh, which is a very backward area. The project was formulated on the basis of an inter State agreement signed between the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh in 1978 to utilize water of Janjhavathi river. It was agreed to by the both States that pending a joint survey on the submergence of the land in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh could go ahead with project except the spillway portion. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has accordingly gone ahead with the project.

As the joint survey has already been completed and there is no dispute with regard to lands coming under submergence under the project, there should be no objection from the side of the State of Orissa to give their concurrence to the project. So I urge upon the Central Government to see that the Central Water Commission may convene a meeting with the two States to give clearance to the project from the inter-State angle.

(xi) Need to upgrade the existing road connecting National Highway Nos. 30 and 2 in Bhojpur district, Bihar as a National Highway

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah): The road in Koilwa, in district Bhojpur, Bihar linking the National Highway 30 to the Rohtas Fort is the main road passing through Chandī, Akhigaon, Sandesh Baruhi and Sahar situated along the banks of river Sone and Danwar, Kachwa, Nasiriganj, Abhiyawar, Darihat, Dihri, Inderpuri, Talauthu Banjari in Rohtas district. This road apart from another road also connects National Highway 30 to National Highway 2. This road goes to Rohtas Fort passing through terrorism infected areas. Small and

medium industrial and main commercial towns such as Nasiriganj, Dalmianagar, Talauthu and Banjari are situated along this road. Also there are several educational institutions. This road crosses river Sone and links Jharkhand State also. Its length is about 130 km. Being a terrorism infected area anti-social elements easily cross over to other side of the Sone river after committing crimes. Due to lack of communication facilities the police find it difficult to catch the criminals. Farmers and businessmen face immense difficulties in for transportation of their goods.

Therefore, I request the Government to declare this road as National Highway in Public interest so that the difficulties faced by the people can be removed and terrorism wiped out.

14.56 hrs.

**INTERIM BUDGET (GENERAL) 2004-2005—
General Discussion . . .
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—
(GENERAL) 2004-2005
AND
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS—(GENERAL) 2003-2004—contd.**

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to place on record my views on behalf of my Party, All India Anna DMK and my leader, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

14.57 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*]

I rise here to support the Interim Budget 2004-05. I have carefully and critically gone through the 'Report of Implementation of Budget Announcements 2003-04', as also the key features of the Interim Budget 2004-05.

Before I could discuss the Interim Budget 2004-2005, I may be permitted to present my views on the 'Report of Implementation of Budget Announcements 2003-04'.

I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India for placing the

record of achievements on the Implementation of Budget Announcements 2003-04. In the Preamble, it is given:

"In continuation of our consistent endeavour to promote transparency and accountability in Government, a brochure detailing the status of implementation of announcements made in the Budget 2003-04 has been prepared."

I have gone through this, and I appreciate the key features given there. I congratulate the Government for making Budget allotments for *Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana* to the tune of Rs. 500 crore. I also congratulate the Government and I appreciate the great concern of the Government in addressing the problems which are there in this Scheme. Here, I would urge upon the Government to increase the allotment of foodgrain to the poor from 5 kg. to 10 kg. Large quantity of foodgrain is not only wasted, but also there are no adequate storage facilities.

15.00 hrs.

Could the Government consider increasing the foodgrains from 5 Kg. to 10 Kg. per manday to the worker as a part of the wage? It is said that 1,81,000 additional *Antyodaya* families will be added to the scheme this year. I still have a doubt whether we have identified the BPL families properly or not. We have been repeatedly following this procedure but till now we have not been able to statistically show the ground realities of the weaker families. We have not been able to properly plan for the BPL families because there was no basic statistics available. I urge upon the Government to get an updated account of the BPL families so that we are able to locate the ground realities of the BPL families in our country.

I now come to the other scheme of the Government of India given at page no. 3 of the Achievement Report. The Budget of 2003-2004 undertakes to provide major thrust to infrastructure, principally roads, railways, airports and sea ports through innovative funding mechanism. I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister. Unless we have a proper transport mechanism, either by road, rail or air, we will not be able to achieve the desired results. It is said that 48 new road projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 40,000 crore are allocated with a quarter of them being made to manufacture cement concrete; National Rail Vikas Yojana Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 crore; innovation and modernisation of two airports and two sea ports with an estimated cost of Rs. 11,000 crore, and establishing two global standard international convention centres at an estimated cost of Rs. 1000 crore have been undertaken.

I would like to say that the Finance Minister has planned the Budget but has he ever planned to create or get the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the executive machinery, State Governments and the Government of India. Most of the schemes or projects are delayed because there is no proper understanding between the State Governments, the Government of India and the implementing agency. No time frame is fixed. Even while awarding the contract, no accountability or time frame is fixed for the contractor. So, whenever there is some problem somewhere, the entire mechanism comes to a stand still. It does not bear any fruit for the common people. The beneficiaries are not able to get any benefit out of that project. I would like to have a reply from the hon. Finance Minister to the effect that for the projects mentioned above nearly Rs. 60,000 crore was announced in the 2003-2004 Budget.

What is the time frame within which you will complete these projects so that the project is beneficial to the common man? The act of announcing or formulating a scheme does not mean that you have completed it. For completing a project within a stipulated time, you need to select the programmes critically, they should be need-based programme, target oriented programme, and time-bound. I have to go on record with a painful heart that in my constituency six years ago a railway project was inaugurated by the hon. Railway Minister but till now nothing has been done because there is a problem in acquisition of land. The project has come to a standstill. We have invested money without any benefit to the people. I hope at least in the Tenth Five Year Plan, you will critically evaluate the programmes and take this House into confidence. Let all of us sit together and do the needful. Before actually awarding a contract, you will have to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government. You have to have some kind of binding on the contractors so that the projects are completed in a stipulated time.

Sir, I fail to understand the term called 'financial year'. I have my doubts whether we are really following the term 'financial year'. As far as my knowledge goes, financial year starts from 1st April and ends on 31st March. We are supposed to complete all the project within the financial year. The Government is supposed to place the statement of expenditure as also the list of completed projects. We should also be told who is held responsible for the cost escalation if the projects are not completed within the stipulated time frame. You have to fix the accountability of those who are responsible for the delay.

In paragraph No. 79 and Item No. 33, it has been stated that term loan given to Self-Help Groups by the

[Dr. V. Saroja]

selected post offices shall be repayable within a period of 24 months carrying interest rate of 9 percent per annum and the post offices shall be responsible for the recovery, regulation and monitoring. Memorandum of Understanding between NABARD and authorised representatives of the Department of Posts has been introduced. In Tamil Nadu, about 1,25,000 Self-Help Groups are formed with the savings to the tune of Rs. 275 crore. It is said here that the interest rate for the loan amount which is given to the NGOs is 18 percent.

The hon. Finance Minister should carefully look into this aspect. The NGOs are being given loan at nine percent interest. But when the NGOs are financing loans to the self-help groups, they are charging 18 percent interest. Have they become moneylenders? If that is the case, then why to have the financial sanction to the self-help groups through the NGOs by paying more interest than what the banks are charging from the NGOs? The year 2001 was declared as the Year of the Empowerment of Women. Two years have passed by but we have not achieved the desired results in spite of an allotment of Rs. 2,000 crore in the year 2001-02. The interest rates for loans for the self-help groups must be brought down to the level of agricultural loans and loans for the Small Scale Industries. It has been said, 'the agriculture and SSI, hereafter, will have to pay no more than extra two percentage points than the best bank customer'. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to have the interest mechanism on par with the agriculture and small scale industries.

Sir, it has been mentioned in the Budget for the year 2003-04, 'initiative to promote India as both production centre and investment destination, called the India Development Initiative'. Everything is only on paper. For everything, there will be a Committee formed; the Committee will give its report and they would advise the Government about implementation of the scheme. I would like to submit that the scheme should be formulated before it is announced. It should be done in such a way that from announcing the scheme to making the benefits of the scheme available to the common is done in a time bound manner.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government for proposing to set up six AIIMS like hospitals, one each in States like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal and for proposing upgrade one medical college each in States like Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal to the level of AIIMS. All the States in the country should have a medical college like AIIMS. But the

common man does not require sophisticated super speciality management facilities. Only about five percent of patients come for such super speciality treatment. Items meant for treatment of common ailments for common people should be made available because they form the very basis of the basic health care delivery system. It would be better to have such a system than to have upgraded hospitals in every State. We are going to have such hospitals in six to seven States in the country. Those would have super speciality management and will serve its purpose, otherwise its purpose will be defeated. I would like to request the hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare to look into this aspect and have it critically evaluated and see to it as to how best we can put in place a health care delivery system for the common men.

Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare for announcing the National Health Insurance Scheme. As a medical doctor I tried my level best to implement it in my constituency following the prescribed guidelines. But the guidelines are really difficult to be implemented.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to have a simplified mechanism whereby the common man will get the benefits of the Health Insurance Scheme. The Scheme is good but the guidelines given under it are so complicated that even the people belonging to the medical field are approaching me. It is very difficult to carry the Health Insurance Scheme to the people. So, I would urge upon the Government and also the hon. Finance Minister to have simplified guidelines so that it will be easy for everyone to get the benefits. The Health Mela is really doing a good service. Instead of Rs. 8 lakhs for every parliamentary constituency, you could have extended it still more like Rs. 10 lakhs or Rs. 15 lakhs because after all, this is a common man's scheme. It will deliver the goods to the common man.

Last but not the least, I congratulate the Government for the solution for the water scarcity in the metropolitan cities. On the decision to initiate the Accelerated Drinking Water Scheme for mega cities like Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, etc., the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already requested Rs. 700 crore for the acute drinking water shortage in Chennai city. Kindly consider this very important and sensitive problem. This problem is acute in Chennai than compared to other rural areas of Tamil Nadu. Even though it is only an Interim Budget, I plead this House to sanction the amount without any dilution. Unless you provide Rs. 700 crore, it would be very difficult to cater to the drinking water needs of the people of Chennai city. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this aspect favourably.

With these few words, I conclude.

*SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): Sir, technically the Government could have presented only a proposal for Vote-on account but it has usurped the advantage of presenting a mini-budget with election oriented proposal which the present House will stand denied of deliberation because of impending dissolution of the House.

The new proposals are based on the projections obtaining under the present scenario of what all call the 'feel-good' factor. If the next monsoon turns out to be erratic the feel-good factory may vanish. And according to reports the earnings on the Forex placements have been plummeting. The Government has cleverly made use of the maxim 'make hay while the sun shines.'

Whatever proposals have been presented these are all cosmetic with no long-term effect. Ad-hoc measures aimed at catching votes will do harm in the long run. Except in power sector there has been no other significant moves on infrastructural projects like telecom, roads, civil aviation and ports.

My constituency Udupi forms a part of Dakshina Kannada region which still despite its natural resources and potential remains under-developed. For the last may years I have been pursuing on the floor of this House for many projects that need to be undertaken in my constituency.

My constituency in particular and the region in general has adequate tourism potential. Many full-fledged proposals have been mooted by the State for Central assistance. Yet the Central budgetary allocations have been meagre. With temples, beach resorts and bio sphere pockets abounding in and around Udupi, it is high time that the Centre should come forward to implement these proposals.

The Bajpe (Mangalore) airport is under expansion for a long time. The State Government has provided roads etc. Yet the Centre has been showing no serious concern for the completion of the project which will give a boost to tourism as also help establish direct international links.

The Ministry of Commerce has drawn grandiose plans to establish Special Economic Zones across the country. A SEZ has been proposed to be set up at Padubidri in my constituency. I urge that adequate funds be provisioned for commissioning this SEZ early.

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

The Centre has enforced Coastal Regulation Zone guidelines to preserve the ecological character of coastal areas. My constituency has a long shore-line inhabited by fishermen settlements and fishing harbours. There are tourist attractions also along the coastline, drawing tourists from all over. The CRZ regulations are rigorously enforced thereby causing hindrance to the existing fishermen settlements and tourist establishments. It was proposed to amend the CRZ regulations to enable the fishermen community and tourist industry pursue their vocations.

The National Highway Authority of India is implementing the mega projects for linking remote corners in the country with expressways like Golden Quadrilateral and East-West/North-South corridors. The National Highway-17 passes through coastal Karnataka but four-laning of the stretches within Dakshina Kannada region especially from Surathkal to Kundapura are kept low on priority compared to National Highway-17 passing through the neighbouring Kerala and Goa.

Under the Golden Quadrilateral scheme, linking of all major ports with the GQ is including. The new Mangalore Port has been serving this region with one of the finest natural harbours catering to Kudremukh, MRPL, MCF and also for the import of crude from Sudan and coal for thermal power plants. To give a boost for economic development of this region, linkage of the New Mangalore Port with GQ at Bangalore has become imperative.

Late lamented Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji had initiated a technology development mission for rural drinking water. The same has been re-labelled as Swajaldhara Scheme. My constituency has acute scarcity of drinking water along the coast and many villages and settlements survive on saline and brackish water. The Udupi Zila Parishad has drawn up an elaborate scheme for providing safe drinking water to villages, sharing the cost to certain extent. Many village Panchayats have already set-apart funds for the scheme but the Centre is yet to give its approval and share of funds for this project.

Sea erosion has been causing damage to coastline and fishermen settlements and harbours. Anti-erosion measures have been attempted on ad-hoc basis but no long term solutions have been undertaken like break-water barriers etc. The State Government had submitted proposal for long-term anti-sea erosion measures which are still under the examination of Central Water Commission.

Riverbank erosion and silting of estuary areas of many rivers discharging into the sea are also causing major problems. To overcome this a series of check dams on rivers flowing westwards in my district were proposed to be built. Apart from providing water for drinking/irrigation, these dams would also minimise riverbank erosion to large extent during monsoons. (PASCHIMA VAHINI).

A large number of fishermen hamlets and settlements are dotting the entire past-line of Dakshina Kannada. Fishermen community comprise a large segment of the local population eking out a living the hard way. The National Fishworkers Forum has presented a charter of demands to the Centre, pleading for the implementation of Murari Committee Report. The Centre has accepted all major recommendations of Murari Committee. Ban on deep-sea trawling, enhancement of Kerosene oil quota for fishermen vessels and country crafts, increase in subsidy component on diesel supplied to fishing boats etc. are a few major recommendations waiting to be implemented.

The Centre has initiated a mega project of inter-linking of national rivers. Such a mega project is set with many hurdles and was once abandoned at the time of late Dr. K.L. Rao who pioneered the Ganga-Cauvery linkage in 1950s. The World Water Forum experts say that India should go for localised solutions by undertaking river-linking only at regional levels. A proposal for interlinking of rivers in Dakshina Kannada was mooted ten years ago with much less capital outlay and assured results and benefits by power generation (mini-hydel plants) and irrigation. I urge the Centre to revive this project for the betterment of farmers in Dakshina Kannada region.

Plantation crops like Arecanut, Cashewnut and Coconut (Copra) constitute a major source of income for farmers of Dakshina Kannada. The farmers are being exploited by middlemen. The Centrally Sponsored Market Intervention Scheme by providing a minimum floor price has been operative to a very limited extent causing stockpiling of produce and financial strain on the farmer. I urge the Centre to provide more funds through NAFED etc. for a more comprehensive market intervention mechanism.

Kudremukh the only large industrial undertaking in the public sector is beset with many problems. There is very large potential for export of iron ore from India with bulk demands from China contracted for more than 20 years in advance. Kudremukh has shown consistent record

and need to be provided with a rehabilitation package and also extension of lease for mining rights for another 20 years subject to their complying with the environmental and ecological safeguards.

New Mangalore Port is a major port on the West Coast handling bulk exports and imports for Kudremukh, MRPL, MCF etc. Imported Sudanese crude and coal for thermal power plants come through new Mangalore. To cope up with the growth in cargo export/import, the Centre should provide for expansion of NMPT.

The Centre has announced last year a revival package for sick sugar units considering large number of farmers dependent on this sector. In my area the Brahmavar Sugar Factory has been functioning to curtailed capacity for want of modernisation. I urge the Government to consider extending such a rehabilitation package for Brahmavar Sugar Factory early.

Udupi has grown into a major tourist, commerce/trade and education/Medicare centre but has not been given its due in terms of establishment of:

Creation of independent telecom district at Udupi bifurcating it from the present Dakshina Kannada telecom district at Mangalore.

Setting up a full-fledged Passport Office at Mangalore.

Setting up a regional Provident Fund Office in Udupi to serve large number of industrial workers under CPF.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): Sir, how can I speak, when there is no quorum? Let there be quorum in the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: When you speak, they will come. You try to attract them.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Okay...(Interruptions) the interest of the Government may be gauged from the fact...(Interruptions) that nobody from the ruling side is present...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Hon'ble Minister is present...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It is all right. At least there will be no noise when I speak. I will be listened to quietly.

Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak, but I am confused as to the point from where to start. Government seems to be under the impression that they will win the elections through the Budget. This is the first session of the year for the year old Government. But they made all out efforts to establish that it is not the first session of the year. "I may speak truth but I may still lose and they will lie and even then will make us speechless". The history of India will record the fact that BJP managed to establish that it is not a new session and thus negating on obvious truth. After the previous round of election in four states, the BJP Government has been saying consistently that elections will be held on time. It was said in the leader's meeting, even hon'ble Prime Minister reiterated it. Even in the last BAC meeting it was said that elections will be held on time, but as is the habit of BJP it once again went back on its words pertaining to Lok Sabha.

Sir, I used to read in newspapers that one woman sacrificed the son of another woman before goddess so that she is able to mother her own child. It is quite a unique thing in democracy, that BJP, under the impression, that if they order election early, they will be able to get in power and in their quest for power they have sacrificed democracy, constitution and Parliament. It is unprecedented.

Hon'ble Finance Minister says that the budget signifies the realisation of Mungeri Lal's dreams. It may be true but probably hon'ble Finance Minister is not aware of the nature of Mungeri Lal's dreams.

"Bak Raha hoon Junoon Mein Kya Kuch,
Kuch Na Samjhe Khuda Kare KoI"

The couplet fits for hon'ble Finance Minister. The budget presented seems to be an exercise of distributing goodies among the public with an eye on coming elections...(Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): This was also done by Ms. Mayawati.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: In the recently concluded elections in four states, the BJP Government said...(Interruptions) Please let me continue, it is not right. The people of this corrupt Government can do nothing but interrupt. They have no stomach for truth...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, you speak when you get a chance. Now allow him to speak. Do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: The truth behind the commitment of BJP for truth can be seen by the fact that in the recently concluded assembly elections they abandoned the issue of Ram Temple in favour of the issue of development. All through the last 10 years, they have been fighting election on the promise that Ram Temple is their main issue and they would construct Ram Temple. No other political party of the world changes its issue in every election. In fact they were never interested in constructing Ram Temple. Their interests was to create rift among Hindus and Muslims in the country by raising the issue of Ram Temple and Babri Mosque. That is why in the assembly elections they abandoned the issue of Ram Temple and took up the issue of development.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not shout. He has got freedom of expression. He has got freedom of speech. Sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I can't even think of that...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member has got every freedom to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: The whole country would be ashamed to know that the party which drew life from the people in the name of Lord Ram are now perturbed when I am taking the name of Lord Ram...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ray, you reply when you get a chance. Now you cannot interrupt. You cannot expect him to speak in a way in which you like to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Alvi, is it in the Budget? It is not a general debate. It is a debate on the Interim Budget.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: This pertains to Budget. What I am saying is about budget...(Interruptions) In the forthcoming elections the people of the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please resume your seat. Except Shri Alvi's speech, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not interrupt his speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I am running short of time...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not interrupt. Otherwise, I have to give him more time to reply. Do not take his time.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: This is the Budget Speech. I do not want to teach History to BJP leaders in the budget speech. Many times I have taught history to you people. Public would not give their verdict on this budget in the coming elections. They would judge BJP on their performance of last 4-5 years. What is the achievement of BJP during the last 4-5 years. Last elections were fought on Kargil issue. Kargil was the failure of the Government intelligence. 700 soldiers lost their lives. By this fact you can judge the competence of BJP Government, Prime Minister and Home Minister. Country's apex intelligence agency. Intelligence Bureau had sent a report to Home Ministry from Punjab. It's a secret report which should not be passed to anybody...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: How did you get this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RASHID ALVI: That report of Intelligence Bureau was received on Rashid Alvi's Fax instead of Home Minister's Fax at his residence.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Even if it is a secret paper, it must be given to the Chair. Then only, you will be allowed to speak on that paper.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I will give this to you I want to lay it on the table of the House. This is the report of IB which... instead of Home Minister...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rashid Alvi, you are showing a paper. You have not shown it to the Chair.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, it is very important...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to rely on any document, it must be given to the Chair. I have not seen it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I want to tell the whole nation as to what kind of a Government it is!

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is that paper? Please pass it on to me.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: This concerns the security of the country...*(Interruptions)* I am laying the secret report of the Intelligence Bureau in the Parliament.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What kind of security is it? The Chair should know about it.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: The report of Intelligence Bureau is received at my fax instead of Home Minister...*(Interruptions)* I pass on this to you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please pass on the paper. Let me see it.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I pass on this paper to you. It is in regard to the internal politics of Punjab. Government is misusing Intelligence Bureau for the political benefit of BJP. This report is a solid proof of this, which I lay before you. Intelligence Bureau failed in Kargil. This report of IB is a clear proof of Intelligence failure. The Supreme Court judge who ordered FIR to be filed against former CM of Uttar Pradesh was appointed the Chairman of Consumer Forum, on the very next day after his retirement. This is the performance of the BJP Government that the judge who ordered FIR to be filed against Km. Mayawati was appointed the Chairman of the Consumer Forum and awarded with the Cabinet Rank. BJP Government does not respect any provision of the Constitution. This Government is undermining all Institutions from top to bottom including Judiciary.

What is the position of judiciary today? Supreme Court passed the remark that Gujarat victims cannot get justice in Gujarat. The massacre in Gujarat is probably the worst in the history of mankind. Indian Supreme Court is of the view that victims cannot get justice in Gujarat. This is the finding of Supreme Court. Thousands of people and children were displaced. I have spoken earlier on this issue in the House. The entire nation is waiting for elections to throw this Government out of power.

Bhartiya Janata Party is under the misconception that they would come again like their victory in the four assembly elections. They are misleading the country by misleading the Parliament but I want to caution them that by dissolving the House they have harmed themselves. BJP is not going to win if elections are conducted early. Parliament elections will be a farewell to BJP and pave the way for us to come in power. For unemployed, farmers, BJP by this Budget...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): You did not utter even a single word on Budget in ten minutes. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaswant Singh, the hon. Finance Minister did not read that. What can I say?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Where is the Budget on which I would speak ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rashid Alvi is getting more time because of you. If you want to restrict his time, please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: There is a large population of Handloom workers in the country. Handloom sector has not been given any concession in the budget...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There should not be any cross talk in the House. The cross talks will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: I am very sorry to say that their behaviour is tarnishing the image of politicians in the country. They do not have proper etiquettes how to debate in the Parliament. Ruling party should have courage and patience to listen what I say and then they should reply. You cannot keep me quiet only by shouting. You make your point and have courage to listen to me. Nation can not progress if we have narrow vision, we should enlarge our horizon.

Many scams have even reported during the tenure of this Government. The number of scams surfaced during the last four and half years are more than the last 50 years. You have said the right thing...(Interruptions) I don't want to count the scams. So many different issues have been discussed in the House. Whether it is issue of petrol pump or share market, or it is Judeo's taking bribe or his saying that money is everything and it is equal to God. I do not want to discuss all these things but one thing I would certainly discuss is that the way the Commission has been set up and the CBI probe ordered against Shri Jogi, Shri Jogi's fault was this much only that he tried to holster a few MLAs on telephone which

*Not recorded.

he himself denied. His fault is this much only that he tried to offer money for forming Government. What the Bhartiya Janata Party did in Uttar Pradesh—they tried to horsetrade 40 MLAs by giving money temptation and ministerial berths...*(Interruptions)* Those 40 MLAs who BJP gave money are enjoying their ministerial posts in Uttar Pradesh Government deserting the BJP aside. No CBI probe would be conducted, nor would any legal action be taken against them. ...*(Interruptions)* The case is still pending before the Speaker, and God knows, how long it would remaining pending. The same case of BSP MLAs is pending in the Supreme Court for the last eight years, no constitutional bench has been set up till now, so their verdict seems to be a far cry. What sort of Government is it? On the one hand, they are making CBI probes, and, on the other, they are trying to horsetrade MLAs, what standard this Government is working up on? On the basis of the performance of BJP during the last five years, the Government would lose the coming elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

The issue of Haj is concerned with all the Muslims of the country. They are provided subsidy. Now a law has been made that income tax payers would be granted subsidy. It is a delicate matter. Those who pay income tax would travel by different planes and those who did not pay income tax would travel by different planes. A wife cannot go not pay income tax would travel by different planes. A wife cannot go with her husband because she does not pay income tax. Old mother cannot go, she would go alone, wife would go alone and husband would go separately. We discussed the issue vigorously in the House, but the Government turned deaf ear to it.

The minority status of Aligarh Muslim University is once again being attacked. Now a common entrance exam would be held. The BJP Government would decide who would be given admission. Allahabad university would be Central university. Indira Gandhi ji had constituted a trust in Zakir Hussain College and made the college independent forever. All of a sudden provision of funds for this college has been stopped for a few months. The college cannot be run. Allahabad university should be central university and astrology would be taught and Sanskrit would be made compulsory. After all, what sort of Government would you make? How you are going to define secularism? If you uproot secularism and make Hindu-Muslim fight, the country will be ruined, it will be destroyed completely. Power is temporary, Governments are not to stay forever. It is the people who make the nation, not the Governments. If ever a rift between the natives of the country is tried to be drawn, the country will automatically fall. In its five year tenure, the BJP

could smell only one thing that is ISI. Parliament was attacked, this Government said ISI agents had done it. And all the agents captured in this connection, were discharged honourably that none of them was guilty, who were the people who attacked the Parliament? The Government failed to save the country. The Kashmir assembly was attacked. The Government, Advani Sahab say that ISI agents placed the bomb in Chandni Chowk and left. Whatever happens in the country the Government say that it is the handiwork of the ISI. Vijay Kumar Malhotra Sahab say that ISI agents are spread all the Madarsas in the country. I have already said, I repeat it, why BJP Government have put so much as the ISI to run Hindustan as they are already running Pakistan. If ISI is running the country, what BJP is doing then? Why are you sitting in power then? The Government can't name even a single Madarsa wherein an ISI agent has been caught. They don't know history. They don't know that freedom struggle was fought from these Madarsas.

What was 'Rechami Rimal' Movement? None of the BJP MPs can say what was it. BJP people don't know the names of outstanding freedom fighters. Maulana Hussain Ahmed Madni, Sheikh-ul-Hind Maulana Mahmood Hasan and Maulana Hubai-dullah Sindhi are the names of the freedom fighters who were imprisoned in Malta jail for fighting for the freedom of the country. And you say, ISI agents live in Madarsas.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Alvi, your time is already over. I have given you more time. Now, I would call the next hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I won't take much time. I am going to conclude. I just want to say that the Government are befooling the people through this budget. The Government intend to win the elections by presenting such budget but the coming elections will prove that people of the country cannot be befooled. You have presented this budget. But people of the country have already decided that they will not let BJP stay in power and I do hope that this budget will affect the next budget of Parliament and it would be budget of deficit. This budget is definitely not going to benefit the country, the poor, the farmers in any way. This Government are the Government of the rich and only the rich of the country are going to be benefited from this Budget.

15.40 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Thirtieth of Fifty-third, Fifty-seventh and Seventieth sittings of the Committee on Petitions (Thirteenth Lok Sabha).

15.41 hrs.

INTERIM BUDGET (GENERAL) 2004-2005—
General Discussion
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—
(GENERAL), 2004-2005

AND

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS—(GENERAL), 2003-2004—*contd.*

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): Thank you Mr. Chairman Sir for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Interim Budget.

Sir, I stand to support this Interim Budget. It is no doubt a good budget and I do not want to take much time of the House as so many Members have already said about it. There are many things in the budget to feel good, particularly when you see that the revenue deficit, in the Revised Estimates of this year, has been brought down substantially and the Budget Estimates for 2004-2005 is also less than the accounting year 2002-03 so far as Revenue deficit it concerned. This is the good thing and there is no doubt about it. The fiscal deficit has been brought under control, if not totally controlled it has been reduced.

I am not going into the good aspects of it. But I would like to bring one point to the notice of the Finance Minister, the Government of India or to the NDA Government one area of serious concern, which has to be addressed by the future NDA Government. Sir, during the last 50 years, you will see that the poorer or the

backward States have become poorer. This is due to the faulty planning and skewed devolution distribution of Central resources. More so, during the last ten years' period of liberalisation and globalisation till date, the poorer States have suffered the most.

I will touch that part only and I will give you some figures in regard to that. That is an area of serious concern. You will see that the high income States in 1999 had a share of population of 18.8 percent. They maintained that population share in 2001 also. These high income States are Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana. They are prosperous States and they have maintained that population share and each of these States has reduced its population share excepting, of course, Haryana. They maintained 18.8 percent population share of the total population of India. So, they had 18.8 percent population share and their State Domestic Growth was 29.95 percent in 1991. Ten years after, I have taken the average figure of three years, that is, from 1998-99 to 2000-01, it has gone up to 32.43 percent. This is as far as the high income States are concerned.

Now, I come to the middle income States. These States are Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal. These are five middle income States. These States had a population share of 31.68 percent in 1991. In 2000-01, their population share had been reduced to 29.5 percent.

The share of SDP (State Domestic Product) has increased substantially from 32.95 per cent to 38.90 percent. Each of those middle income States and high income States have done much better in their economic development. They have developed their economy in ambling pace. The high income groups increased from 29.95 percent to 32.43 percent with 18.8 percent population. The middle income States increased from 32.95 percent to 38.90 percent with 29.5 percent population. They have achieved this.

Now about low income states which are the low income States. These are BIOMARU States, namely Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. They are the low income, poor or backward States. Sir, when I speak about Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and UP, I also include Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttamchal. Here you shall see one peculiar picture. Here, population share has not decreased but it has increased. Unlike the middle income States and the high income States, its population share has increased from 39 percent to 44.69 percent. That is the population share. That means 45 percent of the people of India remain in the poorest five States of

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

India. There you shall see, so far as State Domestic Product is concerned, it has come down from 33.23 percent to 28.6 percent. So, these five States have gone poorer, much poorer during the liberalisation period. Some may argue—and they argue also, rightly or wrongly, I am not going to contest, you do it—that the high income States and the middle income States which are the prosperous States are performing States. They have not prospered because of their efforts. They have prospered because of the investment. I will show you the investments. I shall not bring everything to your notice or to the notice of this House, through you but I want to bring to your notice the investments of three major financial institutions, namely, IDBI, IFCI and ICICI. Maharashtra which has a population share of 9.4 percent, IDBI has invested 23.81 percent up to the 31st March, 2002. IFCI has invested 17.51 percent and ICICI has invested 27.99 percent. The average is 23.11 percent. These financial institutions have invested there.

Similarly, in Gujarat and similarly in Punjab and Haryana which have a population share of 18.80 percent, the financial institutions have invested 43 percent. Naturally, they became prosperous. Naturally, their SDP grew at faster pace. It is all but natural. This has happened during these 10 years, particularly at the cost of the poor States. The middle income States have also done better. With 29.5 percent population, investment has also gone up to 30 percent.

But, when you look at the low income States, you will not be surprised but you will feel very sorry and the House will be ashamed of the happenings there also. Why? It is because our planning system is a centralised planning system.

Our financial distribution is very much centralised. Article 282 has been misused more often than not. For that reason, this has happened. In these five poor States with 45 percent of population, investment is only 17.1 percent by IDBI, IFCI and ICICI. If you look at Bihar—Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh will feel ashamed—that the total cumulative figure of investment from these financial institutions is only 0.39 percent. I am not talking of a year. I am talking of the whole period up to 31st March, 2002. Only 0.39 percent investment has gone to Bihar. In respect of Orissa, it is 1.79 percent; in respect of Uttar Pradesh, it is 7.15 percent and so on and so forth. So, 45 percent people have got only 17.14 percent investment from IDBI, IFCI and ICICI. That is not all. Kindly look at the credit given by the scheduled commercial banks, which are nationalised banks. You kindly see the latest figures. Here it is not the cumulative

picture but the outstanding credit from the scheduled commercial banks. You will find that the high income States with 18.8 percent population have got 37.72 percent of the credit from the banks and the per capita figure is Rs. 8,380.5. The middle income States have also received 32.12 percent share and their *per capita* figure is Rs. 5,965.6. Kindly look at the lower income States. These lower income States—Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan—have received only 14.6 percent. So, 45 percent of the people have got 14.6 percent Bank credit. Bihar has got 1.91 percent; Orissa has got 1.16 percent; Uttar Pradesh has got 5.46 percent; Madhya Pradesh has got 3.53 percent—here I include Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttamachal—and Rajasthan has got 2.54 percent. Their per capita figure is Rs. 1,933 only as against Rs. 8,380 in respect of high income States. Naturally, the high income States would prosper.

Sir, I do not grudge or envy about them and I do not say that they should not prosper. The prosperous States should be made more prosperous but it is the bounden duty of the Central Government, which holds the planning machinery to address this problem. The distribution of Central finances—either through article 280 Statutory Commission or through article 282 discretionary and political considerations—has made these poor States poorer and poorer. If these five States will not rise to the occasion and press their problems untidily here in this House, their future will be lost and I can vouchsafe this.

Sir, my point is that the Central Government should provide a level-playing field. That has not yet been done. I will share the view that the future NDA Government will look into it. If it will not look into this problem or address this problem squarely, then I can tell you that this House will turn into a battlefield not in the far off future but in the near future.

The new entrant to this group is West Bengal, which has been suffering. When the economy is slow and when the economy has gone down, naturally the revenue base will be low. Their revenue has gone down. West Bengal is going for 163 percent of its own revenue as revenue deficit.

This is happening. They are the new entrants during the last five-six years. I do not know why and how it has happened. I wonder whether it is a ruse or it is a fact. This has to be enquired into.

For these five States and West Bengal, the Planning Commission, the Finance Commission and this House

should make an in-depth study about their economy, about their performance, about their State finances. When I am coming to the position of State finances, you shall see that the position of the State finances of these poorer States has become very-very bad. The debt clearance in Orissa alone is 123 percent of its own revenue. That means 123 percent of its own revenue goes towards debt clearance, that is capital repayment and interest payment. That has to be addressed squarely. If this thing will not be done, then all our slogans and all our tall talks will fall flat.

I request through you the NDA Government and the future NDA Government again that they should look into this problem very sincerely and seriously. Yes, the middle-income States like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala and high-income States like Punjab, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Haryana should prosper; but the poorer States should be looked after properly and there should be a level-playing field which should be provided to them. That is my request through you to this Government and to this House and I hope and I am sure that the Government and this House will look into it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have brought interim budget, vote on account and all in a very hasty manners. Feel good factor is the talk of the town. It is said that foreign exchange is more than \$ 100 billion, and they are \$ 112 billion in debt. They don't disclose the secret of debt. Just say that we have plenty of fore. The debt to be paid is 15,000/- per head in a country of 1 billion and the new arrivals would also be in debt. More than half of the debt has been increased during your tenure. The country went deeper in debt during your tenure. You are making it true "rinam Kritva ghritam pibet" and making claims, that the country have foreign exchange in abundance. I will disclose everything today. Today Rs. 2 lakh crore black money is in circulation. Prof. Arun Kumar of Jawaharlal Nehru University has computed and reached the conclusion that there is Rs. 8 lakh crore black money. It was computed back in 1956-57 and black money was Rs. 600 to 700 crore at that time. It went on mounting since then. The amount of black money has gone up substantial during the region of five years, it has increased like a monster, like mouth of Sursa. From where it is being generated and why is it in circulation? I want to collect all the details and therefore want all the information in this regard from the Government. You say, that country's economy has made quite a progress. There is

a fiscal deficit of Rs. 1 lakh 36 thousand till date. Assets of the country has been sold at throw away prices. They say that they will improve and decrease fiscal deficit. Fiscal deficit is very high. If fiscal deficit would be this high, how the country will make progress? And they say that the country economy is making progress.

16.00 hrs.

They are trying to misguide the country, but I won't let them do so. The Government have constituted. National Highway Authority of India which has been assigned the construction work of Golden Quadrilateral in East-West and North-South corridor. I would like to expose them. It requires Rs. 2 lakh per km. as consultation fee only and thus Rs. 8 crore per km. is the construction cost of this road. In this way, there is scam involving Rs. 20,000 crore in toto. The foreign contractors are charging exorbitant amount for site clearance and as consultation fee but they are allocating works to Indian contractors and, thus, loot is on. It is Golden Quadrilateral or loot quadrilateral. Formula of 'rinam kritwa ghritam pibet' is being applied and hard-earned money of people is being usurped in this manner.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you know Satyendra Dubey was Murdered. Satyendra wrote a letter to Honourable Prime Minister that loot is going on there and requested that his name might not be disclosed. He sent all the details in regard to the way in which loot was being done. He was a bright engineer of I.I.T., Kanpur but people with vested interest killed him. CBI conducted probe into the matter and two accused Paswan and Sah were arrested. Both of them stated the fact about the way people committed loot and also about the Cabinet Ministers who were involved in it. But both the accused died in CBI custody and it was stated that they had committed suicide while the truth is that they were poisoned. I demand a high level probe into it. Government should give statement about the death of both accused persons in CBI custody? This has been done by CBI personnel. The people of the country want to know about their statement recorded by CBI. You are constructing Golden Quadrilateral or selling out the country?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is not a single the newspaper these days which do not advertise about the achievements of the Government. Planning Commission is giving advertisements to canvass for Lok Sabha elections. I wish to know the expenses being incurred on such canvassing? A question was raised in this connection in the House yesterday whether Planning Commission is participating in NDA's election canvassing? Which direction you are

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

leading the nation to by befooling people while canvassing to secure the vote. A saying goes in Bihar—'janhaani dhunia ke beria'. Do you know the conditions in which commonman is living? The Government talk of 'feel good factor'. The truth is that only Delhities are living life lavishly, while the condition of poor farmers, poor man, rural unemployed youths, people of scheduled castes & scheduled tribes is miserable. These people will confront the Government in the coming elections. I ask how the date 6th Feb. of dissolving Lok Sabha was decided in such a hasty manner. There was chaos as a result of DMK, ADMK, PMK leaving the scene, and the reform Government decided to dissolve the Lok Sabha as they thought, the time was suitable for them. When you knew that Lok Sabha was going to be in session till the next day, you might have told the President after holding the meeting of Cabinet that you have decided to dissolve the Lok Sabha. Why this date was fixed as cut of date, is there any hon. Member who could explain about it. Many hon. Members are present here, would anybody tell why only this date decided as cut of date? Not even a single paisa has been released to 50 MPs of MPLAD found for the year 2003-2004 so far. This was the reply to the question I had asked. If you say I can read out the names of all those MPs. Even the name of Shri Nitish Kumar, Shri Digvijay Singh, Shri Sharad Yadav are also included. Even these ministers have not received the fund. The number of MPs including the ministers are 50 for whom MPLAD funds have not been released where that money would go? I think that they must have recommended that the money would be spent in elections whereas the money belongs to public. All this is wrong. If the funds would not be released, no developmental work can be undertaken. It would take time to read the 50 names, so I read only undertaken. It would take time to read the 50 names, so I read only names of ministers, I want to know what they will have. The list includes names of three ministers. ...*(Interruptions)*

Names of Shri Ranen Burman, Shri Nikhilanand Sar, Kumari Mamta Banerji, Shri Amar Rai Pradhan and Shri Samik Lahiri are included in it.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): What happened to the funds released to you, what is the position.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What about me, if you want to know, come with me to my constituency. We are the people who utilise all the funds given under MPLAD Scheme. We are not those ones who want to save it for other purposes. We believe in utilising. It was necessary to name those members who

have hurt me. Please explain about the status of the members when Lok Sabha dissolves. Members have controlled themselves somehow. Law says that as far as ministers are concerned, they will continue to hold their respective posts, they will enjoy all the facilities, but it does not explain the status of these members when Lok Sabha dissolves. Law says that Lok Sabha could have been dissolved later on. I just want to tell you the attitude of the Government towards you. Law says that election must be conducted within six months. You are educated people...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: You are taking names of your own friends. They will hurt you more in future, so think before you say anything. Shri Sharad Yadav, Shri Nitish Kumar etc. are your friends.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This reply has been given in the house to a question; I am just reading it out. Otherwise I can read all 50 names. And the reply consists names of these 3 ministers whose money has not been released under MPLAD Scheme. Dr. Raman Singh is Chief Minister at present. They have also not drawn any funds this year. Now they say that they are asking for additional funds. What will happen to these funds after dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

"Based on the information received up to 31.01.2004 from the District Administrations, including former Members' constituencies, 50 Parliamentary constituencies have become eligible for release of funds. List of such Members of Parliament is available in Annexure-II. In order to meet the requirement of funds, a demand for additional grants has been made."

[Translation]

They are demanding additional grants. What happened to budget, why the MPLAD money was not sanctioned in advance?

Hon. Mr. Chairman is also Chairman of the MPLAD. Funds for 50 MPs have not been sanctioned. Now they say that they will get it sanctioned, when will this money be released? I would like to ask specifically about funds for Members of this House which have not yet been released for the year 2003-04. I have a list of about 50 such Members. Besides this, some other lists must also have been there. Why have the Government not got them sanctioned. At the time of dissolution of Lok Sabha, they are saying that they are asking for additional grants and

will get the same sanctioned. So, I would specifically like to know about all these things from the Government.

Shri Kanungo, Shri Kharabela Swain, Shri Anadi Sahu and Shri B.K. Deo, are sitting here. They are all members from Orissa. They have raised a very good question on disparity. I would specifically like to know the attention of the Government towards the fact that a total of 100 districts were as backward districts under the National Labour Development Scheme for giving assistance first to Bihar, then to Orissa and thirty for the backward district initiative. Dr. Sanjay Paswan is sitting here, he has ample knowledge of all this. He has provided it in his magazine named "Vanchit", published by him.

At the time of United Front Government in 1997, 100 districts were selected as the poorest and backward districts of India. There were more districts of Bihar and Orissa in this list. People do not know that the list of those districts has been scrapped. This Government have again selected hundred new districts. None of the districts from Bihar and Orissa has been included in it. Not a single district of Orissa and Bihar finds a place in the list of hundred districts. The 55 districts identified as those affected by terrorism include 8 districts from Bihar and 4-5 districts from Orissa. I had raised a question here. During the Calling Attention Motion hon. Prime Minister assured the House that all eligible districts amongst the districts left out in Bihar and Orissa would be selected. Now all these eligible districts of Bihar and Orissa as also those of Jharkhand have not been included—infact all district of Bihar and Orissa deserve to be included in the said list. The hon. Prime Minister made this announcement on the 12th during the last session but the present publicity and advertisements of the Government being made with regard to the backward initiative under the National Labour Development Scheme includes a list of 55 districts affected by terrorism, and 100 backward districts, totalling 155 districts. There were 21 districts common in both, as such the total number of districts come to 132. Besides, districts infested by extremism, there is not a single district of Bihar and Orissa included among the hundred general districts. The Prime Minister had admitted in the House that it was wrong. He had assured the august House that eligible districts of Bihar and Orissa will be included in the said list. When will they be included as Lok Sabha is going to be dissolved. Now there will be electioneering and Bihar and Orissa which have been deprived, will remain deprived. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this and ask the Government specifically as to what happened to above announcement of the Prime Minister. When would this assurance be

implemented? When it has been admitted that wrong has been done then why delay is being committed?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are ten more members who want to speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am concluding, Sir.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the country is facing immense crisis due to regional disparity. Regional disparity could prove to be dangerous for national integration. So it is necessary to remove this regional disparity. Shri Kanungo said as to how all these states have been left out for investment even after complete calculation and after going through documents with regard to the role of banks. What would happen to the states which are deprived of investment, assistance by banks as also their financial share from the Union Government and also otherwise get ruined by flood, drought, water logging, erosion, having a majority of people living below poverty line. I would like to ask the Government as to what concrete policy has been evolved for them and why such discrimination is being made against them by depriving them, what will happen to crores of poor people of these states?

All are aware that the Government are giving consideration only towards the rich people, multinationals and capitalists are making profits. My first question was what happened to the demand of giving special status to Bihar. My second question is as to what has happened to waiving off loans of Bihar for which all the members of Parliament even from the other side had given memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister. What happened to the package, of Rs. 1,79,900 crore, the proposal of which was unanimously passed by the Bihar legislative assembly and sent to the Government of India? Members of all parties had met the hon. Prime Minister in this connection and had given a memorandum to him, what has happened to that package? The common people would be made aware of every fact, let the Government contest elections. Most of the Ministers belong to that area, most of the people are supporting them, but Bihar has not got its due share, Government of India have made discrimination against Bihar, Orissa and backward states.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken enough time, please conclude now. There are ten more Members who want to speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Bihar has been ruined as a result of flood, drought, water logging, what has been done for that? The Government have not given a single penny in generation of power what was the amount of that fund? Are there any funds for Bihar in its work or renovation of hydro electric power plant, and thermal power plant? The proposal for renovation, modernisation, and extension of Barauni in Bihar is pending with the Union Government. Later on. It had also been decided to initiate a 2500 MW hydro electric power project in Kainoor and a 450 MW reserve Scheme in Inderpuri. Supporters of this Government will not be able to answer all such questions when raised. All these people know the truth but they are not saying anything. So we will reveal this truth before the people ...*(Interruptions)*. This time we have listed all their negligence ...*(Interruptions)* Now justice would be done in front of public as to why such things have happened and then public will teach them a lesson. This time the public shall not vote them to power. Our Government would come to power by defeating them.

Sir, with these words. I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): We will make all the efforts. When our Government come to power in Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Forming a Government in Bihar is merely a dream of his...*(Interruptions)* Before coming to power in Bihar his Government will go from the Centre also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Thank you, Sir. I rise to support the Interim Budget.

I listened with rapt attention to the speech made by the hon. Leader of Opposition. That was a thoroughly confused speech. I do not know who wrote the speech for her but it was mostly a political type of speech which did not mention much about the Interim Budget. I listened with rapt attention to what Shri Rupchand Pal has said.

I heard what Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has said. He tried to prove himself to be the greatest economist of this House. He tried to teach economics to everybody and said that we did not understand things. I listened to him with rapt attention. He said several times, Shri Kirit Somaiya has gone, hon. Minister has gone, all have gone. And now he himself has gone out. He is not present now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): That does not matter.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Shri Kirit Somaiya has gone. He said this several times. That's why, I am saying...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

He said that whatever the Minister has done are all tricks. He questioned as to what this feel-good factor is. He said that if we go to the villages, people would spit on us.

Sir, here is a copy of the latest issue of *India Today*, the largest circulated English magazine in India. Here is an article published in this magazine explaining as to how good is this feel-good factor. The first person who said that 66 percent of this feel-good factor is permanent is Shri Vivek Deb Roy. Congress people know who this Vivek Deb Roy is. He belongs to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute. He himself predicted that this year's GDP growth would be 7.5 percent. Shrimati Indira Rajaraman, Professor NICFT; Shri Siddarth Roy, the Chief Economist of Tata Group; Shri Kirit Parekh, Professor Emeritus, IGIDR, involved with some Indira Gandhi Institute; Shri Subir Gokarr, the Chief Economist, CRISIL; and Shri Suresh Tendulkar, Professor, Delhi School of Economics—these are the people who have said that there is a feel-good factor. Where is the trick, then? I will come to this feel-good factor later.

Shri Dasmunsi has said several things. He said, "Why this 100 billion deposit of foreign exchange in India? These are short-term deposits". I will just ask a simple question. When the Congress Party was in power, why is it that even one billion dollars were not deposited by the foreign depositors, even on short-term basis? They did not do so because they had no faith in that Government. They have faith in the NDA Government and that is why they have deposited more than 104 billion dollars as forex reserves.

Referring to the incident of aeroplane hijack from Kathmadnu to Kandhar, Shri Dasmunsi said that the Finance Minister, when he was the External Affairs Minister, escorted terrorists to Kandhar as if they were his sons-in-law.

I am asking Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that let him go to the relatives of the persons who were hijacked, who were kept as hostages and let him say them that the Minister did a mistake by releasing those people from the captivity of the Taliban terrorists. The people will only spit on him; the people will not spit on us. Let him have the courage and tell them that the Minister had committed a mistake.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi said that there was no action taken after the UTI scam. It was taken, and, there was a package given to the UTI. The UTI was revived, and now the UTI is the market leader. So, how can he say that we did not take any action in this regard? Is it wrong that we provided money to revive the UTI so that the small investor would prosper now and he would not be cheated?

He said, why there was an attack on Parliament. The party, which could not protest its own Prime Minister and whose own Prime Minister was killed by her own bodyguards is saying, why there was an attack on Parliament! I do not know how they can say so. Even there was an attack on America and they could not protect themselves. How do we say why there was an attack on our Parliament? How could we have known it? It is the same MPs—and I am also one among them—who did not want to be checked. We showed red eyes to the security personnel who tried to protect us. That was the reason because of which the Parliament was attacked.

Now, he says that India is a country which was a non-aligned one. We took seven days of great persuasion to pass a resolution against the attack on Iraq by the United States of America. I am asking that if we were non-aligned, did we pass any resolution in this very House, in this Parliament when the USSR attacked Afghanistan? The USSR captured Hungary, the USSR captured Czechoslovakia but we did not do anything. So, can we say that we were actually non-aligned at that time? We are very much aligned with one party, and we are telling everybody that we are non-aligned. That is the reason why the United States of America was against us.

Sir, he said that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee never went to jail even for a single day when the Congress

party fought the independence struggle. I know, Sir, that he did not go to jail. But he went to Indira Gandhi's jail. He was there for 19 months. He fought the second war of independence in this country. He fought the war of independence from the clutches of the tyranny of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. That is what he did. He freed the people of this country. ...*(Interruptions)* Not only he, everybody from this side contributed under the leadership of our late lamented Jai Prakash Narain. They contributed and freed the people of this country.

Shri Rupchand Pal, while participating in the discussion, accused that there are less employment opportunities. He also said that there is less purchasing power in this country. But it is the same people who purchase. I give you one example. Now, the people of India are in a spending spree for the last three years, purchasing mobile phones. Mobile phone is the most visible sign of consumerism today. In November, 2002, there were 97 lakh mobile phones in this country and in November, 2003, just within a span of 13 months, its number has increased to 263, lakh. If one mobile phone costs Rs. 5,000, that means the people of India spent Rs. 8,000 crore for the purchase of only the mobile phones, and these mobile phones were not purchased by the corporate sector.

You go to the village and you go to the market place. Even a vegetable seller is now utilising mobile phones, asking somebody in Hyderabad about the location of his truck and why his truck has not reached that day. Even the milk vendor is utilising mobile phones. How can he say that it is only the corporate sector which is using it?

You take the case of two wheelers, cars and personal computers. In 2003-04, 8.7 lakh cars had been sold, 53 lakh two-wheelers had been sold, and 20 lakh personal computers had been sold. The confidence among the Asia-Pacific countries is that India has the most optimistic consumers. In India, the consumer-spending constitutes two-thirds of the entire economic activity of the country. How can he say that people do not have any money? If the people do not have any money and if the people do not have purchasing power, how do they buy all these things?

Let us now come to employment. Yes, I agree that employment opportunities have reduced in PSUs. In the Government and in the industry, it has decreased, but it has increased in services and in agriculture sectors. Agriculture and services account for 75 percent of the economic activity in this country. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, from

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

the very beginning of this debate, I had been telling hon. Speaker to kindly limit the time. Now, this debate is being telecast live. I told him not to allow one hour for the hon. Members speaking first because when we speak last, we may be limited to only two minutes each. This is very unfair. You may kindly give me some more time. I will conclude early.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 12 minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The services sector and the agriculture sector are generating employment. Take the private recruitment companies. They have provided jobs to 3.5 lakh individuals in 2003. They say that in this year, it is going to increase by 25 percent.

Take the services sector. It has created both high and low skilled-works, ranging from software engineers, from Ph.Ds. to fresh graduates in the Call Centres and in restaurants. It has created jobs, smaller jobs like security guards, drivers, etc.

Take the example of IT and IT-enabled services. It has employed 6.5 lakh people and every year, it is doubling. In Mumbai and in Delhi, every week, they are opening and restaurant. In one restaurant, they are employing almost a dozen people; they are highly skilled and they are earning very high salary. Those people who are serving in the restaurants are aged below 20 years. So, they have become very rich, prosperous in this country and are using mobile phones and other things.

Thirty percent of the new car owners hire a driver. If 8.7 lakh cars had been sold, it would have created employment to 2.6 lakh people as drivers. How can he deny it? Factually, if 8.7 lakh cars were sold, naturally 2.7 lakh drivers would have got employment as drivers.

Now, take the example of National Highway Development Programme. It is creating jobs for 40 people every day, per kilometre of road construction. Now, construction of 3577 km. of road has been completed and as has been already told, every day 11 kms. of road on the National Highway are being constructed. As of now, 75,000 villages have been connected under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

The manufacturing sector is very gradually being opened up. Now, it is going to provide more and more employment. This upward economic trend is going to be irreversible. It is not happening because of rains; rains do not have much effect on the economy of this country;

it has happened because of the very correct economic reforms which have been continued by this Government led by Shri Vajpayee. Shri Vajpayee has put the derailed economy of this country on the very right track. So, for the next 20 years, it is going to provide employment and it is going to give a boost to this country. Even the World Bank says that there shall be an eight percent growth this time correct economic reforms which have been continued by this Government led by Shri Vajpayee. Shri Vajpayee has put the derailed economy of this country on the very right track. So, for the next 20 years, it is going to provide employment and it is going to give a boost to this country. Even the World Bank says that there shall be an eight percent growth this time.

Moody's, who provide ratings to countries, have upgraded the Indian Standards to Baa2, that means it is going to be an investible destination.

Now, why did Pakistan go for a cease-fire? Why did they not fight a war in Kashmir any more? Why did they allow India to build a wired-fencing on the Line of Control? It is because the mood of the people of Pakistan has changed. The people of Pakistan have realised they by fighting war they are getting impoverished. India has become resurgent and vibrant. It has become a country of the future. India has become the talk of the economic activities of the world. That is why the people of Pakistan do not want a war. They want that they should also prosper like India. That is why the mood has changed in Pakistan. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee can take the credit for changing the mood of Pakistanis by making India a vibrant economic power.

The last few sentences are for my State, Orissa. I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister that work on Paradip Oil Refinery should be started immediately. In Western Orissa, Sambalpur, Burla Engineering College should be developed as an IIT because it is a backward area. Orissa requires one IIT very badly.

Lastly, in Bhubaneswar, the construction of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, whose foundation stone has been laid by the hon. Prime Minister, should be completed fast.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the past two months the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party Government are under a very grave illusion. Now it is trying to mislead the entire nation. After the victory in the three State

Assembly elections, it should keep in mind its loss in Delhi. The people of Delhi:- the seat of the Central Government-voted against it. After the victory in the three State Assembly elections crores were spent on advertisements in the print media. Some advertisements were in full page. Others were in half pages. It was mentioned in one reputed paper—

[English]

'thousands of crores of rupees have been blown in the form of advertisements'.

[Translation]

An attempt is being made to project a feel good factor. Some Members of Bharatiya Janata Party themselves have said people in States like U.P. and Bihar can not comprehend what the feel good factor means. The Deputy Prime Minister Shri Lal Krishna Advani himself had to explain that it means feeling elated. It is being mentioned that consumerism is on the rise. The number of telephone customers have increased phenomenally. But, do these some lakhs of people represent India? India lives in the villages. The official documents, economic survey and the national small survey has shown that unemployment has gone up. I concede, a Government has the right to highlight its achievements. But it is expected from Government that it is its responsibility not to mislead the people.

The Minister of Finance mentioned in his speech—

[English]

Sir, I am quoting him. He said:

"Sir, employment has increased."

The facts are otherwise and in this context, I have to just cite the Economic Survey that is the publication of the Government of India and not of our Party. Permit me to read a few lines from that. It says:

"The absolute number of unemployed as well as incidence of unemployment expressed in terms of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force increased during this last period."

[Translation]

This also proves that of the total number of persons seeking employment only one-fifth get employed. The Hon.

Prime Minister said continuously for five years in his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort to create one crore jobs every year. This was followed by a huge DAVP advertisement. It claimed employment was provided to 70 lakh persons by the Government. I want to know of the two statements which is factual. Once again the Prime Minister claimed that on one can challenge that they were not providing employment to 70 lakh persons. I think I need not mention the fact that 1.5 crore youths are unemployed. How does the employment exchange help them? Employment? No. it is all false. They are given an employment card which simply means their names have been registered.

[English]

The Employment Exchanges give you only the employment cards and not the jobs. And the people of the country, the poor students and the young people need jobs and not cards.

[Translation]

In this context it is our present experience that each family whether big or small faces employment in security. Even one is insecure. At least one Member in the family should be employed. People are becoming unemployed. I again want to state the Government's position. Hon. Minister of Finance expounding his philosophy said:

[English]

'The country's macro economic situation is better than what it has been for the last 50 years.'

[Translation]

It has become his habit to pass a judgment on the proceeding fifty years. What is the situation of the country's macro-economics today?

[English]

The Government's economic policy today is based on two negative principles, I say this with utmost respect and those principles are disinvestments and retrenchment. Disinvestment has taken the place of investment and retrenchment has taken the place of employment.

[Translation]

Small scale industry is being mentioned again and again. Go to any corner of Hindustan. The condition of small

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

scale industry was never so bad. Youths, after coming out of colleges and after getting their engineering degrees started their own businesses. But it was said that multinationals are needed. We do not need small scale industries. You can well speak about the credit cards. But what happened to them? One by one all the small scale industries shut down. Not only their owners but the skilled as well as semi skilled workers are becoming unemployed. They are losing their jobs. The fact being that on one hand the Government claims that employment is increasing.

[English]

Statistics like these are often deceptive and that is what is being dolled out by this Government today.

[Translation]

They show figures that employment is rising. When compared to employment, unemployment is rising does it behave the Government to say employment is increasing? What is the achievement in five years? I again say I am only quoting the official publications.

Time again we hear about the second green revolution. Atleast you have mentioned the first green revolution. Otherwise you want to negate all the earlier achievements. If I say,

[English]

the Congress has founded the modern Independent India. The Congress has the satisfaction of attainment and you have the joy of obtainment.

[Translation]

To continue living under such on illusion you do not want to acknowledge preceding achievements. It is in this context that you talk of second green revolution. We are also for it. Today our granaries are overflowing. This is because of the policies of the Congress Party and that of Indira Gandhi. You might remember Johnson.

[English]

He wanted to give the country a short thrift. But it was the lasted Indira Gandhi who stood firm.

[Translation]

Due to this we adopted such policies. It was because of scientists such as Swaminathan that the country is having

surplus food stocks. But the irony is that today we have surplus foodgrains but millions go to bed hungry. Inspite of this you talk of your achievements on the telephone front. What does it mean to a person who has nothing to eat. You are not making available wheat and rice to the poor even at the rates prevailing in the country.

What are you talking about? On the one hand, grain is rotting whereas you are talking of economic cost of FCI. Today the need of the hour is that each and every person should get food to eat, but that is not happening. What the Government are doing for agriculture? We have removed the quantitative restrictions but what was it outcome? Today even musk melons and water-melons are being imported into the country. Is our farmer not capable of producing all these things? Does he not produce these things in his fields. The immediate outcome is that his financial condition is worsening. It means that farmers who used to produce these fruits in the desert for the poor will not be marketed. These fruits are now being imported and are being consumed by 8-10 lakh people while our farmer is dying. They talk a lot of about cow. What will they do with the cows when we import milk and milk products like butter, ghee etc? It means that they have no values for our cows. This way the facts are being distorted.

[English]

I think, psychologically something has gone wrong with the working of this Government.

[Translation]

The Government made a mention of five priorities but there is a need to know the real priority of this Government. The Government are leading this country in such a way where it will be difficult to put back on the track. Today neither the Parliament nor our Government are framing policies but are being made at the instance of other countries.

Due to constraint of time I will not discuss about growth rate. The hon. Member Shri Kharabela Swain said that the growth rate will become 7.5 percent. Our growth rate hovering in and around 4.4 percent to 4.6 percent during the last four years. On the contrary the Congress Party maintained a sustained growth rate of six per cent in nineties. I would like to remind them that this rate prevailed in the year which was followed by drought whereas in 1989-90, the approximate growth rate after drought was 10.87 percent. I do not want to put the blame on them and this is the duty of all Governments

that they should work for the welfare of the country. But it is wrong to say that nothing happened in the last fifty years and this Government have brought down moon for the people.

[English]

You brought down moon for the people and you have given them the path of milk and honey. But it is not so. There is no feel good factor whatsoever you take today.

Here I remember what Goebbles had said. A concerted effort is being made to brainwash the people. Repeated emphasis may camouflage lie as truth. In reality, you are trying to out—Goebbles the Goebbles himself today.

[Translation]

Under the pretext the Government had decided a few days back to convene the Session. It is their privilege to convene the session and I do not want to say anything about it. They had to convene this session on January 8th or 9th. But the method they are adopting is not good. They are trying to appease the people on the ground of election. The people are aware that this Government are practically doing nothing but make false promises which they are not going to oblige. What will be its impact on economy. When they were asked whether they will impose new taxes amounting to Rs. 11 thousand crores, they replied, in the negative. What does it mean? It means that the budget allocation meant for education and health will be curtailed. Will the budget allocation meant for education and health will be curtailed and fresh tax will be imposed later on? This Government have totally neglected the higher education. They feel that this is not their responsibility. Fees are being increased in the Universities. When we oppose, they say that education loan will be given to children. With whom they are competing with? They are competing with developed countries. In developed countries a student gets job immediately after leaving college. Here, if a poor child studies after taking loan then he will be poorer. There was an advertisement for the recruitment of Gangmen and Khalasis in Railways. The candidates possessing degrees in MBA, MSc, BSc had applied for these posts. A poor man came to me weeping. His child had a degree in computer course apart from having MSc degree. He was requesting me to help his child to get the job of lab-attendant. And what is the job profile of lab attendant? It is to dust the lab. An MSc passed candidate is not getting job for this post. I do not say that this Government have a magic wand to do everything but please do not mislead the people. Please tell the people the real

situation prevailing in the country but they are not saying. Therefore, they are to be blamed even more.

It is necessary to talk about unemployment. In our time unemployment rate was 5.99 but now it is 7.32. I have already spoken about growth rate and I do not want to repeat it. We have talked a lot about development. I have seen that talks on telephones is being made repeatedly. Hon. Vijay Kumar Malhotra said that people were totally unaware of IT five years back. I did not know that the memory of the hon. Member is so weak. Honourable Rajiv Gandhi had talked about infrastructure and technology and taking this country into 21st century. At that time the present honourable Prime Minister had made fun of him and branded him "A computer boy". At the same time he desired to know whether food or computer was necessary for the poor? Now one can imagine that had there been no computers where we would have stood.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: When he said this? Did he say it in the House or outside? If he had said 'computer boy' then it was a healthy comment.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He had said this thing in the House as well as outside. Had he not taken a farsighted stand, then you can think as to where our country would have been by now. There is so much talk on mobile phones. Can you tell at to who formulated policies for its development? Who has been instrumental for all this? Trees do not bear fruit in a day. One has to put up labour and pay attention to that. It has happened in the telecom industry and teledensity has increased and I accept this fact. Anybody of the ruling party could give a reply. What I am saying. How many post offices are being opened in the country this year.

[English]

Only twenty post offices are being opened in the entire country, whereas my constituency alone needs more than twenty post offices at this moment. That is the position. If any physical effort was required by you, it was to open more post offices.

[Translation]

The Government are not recruiting postmen and due to this postal services are being affected. They want to handover this service to courier on this pretext or that. Everywhere there is malpractice. I would like to draw Government's attention towards one thing.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congress Party has already exhausted one and half hours.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I would not talk much about scams. Much has been said about scams. I would like to say one thing. Shri Dilip Singh Judev had said on T.V. that "money is not everything but it is not less than God." Ram Bhakt are calling God to money and Prime Minister is coming in his defence. You would ask—where it was said? He had said this in this House. He had said that these allegations are false. It would have to be proved that who has made this movie and why. This was not the question, the question was the Minister can be sold and he can be sold for the work for which he has no right. He has no right to give any benefit to anybody. Such scams are coming in light. In the same way one more scam has come to light which is related to HUDCO.

[English]

In one day alone Rs. 500 crore worth loans were given Rs. 55 crore were written off in one case.

[Translation]

Government knows that why this was happened.

Sir, it is being said that this Government has done a lot for every class. It is also being said that Government have decreased rate of interest. I would like to know about the position of pension. I want to know that what has happened to pensioners, whose source of income is saved in gratuity or bank. I would like to know that what have you done for them.

[English]

People of the world have faith in the Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This is what was said.

[Translation]

I would like to mention about that faith. National Savings Certificate (seventh issue) was brought in the country. People had bought this with the faith that Government is selling it and after six years it will give twenty thousand rupees for ten thousand rupees. People had bought this certificate. After six years when they asked for twenty

thousand rupees, post office refused to pay this money and said that you can take ten thousand rupees. Because you have bought these certificates in the name of firm and not in your name.

[English]

Whose fault is this? Is this the fault of the purchaser? The purchaser who had implicit faith in this Government, and going by the Government's assurance, had bought this.

[Translation]

Whether it is one rupee note or five hundred rupee note, it is written in every note—I promise to pay the bearer so much of rupees. Government do promise and people believe in those promises. Despite that Government have not honoured these certificates. This is the credibility of the Government today.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ten more hon. Members are to speak. Mr. Deputy Speaker told me that each Member can take only five minutes. I have given you more time.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I will conclude soon.

[English]

The Government can neither pause nor cease.

[Translation]

This assurance is being given to population of this country. I would like to say that this is the first time that we have seen such type of Government.

[English]

For the first time, we have seen a helpless Prime Minister for whom decisions are taken in the State Capitals elsewhere.

[Translation]

This is the first time that it is being decided that this portfolio will be given to such and such person and one should go their for doing the work. This is first time that all such type of things are happening.

[English]

No, we have always come to their assistance. Even today we are coming to their assistance, though we were not happy with the way the Session was called. But we thought it is our responsibility to help this Government. If they want to pass the Vote on Account, we are there with them.

But we have got to point out all their failings, criminal failings at times, which have led the country to the path of doom. I would like to say this.

Now, I come to the philosophy of this Government.

[Translation]

Everybody is saying that we have given proxy vote right to serviceman.

[English]

It had been their consistent demand that they should be given one-rank one-pension; that there should be collateral entry for the retiring people from the Armed Forces in the civil forces, in the civil services and para-military forces of an equivalent rank. This is their justified demand for the simple reason that retirement in the Armed Forces comes very early. I know of this. All of us know that people retire from the Armed Forces with their children still going to schools; their education is not complete and they are not married. They are on the roads. What has this Government done for them, for the students?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken enough time.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I must accept your directive. I must really conclude now. I want to say a few words.

[Translation]

I would like to say one thing that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is the leader of all. I respect him. From the day I have come in the Parliament. I have seen that he sits in the House in a sober way. It is normal that Members of Opposition Party rush to the Chair of the House but this is the first time I have seen Members of Ruling Party rushing near Chair of the House. After seeing whatever has happened in these rule, scams, their governance I would like to say that today the country needs young leaders. There is a need to encourage young leaders.

[English]

Somebody who must really understand their aspirations and their yearnings should be there. A person of 80 years of age cannot. It will be extremely dangerous if virtue is used as a shield by the con man, by those people who angle and intrigue, who indulge in all sorts of things, who only say that there is a man we are standing behind him. That is not what the spirit of democracy is. For the spirit of democracy to succeed, we must do something. It is because of the success of democracy in India that Pakistan wants to talk to us, not because of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

I happened to go there in a Parliamentary Delegation myself. The BJP declined to send its Members only six months back. They said that they have nothing to do with those people. It is the other forces and other factors that make them come closer. It is the Indian democracy which makes them come closer to us. The people of Pakistan wanted that. This is no denying the fact. But you must really realise that to strengthen democracy, you have got to have a democratic temper. That is what is lacking in you. It is because of this that you have called for the early elections. By calling for the early elections, you have actually pleaded for euthanasia and mercy killings...*(Interruptions)* I am sure that the people of India would grant that to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, each Member will have five minutes to speak. There are ten more hon. Members to speak. By Six of the Clock, the discussion should be over.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balia, Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. Sir, today discussion is going on in regard to Interim Budget. Hon. Member Alvi Sahib is not here. He is a very good orator. I respect him. He was saying that this Government is responsible for the murder of innocent people in Gujarat and this Government is guilty. At that time a thought came to my mind that if according to him, BJP Government of Gujarat is responsible for the death of people killed in Gujarat, did not a Member of your party became the Chief Minister with the support of BJP? What was the position at that time? After that you supported them for everything. Does this not indicate your character? One poet has rightly said that:—

17.00 hrs.

"Pahli Seekh Yahi Jeevan Ki, Apne Ko Abad Karo,
Aur Mann Ki Duniya Ban Na Sake to Aag Lagakar
Barbad Karo."

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

If they will support you then they are innocent but if they are against you then they are guilty. This double standard character should not be there. Unfortunately this is the character of Indian politics.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to our friend Shri Akhilesh ji. He is a professor and a scholar. He takes active part in the proceedings of the House and a very good orator. He was saying that there is a maximum increase in prices of diesel and petrol during the rule of this Government. I would like to remind him that if he will go through the proceedings of Lok Sabha of 1982 he would know that on 1.4.82 the price of Kerosene oil was Rs. 1.77 per litre in Delhi which became Rs. 3.10 per litre in March, 1984. The prices of petrol and diesel increased in the same ratio. Whose Government was in power at that time? You will be surprised to know that domestic gas, which used by ladies for their health and comfort, its price was Rs. 45.47 on 1.6.82 in Delhi and became Rs. 51.35 after one year. After that its price became Rs. 82.57 on 1.4.84. From 1.4.97 its price became Rs. 119.95 and on 1.9.97 it became Rs. 135 per cylinder. Whose Government was in power at that time. Shri Akhilesh ji must be knowing that out of total consumption of petrol 69 percent of petrol is imported from abroad and when oil producing countries increase price of oil then oil importing countries are compelled to increase the price of oil. This Government have made efforts and the country has progressed a lot in the oil production sector. Recently a huge oil reservoir has been struck in Rajasthan. Apart from this reservoirs have been found in Assam and Gujarat also. There has been exploration of oil in other areas also. When oil will be produced self-reliance will increase but the prices of oil may fluctuate. This is the result of helplessness of the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the price of fertilizers in the year 1986 was Rs. 2350 per metric tonne which increased to Rs. 3300 per metric tonne in the year 1991. Which Government was in power at the centre in the those days? Akhilesh ji was showing his concern about sugarcane growers. It is true that sugarcane growers are not getting appropriate prices. The sugarcane growers do not get payment for their sugarcane. They supply to the mills for years. This is not a new problem but it is going on for the last several years. There were 30 sugar mills in the year 1947 in Bihar which went down to 15 by the year 1991 and now only 13 sugar mills are left there. In which Government regime did this decline take place? Whether it is not true that in the year 1996 thousands of sugarcane growers burnt their crops and in the year 1997 lakhs of metric tonnes of potatoes got rotten? There was

nobody to purchase it nor any arrangement was made to purchase it.

Which parties had their Government's in those years? Therefore whenever you criticise first try to have an exercise in introspection because it is easier to preach than to practice.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh was making a suggestion. I accept his suggestion but I would like to remind him that we remained friends for years and his and our party remained together for years. We have been together through thick and thin. We have helped each other in the days of joy and sorrow both. Will he forget those moments? Akhilesh ji is not present here and Raghuvansh Babu has since left but I would like to make a suggestion to other Samajwadi colleagues who are sitting here. If they want to make an alliance with the Congress party they can do so but they should accept a suggestion of mine. Before entering into alliance they should test the Congress party and categorically ask them to ensure smooth running of the Government so that they may restrain themselves from being tempted towards power. Otherwise they will be left in the lurch.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to hon. Sonia ji. She is the leader of opposition and a respectable person. I hold her in high esteem. When she was speaking then I felt that tomorrow thirteenth Lok Sabha is coming to an end and all have to go for elections. The Congress party has also to go for elections. The Congress party is a big party and it is a 150 year old party. It got the opportunity to govern the country for a long period of time and now it is going to become the alternative party but Sonia ji is not leaving any stone unturned for search of a partner. For prevalence of two party system in a democracy it is essential that strong alternatives are available. I was thinking that when she will speak, she will on the one hand, condemn the economic policies of this Government and enumerate their drawbacks. She will explain its alternative as to what is her plans for future, with which she plans to go before the country. But if the speech was similar to that of being delivered in a public meeting. "Kahin ki int, kahin ka roda, Bhanumati Ne Kunba Joda." I was searching for the alternatives.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Prabodh Panda.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude very soon. Now our number has increased by merging the Janta Dal (U) and Samata Party and that is why more time should be given to us. She was saying that this Government...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. It has been decided to give five minutes to each Member.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Sir, I do realise your difficulty.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: I would conclude in two or three minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken more time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: It is all right but now more time should be given according to the strength of the party. I understand your difficulty. I was asking whether the resolution to provide credit cards to all the farmers of the country by 31st March is an anti-farmer step; to make available loan at the rate of less than nine percent to farmers is an anti farmer step? Arrangements to construct godowns for the farmers all over the country is anti-farmer? Whether it is anti-farmer to transport agricultural produce of farmers to their destination though trains across the country in time? Whether all these steps are anti-farmer?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, she was saying that this Government is anti-labourer and anti-poor. Whether providing ration to two crore poor families is an anti poor act? The issue of unemployment is referred here time and again but it has not increased in a day. The party which was in power earlier should have done the work of population control from the very beginning then certainly today the country would not have to face with this unemployment problem. So, I would like to say that there could not have been a better system which is prevailing now under the leadership of hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prabodh Panda.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding in a minute.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you enough time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was a student of history.

Once upon a time the armies of Humayun and Shershah confronted each other. At that time Shershah was the emperor. When the army of Shershah besieged Humayun, Humayun ran for his life in the forest. Humayun jumped into Ganga in order to save his life. A water carrier saved his life. When Humayun was taken out of the Ganga he expressed his gratitude to the water-carrier beseeched him as to what he wanted in return? The water-carrier told his excellency that he himself was running for his life. He said that he would pray the God and said God willing he would get the throne of Delhi. If it so happened he would like to become the emperor of Delhi for a day. Humayun granted that prayer. Sir, history is the witness when Humayun came to power after removing Shershah, then he fulfilled his promise. He called that water-carrier and made him the emperor of Delhi for a day. What did the water carrier do on that day. He introduced leather coins. Students of economics can ask whether any economic revolution took place by introducing leather coin for a day? Certainly not. The students of political science can ask whether any political revolution took place with the introduction of leather coin for a day? Certainly not...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. I have called Shri Prabodh Panda to speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Sir, I am concluding...(Interruptions) It is indicative of the fact that leather with which shoes are made took the form of currency...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing further will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Thank you Mr. Chairman Sir. I rise to oppose the Interim Budget, which is basically deceptive and has failed to address the deep crisis of 80 percent of the common people of our country. On the contrary; it ignores the 80 percent people of our country and offers sops to the rich not only of the country but overseas.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

The BJP-led Government has loosened the purse strings of the public exchequer. It is felt that it is either electoral agenda. Hitherto elections sops were generally aimed at the masses, to woo the electoral masses, sops such as cheaper sugar, cheaper rates of kerosene and reducing the prices of essential commodities of public life were the norms. In the break from the past, the Government has started the sops in favour of upper sections. LPG and kerosene are going to be dearer, but the foreign liquor, cell phones, laptop computers would be cheaper.

In spite of a series of pronouncements and assurance by this Government, it effectively rolled back the control on foreign investment. Sir, in case of Iraq, the USA were able to assert 100 percent control over the oil sector by imposing war or by military force. In case of our country, 100 percent equity is opened for the foreign investor in the core sector by FDI route. These are the sops to the foreign investors.

Sir, much has been said about the peasants. Even my hon. colleague has said about them. I can recall the rhetoric speech made by the former Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, in this august House. He pronounced '*kisano ki azadi*'. What happened to the *azadi*? This NDA Government has given the *azadi* to the peasants to commit suicide. Even the number of starvation deaths and suicides by peasants during the period of this NDA Government is much more than ever before. It is not a fact?

Now, they are speaking about the second green revolution. They are giving assurance about the Kisan Credit Cards. It is a matter of amusement that they are giving the assurance that they would cover all the peasants under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme by 31st March of this year.

How many have been covered by this time? Sir, 65 percent of the peasants of our country are small and marginal farmers. How many of them have been covered up under Kisan Credit Cards? Even this Government is talking about banks' ATM cards. Most of the Kisan have not yet enjoyed the Kisan Credit Cards. Even most of the bankers have not introduced the ATMs at the district level also. But this Government is giving the assurance to cover up the Kisan Credit Cards or even the ATMs by 31st March this year. This is nothing but a joke. The *kisans* are facing multi-dimensional problems. They are facing the problem of Minimum Support Price. They are being forced to go for distress selling. But this Interim Budget is not addressed to them.

Sir, subsidy in agriculture is not being enhanced. This Government is fighting at WTO Ministerial Conference but is not enhancing the subsidy in our land, rather there is subsidy cut. Bankers are not even lending 18 percent of the net credit lending. Budget says "to initiate accelerated drinking water schemes in the mega cities" but what about the accelerated benefiting irrigation programmes? So far, in Orissa, West Bengal and Jharkhand States, there is one inter-State river, namely, *Subarnarekha*. The Government should take up the *Subarnarekha* barrage under irrigation benefited programme and they should set up one Development Authority. By this Development Authority they can develop this area. But this is not being addressed here.

Sir, what about the Central power policy? The Central power policy is the hindrance in the way to proceed for rural electrification. This Budget has ignored all the points. The Budget has not even stated anything about the withdrawal of the quantitative restrictions. So, peasants are facing the problems. So many things have been said about unemployment. The Government boastfully said they have provided jobs to more than 70 lakh people. What have these 70 lakh people been provided? They are talking about the National Highway Golden Quadrilateral Scheme. They are talking about the *Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojana*. It seems that the Government is not ready to provide jobs in organised sector and the employment is only left to the unorganised sector. Sir, if we talk about the *Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojana* or the National Highway Golden Quadrilateral Scheme etc., mainly the machinery the contractors, even the big contractors have been provided work and not the bulk of the poor people, the villagers. They are mere spectators. Only few people get jobs. Only getting job for one day or a few days does not mean solving the problem of unemployment. What is the fate of the educated students? Lakhs of students were coming each and every year from schools and colleges. Does this Government propose them to stand in the queue for getting jobs in the National Highway or *Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojana*? Nothing is being addressed by this Government.

Sir, the figure of unemployed and under employed put together may rise more than 15 crore. This is much higher than ever before. The Government is feeling good. It seems that Nero is fiddling when Rome is burning. Sir, lakhs and lakhs of workers are being thrown out of their jobs, thousands and thousands of industries are getting closed, and even the *navratnas* are getting sold, crores of unemployed are roaming in the streets, *kisans* are impoverished and hence, the country is burning but the Government is feeling good. BJP might feel good as

some important partners have run away from NDA. Where is Shri Ram Vilas Paswan? Shri Ram Vilas Paswan's party, Shri Omar Abdullah's party, Shri Ajit Singh's Party, DMK, MDMK, PMK and even BSP have deserted the NDA. So, BJP is feeling good.

Sir, it is told that this Government has provided its efficiency in managing corruption of the Ministers who are alleged to be corrupt. It is told that India is shining. Yes, India is shining as the workers, the peasants, the unemployed youth and the common man in our country are getting ready to overthrow this Government and this Government will not come again. So, India is shining. I think, this Government will not come again.

Sir, this Budget is nothing but to serve the rich people who are not only in our country but also the people at abroad. Hence, I oppose this Budget and I think this Budget should be defeated.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here in support of the Interim Budget presented to this House by the illustrious and successful Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh.

Sir, I heard with rapt and keen attention the speeches of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and her sub-deputy Shri Dasmunsi. After hearing the speeches of these two Members of the Congress Party, I am reminded of a *doha* of Kabir. It says:

“Jat na puchhu Sadhu ki, Puchch lijiay gyan,
Mol Karo talwar ka, Parl rahan do Mayan.”

17.23 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

Let us not think of the trivialities. That is what Kabir had said. Think of the sword, think of the machinery, think of the ways that are to be taken up to take India to the farthest regions of this country and world itself.

Sir, I would have been very happy had Shrimati Sonia Gandhi dwelt upon the GDP and the fiscal deficit itself. I talk of the GDP because recently I had been to Dhaka to attend the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. In that Conference, I said that India is a developing country. After my speech, a Member of Parliament from Australia came to me and told me: “Why are you calling yourself a developing country? You are now a developed country and I envy your country because the GDP of Australia is four percent whereas the GDP of India has

exceeded six per cent.” That is what he said. He also said: “You have a dynamic leader in Mr. Atal Bihar Vajpayee.” This is the viewpoint of different people in the world.

As I said, I would have been very happy had she dwelt on the GDP and the fiscal deficit itself. She said that she is co-operating with the Government so far as different matters are concerned. I would have been very happy and for that matter we would have been happy had she dwelt on the fiscal itself and the manner in which we have to improve it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fiscal deficit, as has been indicated by the Finance Minister is 4.8 percent. You would appreciate that in 1991 the fiscal deficit of this country was 9.1 percent of the GDP.

It has been brought down to 4.8 percent and the hon. Minister of Finance has made a clarion call that in the coming days it would come down to 4.4 percent. What more achievement do you require?

I would request the Opposition to go through the public expenditure management of this Government. This Government had asked the Expenditure Reforms Commission to suggest measures to strengthen expenditure management, the Commission's suggestions have been accepted and the fiscal deficit has been brought down. This is a very good feature.

The Minister of Finance had reiterated the *panch* priorities. I am not going into the *panch* priorities or the statistics of the priorities. I would only confine myself to three important matters. The first is ‘full stomach for everybody. That is why the coverage of the Annapurna Yojana has been brought up from 1.5 crore to two crore people. Annapurna, as you may know, is the presiding deity of Benares. It has been said that Annapurna feeds well whosoever goes to Benares. This is why the Annapurna Yojana has been brought up to ensure that nobody goes with an empty stomach. The first priority is a full stomach for everybody and good health.

Prior to this, the Swasthya Mela had been announced by the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Rs. 8 lakh had been given to hon. Members of Parliament to organise Swasthya Mela to ensure that Indians are healthy and do not suffer from diseases. Health has assured importance in this budget.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

The third aspect relates to employment opportunities. Statistics were given by a few Members of the Opposition. Employment generation is very important. You would kindly appreciate that the hon. President of India, in his speech to the nation on the eve of the Republic Day, had dwelt upon this point about employment generation at point No. 3. Employment generation has engaged the attention of this Government. You may kindly see that in the Eighth Plan period the unemployment rate was something like 2.68 percent. It was brought down to 1.68 percent towards the last part of the Ninth Plan by the NDA Government. Now, it has come down to 1.03 percent. It is a fact that employment generation has not come up. It is only 0.98 percent per annum. There is a gap of 0.5 percent. So, how do we tackle this problem? This has been thought of by the Planning Commission itself. Different measures have been thought of. One of the measures that the Planning Commission has indicated is enhancing education and skill level of workers. It is also very important to improve the training system.

The Minister of Finance, in his Budget allocation for the whole year—he had indicated the Budget allocation for the whole year—has indicated that so far as elementary and other education and skill education is concerned, the allocation has gone up. It was Rs. 9,600 crore in the Revised Estimates for 2003-2004. In the Budget Estimates for 2004-2005, it is something like Rs. 10,625 crore, with emphasis on skill education to ensure that more people get jobs. I am not going into the services sector or into other matters but this shows that it has engaged the attention of the Minister of Finance and this Government to generate adequate employment. Adequate employment does not mean that we have to get more jobs in the PSUs or we have to more jobs in government services. Employment could be in self-help groups, *laghu udyog* or even through the credit cards and credit schemes.

Most important things are *Sampoorna Gramin Yojana* and *Swaranajayanti Rojgar Yojana*. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is here. I want to draw the kind attention of Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh. He was a crying hoarse about inadequacy of funds in Bihar. So far as SGSRY is concerned, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anadi Sahu, kindly be brief and conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I will be brief because it is a rebuttal. You kindly see the Performance Budget of

2003-04. So far as Bihar is concerned, they have not spent money given to them for the SGSRY and for the first stream of the SJRY. The Performance Budget is there. I am not quoting from it. It is for his information. Things have been created so that employment is generated. The interest rate has been brought down. The hon. Minister of Finance has very clearly indicated that the interest rate is to be brought down so that people can take money, do some entrepreneur work and into different types of work culture. Again I repeat that Self-Help Groups, *Laghu Udyami*, SJSRY are there to ensure that the growth rate of employment does not lag behind and the generation of labour force is coming up immediately.

Slow growth rate has been due to slow growth of GDP and the GDP lagged behind during the other Governments tenure, which were there. Now, the GDP has gone up and it is something to the tune of 7.5 percent to 8 percent. It will further go up. So, there will not be any difficulty in generating employment.

Lastly, I would like to tell about the Opposition people. They are rusted. If you keep the sword in the scabbard, it will get rusted. It is better to take it out and use it. They have not shined and used it but we are shining and using. That is the difference between the Congress and us. They are rusted and tarnished and we are using and shining. Let us not rust unburnished and not shine in use.

Apart from that, so far as Orissa is concerned, I would like to tell one or two things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I will complete within a minute or within two minutes.

So far as *Annapurna Yojana* is concerned, it is 15 percent of the *Antyodaya Anna Yojana*. We have a difficulty. Orissa is a poor State. I would like to appeal to the concerned Minister and the hon. Minister of Finance to give more allocations so far as *Annapurna Yojana* is concerned to Orissa.

The hon. Minister of Finance has indicated about the sea port, sea port management and all those things. I would request that so far as industrial infrastructural fund is concerned, Gopalpur Port might be taken into account, as Gopalpur Port could become the sea face of

*General Discussion Demands for
Grants on Account—(General) 2004-05**Demands for Supplementary Grants—
(General) 2003-04*

Chhattisgarh State. That may be taken into account and more funds may be given so that in the Saagarmala Project, Gopalpur Port can be included. In the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan Fund, special attention for agro-processing is absolutely required in Orissa. Orissa is lagging behind so far as agro-processing is concerned.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to express my views on behalf of my Party on the Interim Budget discussion.

Sir, I appreciate the announcement of the hon. Minister of Finance that the Central Government is going to help the Tamil Nadu Government in tackling water problem in the Chennai city. Now there is an acute water scarcity. It must be immediately tackled. I must also appreciate that the *Antodaya Anna Yojana* is a good scheme. That is benefitting the poor sections of the people who are below the poverty line.

As early as in 1984, my great Leader, Dr. MGR, has brought a nutritious meal scheme and that was subsequently followed by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, by bringing in a new system called the *Annadana* Scheme in all temples. So, the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Prime Minister have presented the Budget in 1999 with courage and conviction.

But now, after the change of certain unprincipled alliances, the new Interim Budget has been presented. It must be remembered that in the year 1997 there was a change in the stand of the United Front Government and the Congress pulled down the Government on the question of the indictment by the Jain Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavar): Sir, this is nowhere related to the Budget. I request the Chair to direct the hon. Member to confine himself to the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: It should be remembered. The fact cannot be shut off. The fact cannot be set aside.

The unprincipled alliance is not going to help the matter. I should remind the Opposition that you are contesting for ten seats against the sitting members. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, I want to know whether this is Budget speech or he is announcing alliances for the forthcoming elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: The Congress has been given ten seats to contest against the sitting members of the AIADMK here; you have not been allotted any seat outside our purview. ...*(Interruptions)* Please do not divert the topic. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Can the sitting members be retained? ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I have a right to know whether this is Budget speech or election speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD (Bellary): Your leader is from my Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: This is totally not related with the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pandian, please be brief.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): This discussion is on the Budget and not on elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I do not know whether you will form a formidable foe or not. That is a question to be decided.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pandian, we are discussing the Budget.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: We are questioning your leadership, of course. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, this Interim Budget was presented to this House to meet the expenditure for four months. For that the hon. Minister of Finance is seeking a Vote-on-account. The schemes listed out by the hon. Minister of Finance to meet the expenditure are commendable. It is appreciated and the people of this country will appreciate this Budget. ...*(Interruptions)* We also appreciate this Budget. Previously you were appreciating the Budget. When we were not there, we also appreciated the Budget. We have not voted against the Budget on any occasion. Now we appreciate it. Even when we were not in the Government, we appreciated it.

An amount of Rs. 25,000 crore has been allotted for the defence modernisation fund. That is the need of the hour. Even our border fences have not been fenced though there was a stiff opposition by Pakistan that there should not be a border fencing. This amount of Rs. 25,000 crore is going to modernise our defence equipment and India is going to be protected in the hands of the hon.

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

Prime Minister. The economic side, the fiscal side and the other community-based projects have been given much priority in this Interim Budget. They have not forgotten the people. The Government headed by Vajpayeeji is going to come back to power with a massive majority.

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Interim Budget. In the first place I would like to place on record one thing. In the last Budget that was presented, the market borrowing was shown as Rs. 1,39,000 crore. It is this amount which was shown for the year 2004-2005. That forced the Government to go in for a mid-term poll, for an earlier election before presenting the Budget.

The camouflage that has been given by the results of the three State elections, I think, was superfluous. If anybody going through the last year's Budget would realise that the Government was on its precarious legs as far as the economic situation is concerned.

Looking even at this Budget, whether the market borrowing which was shown as Rs. 1,39,000 crore whether it has actually been borrowed.

What I find is that nothing is stated in the Budget as to whether this amount has been borrowed from the markets. The only thing that is said is that the net borrowing has been this much and nothing else. Even if we look at what they have shown in the Budget for the coming year, we find that Rs. 1,24,000 crore are shown as market borrowing. If this market borrowing, which is done through the Reserve Bank of India, is collected, I would like to have a response from the hon. Finance Minister about what is going to be the situation of inflation in this country because market borrowing, as I understand, is basically borrowing either from financial institutions or from the public in the form of bonds or debentures. Sir, if this volume of currency, which is available to the public, is borrowed in the form of bonds or debentures, there will be shortage of currency in the market, which will lead to inflation.

If you look at the collateral effect, it is the other aspect which is there that the Government is boasting that it has reserves of nearly more than Rs. 100 billion crore, but in the same Report, if you see, there is one column which is known as 'vulnerable liabilities'. The vulnerable liability, as I understand, is the call money, which is a call money at a rate and which can be called back at any given time. I have been looking at it for the

last three or four years. It has never come down below 60 percent. It has always been 60 percent. If you have Rs. 100 billion crore today in foreign exchange 60 percent of it is the vulnerable liability, which I call as call money, which can be withdrawn at any time. If the Government, as it has stated in this Budget, is going to go for marketing borrowing of Rs. 1,24,000 crore, I have an apprehension in my mind that there will be a run of this foreign exchange and again, we will land ourselves in a situation we were in 1990. I would like the Minister to clarify on this situation.

The other aspect is not related to the Budget but is related to the economy in a sense. We have a neighbouring country where the hon. Prime Minister visited a few months ago. Along with him, he carried for his own security certain equipments. I am not aware whether those equipments will have to come back. My information says that those equipments have been left behind. I can understand the anxiety of the Government of India and I can understand the anxiety of the international community as far as Pakistan is concerned.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister was also a Minister for External Affairs before holding this portfolio. I would like a categorical response from him whether there is an apprehension in the minds of the Government about the situation in Pakistan. As situation stands in Pakistan, the father of their nuclear armaments has been arrested and questioned due to some intervention of some foreign countries and there is resentment not only in the masses but even in the Army also. There were attempts made and attempts are going to be made. I would like to know from the Government what is going to be the situation in Pakistan if General Musharraf is not there on the scene. Does the Government visualise a situation that there will be a conflict to control the nuclear weapons which the Pakistani Army has? But as per my information, President Musharraf is the last President who had his training in the western country. The other Generals, who are now, at present, in control of Pakistan Army, are the products of General Zia, who created a terrorist Army and whose one of the intentions was to create terrorism in the neighbouring States. I would like to have a categorical response from the Government whether a situation has arisen or whether a situation will arise in Pakistan where to control the nuclear weapons, there will be a conflict between the American Army, which is there, and Pakistani Army. If that is the situation, I would like to ask the Government about the propriety that if that is the situation which the Government of India is visualising, what is the necessity of going in for an urgent election at this present stage. I would like to have response from the Government on both these points.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Margaret Alva—Not present; Shri Ramdas Athawale—not Present; Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this last session of 13th Lok Sabha has been called to pass vote on account. In fact Central Government is not in a good financial position. However, adequate funds have been earmarked in the budget but poor people are not going to benefit anything from it. As the poor children run to catch the kite and even fall down in this process, the same would be the situation of poor people. This budget is in favour of rich people. Rich would become more richer. This budget is for influential people and for capitalists. Crores of rupees are being spent on publicity. All these expenses are being incurred from Government exchequer. However, 11 districts of Maharashtra are in the grip of famine. State Government demanded Rs. 12,00 crore out of which only 50 crores have been given. I request that Maharashtra State should be given more and more funds.

Several Home Ministers recognised soldiers of Goa Mukti Sangram as freedom fighters but none of the Finance Ministers ever made any efforts to provide them any grant. I request that they should be provided with some grant.

17.47 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Finance Minister has a hold only on the Government exchequer but he does not possess any type of Solomon's mines. Projecting 'feel good factor' or 'India Shining' is just throwing dust in the eyes of people. Several schemes have been discontinued because of lack of funds. The country has to bear a burden of Rs. 12,000 crore due to the schemes announced a little earlier. The exim policy of the Government is increasing the burden on the country. This budget is just like the Putna's love. This budget sounds like the sound frogs make when rainy season starts. This vote on Account is like a balloon which gets deflated when needle is struck in it. There is great difference between the saying and doing of the Government. Therefore, I strongly oppose this vote on Account.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): The hon. Finance Minister in his Interim Budget speech has

announced certain measures to help the agriculture sector. It is rightly so because agriculture being one of the most important sectors of our economy. The measures that have been announced like lowering of interest rate, collateral security to be proportionate to the value of loan, Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), etc. are all very fine.

Also the announcement to form a National Cattle Development Board is a very welcome step. We need to have good breeds to increase production of milk and milk products; and I agree with all that. But in his speech he had mentioned about the plantation sector, especially about tea plantations, and the crisis that is being faced by this particular sector, the age old plantation industry, namely the tea industry of our country. Two or three measures have been announced with regard to this. The Indian Banks Association (IBA) has been asked to prepare a revival package for the tea industry.

In the last budget, the hon. Minister had announced a Plantation Development Fund. The Minister was very kind enough to abolish the one percent Excise Duty. In the place of the Excise Duty, he had announced a one percent Cess on tea to form a Plantation Development Fund. Money has been accruing in that Fund. It is almost one year now, but I do not know that the Government has done to help the tea plantation sector.

In my own constituency, in Idukki District of Kerala, in Parumade Taluk, 18 tea estates have closed down for the past two years and more than 30,000 workers are without jobs for the past two years. They have not been paid their salaries, they have got no benefits and they are in utter poverty. Quite a few of them have committed suicide. Their children cannot go to school; they have no hospital facilities and they are living on the help that has been given by the State Government, like free rations and all that.

Sir, this particular Plantation Development Fund, has been formed by the Government, by the Finance Minister, but nothing has been done so far. In the implementation of the Budget announcements, there was a mention about this particular Plantation Development Fund, but the Minister admits that no concrete action has been taken so far, for the past one year, to find a solution to this very vexing problem in the tea plantation sector. The Government has to move forward to find concrete solutions to reopen the closed estates and to find work for the workers.

Now that we are opening up to Pakistan, we are going to have a very good market for export of tea. If

[Shri K. Francis George]

the Government puts it mind sincerely, this problem can be settled very soon.

Also, there is no mention about other major cash crops, like pepper and cardamom. Nothing has been said in this Budget about these two particular crops. There are millions of pepper farmers in our country, and there are thousands of cardamom farmers. In the case of these two crops, we are the major producing country. The Government speaks only about tea, coffee and rubber. How about these two important crops? We can have bilateral agreements with the other countries. There are not many countries which produce pepper and cardamom. In the case of cardamom, we and Guatemala are the only two countries that produce this crop. In the case of pepper, besides Brazil and Vietnam, there are two or three more countries which produce this crop. We can have bilateral agreements, like the rubber producing countries has quite a few years back and that is how the rubber prices have gone up. We have the OPEC, the oil producing countries. They control the production and the marketing. To help the indigenous farmers, that is, the present scenario, in the WTO import regime, the Government should think in terms of having bilateral agreements with these countries.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Please give me one more minute, Sir. I am the last one to speak always and I do not take much time.

The Government has announced a Debt Amelioration Scheme for the tea plantation, but no details have been given. I hope, the Minister will apply his mind, as early as possible, to settle this very grave, vexing problem that is being faced by the plantation industry.

Sir, the Minister has announced, under the *Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana*, two schemes. Six hospitals are to be set up in six States of the standard of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. What we see is that the entire South has been neglected. When these six institutions are being developed or are being set up, if this Government sees this country as one, at least, one should have been set up in one of the Southern States. Six medical colleges are being developed or raised to the standard of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Of course, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are getting one each because the BJP has allies there and, probably, that was the criterion for allotting that. Kerala, with its record in the health sector, is at a disadvantage now. For making improvement in the fields

of health and education, we are being deprived of the benefits.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, let me complete my speech. Please give me two more minutes because I never get a chance to speak.

What is this, Sir? I am also a member of this House. Being at the end, normally we are being cut off.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has to reply to the debate at 6 o'clock.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I will conclude within two minutes, Sir.

The Government has announced setting up of Convention Centres in Goa and Rajasthan. That is very good and I appreciate it. The criterion that has been mentioned by the hon. Finance Minister for this purpose is that of tourism potential. Kerala has submitted its proposal to set up a Convention Centre at Akulam near Trivandrum. Of course everybody knows and I do not have to explain that Kerala is the one State in the country which has got the highest tourism potential. But, our request has been neglected.

Under *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* (PMGSY), money has to be distributed according to the contribution made by the States by a cess on petroleum products. Of course, Kerala will be one of the States which will be contributing the highest amount to that fund. But what do we get back? We get only Rs. 20 crore to Rs. 25 crore every year. That is all.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the SSI sector. The Standing Committee on Industries, of which I am a member, had received a lot of complaints and representations from the SSI sector. The hon. Minister is going to introduce the Credit Card system for the *Laghu Udyog* sector. But, the Credit Cards alone will not do. We face shortage of steel in this country, which is the main raw material for the SSI sector. What is happening is, the steel majors like SAIL, RINL, TISCO are exporting steel at a price lower than the market price in India and are getting the benefit of the DEPB scheme. SSI sector is being starved of this very important raw material in our country. The Finance Minister should apply his mind to this particular problem because the SSI sector is the largest employer in the country. We are talking of providing more and more

employment to our people. If the SSI sector collapses, how can the Government even dream of achieving its target of finding more employment?

Finally, about the feel-good factor, I do not know which section in this country feels that good about the whole thing that has been going on for the past four years. Maybe the hardcore elements of *Sangh Parivar* are feeling good. I am sure that a very cultured and civilised person like Jaswant Singhji himself would not be feeling very good about the incidents that took place in Gujarat and Jhabua. What has happened recently in Jhabua? People belonging to a minority community has been terrorised for one month and the hon. Home Minister could come to the House and report about it only today. In the past one month, the Government did not bother about this problem.

The Prime Minister says that the agenda for the next elections is going to be development. The agenda for the elections has to be maintenance of democratic and secular framework of this country. If this framework is not safeguarded, there can be no development in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to welcome the interim budget presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister.

Sir, this interim budget has been presented under the leadership of hon'ble Atal ji for which I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Finance Minister once again. All sections of the society have taken into consideration in this budget be it farmers and dalits who are the backbone of the country, the employees or the small scale entrepreneurs. Besides, the number of people covered under BPL has been increased from 1.50 crore to 2 crores and also the amount under this Head has been increased from Rs. 1500 crores to Rs. 2000 crores. It will help in the social and financial upliftment of the poor people. Alongwith it, several packages have been announced in this budget to provide facilities to farmers. Four crore farmers would be provided with the credit card facility by March this year. Despite all this, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Finance Minister towards my area. Two private sugar mills are situated in my parliamentary constituency. State Cooperative Sugar mills are procuring sugarcane at Rs. 107 per qutl. The difference is of Rs. 18 per qutl. Central Government has given a package of Rs. 800 crore but State Governments are denying to take this package. I would like to State

Governments to accept this package. The farmers of Narayangarh and Yamuna Nagar areas of my parliamentary constituency where the sugar mills are situated, need some help.

Sir, this budget has given priority to eradicate unemployment, poverty alleviation and second green revolution—the revolution by which India has attained first position in the world in respect of milk production.

18.00 hrs.

Today, in the morning, Shri Munsii was stating in his speech that this Government has done nothing good but political battle is on the cards. Hon'ble Atal ji would lead one side and Sonia ji the other. People of the country would decide in two months. We will prove our point. Munsii ji claims high in their meetings. "Khelna job unko tufano say aata na tha, to phir kayon hamari kishti key nakhunda ban bathey". We will see that there will be Vajpayee wave throughout the country. Feel good factor can be seen in every village of the country. Roads have been constructed and telephone connections have been given. Today, India's image in other countries has improved. Once our country was known as a country of jugglers and snake charmers. When foreign dignitaries coming to our country saw these jugglers and snake charmers outside the restaurants used to say.
 ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble member has cited a good couplet. In reply to it, I want to say "khuda jis ka ilaj na kar paya, main kaya kar paunga."

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: This was the picture of our country which hon'ble Atal ji changed in his 5 years regime. Now the country has progressed to the extent that even fishermen and rikshaw pullers are using mobile phones today. This is the magic of Atal ji, Today the villages of our country are in different shape. We are witnessing how the fate of the poor people has been changed. Scholarship of approx. 1,000 crore was given to 18 lakh children of scheduled castes. Two Corporations were constituted for the people of scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes through which financial assistance of thousands of crores of rupees was given to them. Today India is influencing the world. Now the leaders of our country feel themselves to be in a good position when they go to other countries. Earlier during the regime of Congress party when any leader went to a foreign country, cartoons were published in the newspapers with such captions as "dey do Allah key nam per dey do,

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

international fakir aayen hain". Other countries had an apprehension that they would have come to seek grants and assistance from them. Under the dynamic leadership of hon'ble Vajpayeeji, our farmers have increased the production of foodgrains to the extent that we have stock of 6 metric tonnes of foodgrains at present. Today, we have foreign reserves to the tune of 103 billion. The people all over the country have come to know a fact. We need not go long back. It happened 12 years ago when Shri Chandra Shekhar was the Prime Minister of the country and Congress was supporting him. The entire gold in the reserves of the country was mortgaged. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee not only paid off the mortgage but also achieved a new record by increasing the foreign reserves up to 103 billion. Today the people of the country are realising this. We got full support from the public last time. This time also the wave is in our favour. The public will give its mandate after two months. People are supporting our policies. Today feel good factor prevails not only in India but all over the world. Today Atal ji is getting world-wide popularity.

A mention was made regarding the defence sector. Congress Party is criticizing the peace efforts made by hon'ble Atal ji. Today the whole world has witnessed how the differences between India and Pakistan have been abridged under the leadership of Hon'ble Atal ji and because of this both the countries can curtail their expenditure on military budget by Rs. 90 thousand crore in the coming decade. This money can be spent on other infrastructural needs. I have to say this much only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Mahendra Singh Pal is allowed to lay his speech on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

*DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, newly created state Uttaranchal has been neglected in the Budget presented by the Minister of Finance. The basic issues which are not touched upon in the budget are as follows:

No provision of funds has been made in the Budget for the rehabilitation of the people displaced from Tehri while the Government of India is spending crores of rupees in Tehri dam with the international aid and Government of Uttaranchal is cooperating fully.

There has been huge damage in the border areas of Uttaranchal due to natural disaster. Large number of

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

people have been displaced due to river erosion and cloud burst and no financial provision has been made for them.

Uttar kashi has been completely destroyed due to rock sliding and volcano like bombardment. No provision has been made for the displaced people and reconstruction of the city.

Uttaranchal is a newly created state and its economic condition is not stable. The state is facing difficulties to control non plan expenditure and to provide employment to educated and less educated youth. The Union Government have not allotted funds to the State from non plan expenditure. Therefore it would be just on the part of the Central Government to provide a special economic package. It is my earnest demand that Uttaranchal should be given special economic package. Even the border districts of Pithouragarh, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar and Chamoli were not given the economic assistance.

There is no provision in the Budget for jobs to the unemployed. There should be a provision of unemployment allowance in the Budget.

Sugar industry is in a very bad shape throughout the country more especially in Uttaranchal. There is no provision in the Budget to save the sugar industry and improve the economic condition of the farmers and labourers working in the Sugar industry. Therefore special provision should be made in the Budget to maintain and protect the sugar industry of Uttaranchal.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in his discussion. There have been a number of points made. It shall be my endeavour to address as many as I can. I am sure you will appreciate that it is not possible to address all the issues raised by every hon. Member. Let me start by thanking all the hon. Members that did participate. Certain issues have been raised.

It would have been preferable if instead of the negative defeatism that pervaded the ranks of the Opposition, we had much greater, other variety or suggestions that could possibly come from them. The Leader of the Opposition has suggested that the feel-good factor is in fact not there and that her Party and she are not feeling good. It is entirely possible that they

are not feeling good. But more than that, there were references made to *asli-nakli*. I was struck by the fact that there are difficulties in taking up. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

It is a fact that there is great difference between real and fake and I agree with the views of the Leader of Opposition. Hon. Speaker, Sir, perhaps you might have heard—

'Haqiqat chhup nahi sakti, Banawat ke uasulon se'

but I do not remember the next line. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: 'Ke khushboo aa nahi sakti, Kabhi Kagaz ke phoolon se'

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, its not Kagaz ke phoolon se, it is something like:

'Ki khusboo aa nahi sakti, Doosaron ke likhe bhashano se'

The problem here is that how long it will continue. There is another saying—

'Jaki Rahi Bhawana Jaisi, Prabhu Murati Dekhi Tin Taisi'

[*English*]

The points made by the Leader of the Opposition covered broadly four aspects. One was about the debt burden on the farmers and the incidents of suicides. I will address all these points.

The second was that Minimum Support Price has not been given to sugarcane farmers.

The third was a suggestion, that there is a lack of commitment on the part of the Government to *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, which is now floundering.

An obsession was made that the Government has compromised the objectives of the FRBM Act.

May I submit here that these are views, and of course, anybody is free to hold these views, but the facts that are obtained are in fact contrary? Facts are different. It was suggested that agriculture had not been attended to. In fact, the allocation for agriculture has enhanced from Rs. 4,752 crore to Rs. 6,823 crore, which is an increase of 44 per cent. As I said in my speech,

Farm Income insurance Scheme introduced earlier on pilot basis in 20 districts, is now being extended to cover hundred districts. Whenever there is a debt burden, it is painful for any citizen, leave alone the farmer.

The rate of interest on crop loan is one of the principal planks of the announcements made by the Finance Ministry and thereafter to suggest that interests on loans are too high! We have also advised the banks not to routinely insist upon mortgaging the entire agricultural land holding, which is also an announcement just being made.

I can give the facts and figures about the extension of Kisan Credit Cards in a minute. They will be given to all eligible farmers before the end of this fiscal year on 31st March, 2004. May I submit that in fact the Minimum Support Price for sugarcane has—rather than suggesting that there has been no Minimum Support Price for sugarcane—been enhanced from Rs. 64.50 to Rs. 73. Therefore to suggest that has not been done, runs absolutely contrary to the fact.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): In Uttar Pradesh for the last two years farmers are getting the rate of Rs. 95 and Rs. 100 despite the MSP rate of Rs. 73. Even now the farmers are getting this rate for the last two years. It is said that when statutory minimum price will be Rs. 80 only then, the farmers would get the price of their sugarcane. Whereas the farmers got less value for their crop even last year. According to the Court orders it is the responsibility of the Centre to fix minimum statutory price for the sugarcane and sugar mill owners will have to pay according to the rate fixed by the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Take your seat. Do not try to cross the limit. Please put your queries after the speech. This is not the way. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister you please carry on. Nothing will go on record whatever Akhilesh Singh says. This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to observe discipline. This is not the way. You please sit down. Akhilesh ji, what is your approach. This is not the right way. You know that there are certain rules of the House, and you can ask questions according to the rules. I will allow you to ask questions later. But do not ask right now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak for two minutes.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You were not in the House at the time of your turn. How can you deliver speech now. At present Mr. Minister is delivering his speech. Mr. Minister you please carry on.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I know that sugar is sweet but the big problem is that the sugar politics is going bitter. It was mentioned that the Government could achieve the targets of FRBM. I am sorry that the Leader of Opposition said this because these figures are totally different.

[English]

FRBM targets have actually been more than achieved. Last year, the fiscal deficit was 5.9 per cent of the GDP. I had then from this very place submitted to the House that we will endeavour to bring it down to 5.6. The Government has actually been able to reduce it to 4.8 from 5.9.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): What about my point?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Professor, I will come to your point also in a minute.

Sir, the Leader of the Opposition has suggested that we have left the *Sarva-Shiksha Abhiyan*. In fact, I believe that the *Sarva-Shiksha Abhiyan* of this Government, which is handled with dedication by the Minister of Human Resource Development, is actually one of the most

laudable and praiseworthy schemes of the Government because what can be better than spreading *shiksha* to everybody. Now if it is only a question of the allocation, I personally would be happy if I could make even more allocation to *Sarva-Shiksha Abhiyan*. It is the reality. But then the Finance Minister always has to operate within very narrow limits of possibility. But even within that, please reflect for a moment on how the assertion by the Leader of the Opposition runs completely contrary to the allegations made here about *Sarva-Shiksha Abhiyan*. The allocation for this has been enhanced from Rs. 1950 crore in the BE of 2003-04 to Rs. 2732 crore in the RE and further to Rs. 3057 crore for the next year.

Thereafter when they say that it is floundering, I talk of this kind of rampant defeatism. It is very well to criticise the Government, to find fault with the Government and to tell what the Government should do. But under the guise of finding fault with the Government, to endeavour or attempt to spread despondency and despair in the country is a thing I cannot go along with.

Sir, as regards weavers, it was suggested that nothing has been done for the weavers. I would like to submit that there are various schemes under the Ministry of Textiles. They are already benefiting from an allocation of Rs. 256 crore in this regard. These are facts.

Sir, I would not labour further. Thereafter if the Leader of the Opposition says that despite this there is no 'feel-good' factor because she or her Party are not feeling good, then the medicine may be elsewhere.

Sir, I must attempt to answer the queries raised by Prof. Rupchand Pal. I must say that I was struck by the language that he chose to employ. He called my efforts a 'fraudulent exercise'. He said, 'I am casual and that I have indulged in non-truth'. Professor also admitted that he too was not feeling good.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Only about three per cent of the people are feeling good.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Again, a different medicine is required there. I hope, Prof. Pal did not get too tired of using all these words against me. Let me now give him the facts about the actual expenditure management. Non-Plan Expenditure is expected to grow by only two per cent, whereas the Plan expenditure is expected to grow by 11 per cent. The subsidy on food, fertilizer and petroleum has been rationalised and the increase in financial terms on this subsidy, which is a major drain on our Exchequer, is estimated at one per cent only as

against 20 per cent increase that we went through during the year 2002-03. Interest payment are expected to again grow by five per cent as against six and a half per cent last year. In regard to sectoral allocation, should professor Pal wish to know, allocation in physical infrastructure has increased by 19 per cent as against only five per cent in the previous year and allocation for the social sector has increased by 12 per cent. We have, despite this, managed a reduction in the fiscal deficit through expenditure control. It is through tax buoyancy because in volume terms, we have contained. Despite all this and with an added allocation, we have contained and managed to save about Rs. 11,000 crore on expenditure. There has been tax buoyancy. Taxes have grown by 17 per cent and, in fact, tax to GDP ratio has grown between 9.25 per cent to 9.50 per cent of the GDP. We have additional disinvestment receipts on account of the dedication and hard work by the hon. Minister of Disinvestment. Non-tax revenues have grown. The GDP growth is 2 figure that I have deliberately underplayed. The economists of the country are now talking of 8+ per cent of GDP growth, whereas, we, in the Finance Ministry, wanting to remain conservative, are speaking about seven and a half per cent to eight per cent growth.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What is the average for the whole period?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am talking of the nation's GDP growth. If the State from which Professor Pal comes is languishing or is lagging behind, then it is something that the State has to address.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): This is no answer.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, after all the facts that I have given, my esteemed and respected elder friend says that this is no answer. You certainly should not engage in spreading despondency because you always spread cheer wherever you go.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are dealing with the country's economy. The people of the country should feel what you are saying. That is the point.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): They are feeling.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Let us conclude this particular part. I know that Sir, but I would not say. The rates of tax collection exceeding Budget estimates with investment receipts which are also marginally excess of

targets and the higher non-tax revenues alongwith expenditure compression have all contributed to improving our fiscal position. These are facts which you cannot dispute.

Let me spend a little more time on agricultural credit because this is a matter of concern that has been voiced by a number of hon. Members. the volume of credit in 1998-99 as the first year of this Government being in office was Rs. 36,860 crore. In 2003-04, the volume has risen to Rs. 80,000 crore. When you compare it between 1998-99 and 2003-04, you find that it is more than a 100 per cent growth.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You may calculate the cost of inputs.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Regarding the cost of inputs, I am talking of providing agricultural credit to the farmers at much lower rates of interest.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, comparisons should be made in absolute figures. ...*(Interruptions)* When we talk of GDP, all these ratios are linked. When it suits him, he refers to absolute figures. This is not a correct approach.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is difficult for me to constantly be putting across points of view which suit my good friend, Shri Reddy. I do not think a fault can be found in me even in submission or in giving a reply to a debate that has gone on for the whole day. If I were to say only those things which suit him, then I would be rather sitting there. ...*(Interruptions)* But there is one aspect of credit to farming community which we have attempted to address and that is about higher rate of interest. It is not acceptable to us that when it comes to industrial sector, credit can be accessed at 4 to 5 per cent, when the farming community continues to have to pay at 14 to 15 per cent. Therefore, we started by bringing it down to nine per cent and I am confident that by our persuasion of the banks and the operation of NABARD and RBI, we will be able to bring it down further because SBI has already brought it down below nine per cent and is offering credit at 8.75 per cent. Central Bank has also done it.

We have done away with mortgaging of land holdings or tractors. We are moving in this direction but 18 per cent target. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The Government do not accept the proposal of the banks.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon. Member, Shri Bansal may kindly let me finish. Quite often it is asked whether it has spread uniformly across the country. Not yet. I am not satisfied with this because there are States of the Union which I would not name, and it is not necessary, where spread of banking is not as adequate as it ought to be. Rural credit has not spread there. Is the 18 per cent target of rural credit being met? No. It is not being met. The Finance Ministry is not satisfied with this. It is not my suggestion that what we have done and announced for the agricultural community or for the farmers is the end of the road. This is not the end of the road. This is a process and this Government has set it as a target. We must improve the conditions of 70 per cent of the citizens who live in the rural India and contribute to a quarter of our GDP. This is a commitment that we have made and we have to abide by it.

I do not want to go into all the other details because otherwise it will become repetitious. I will make a brief reference to the Task Force. Last year we had announced a Task Force on Micro Irrigation. The Report of that Task Force, which was under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu, has been received by the Prime Minister. It has been submitted to him. The driving force behind this Report is the call of 'more crop per drop of water'. Nobody can dispute that. The Ministry of Agriculture is now examining this Report. I am sure, it will shortly submit its recommendations. The Government will, thereafter, take appropriate action to operationalise these recommendations. I thought this was necessary that I say so.

I wish to make a certain reference to the plantation industry. I had taken a particular care about the plantation industry because it is a very valuable industry. It is almost 150-year old agro industry of the country. It is a large employer. Not all the plantations are in the hands of the large scale coffee or tea planters. Therefore, last year, I think, if I remember entirely right, on the directions of the Prime Minister, we had set up a Price Stabilisation Fund, which was in addition to the Re. 1 cess that had been placed on tea. That was separate. Now, this Price Stabilisation Fund is operating. This was for rubber, coffee and tea.

I am very glad to observe that on the front of coffee, some positive developments have taken place. There is an international improvement in the coffee prices. Plantation industry people, in the last three months, have

actually met me thrice. I am constantly in touch with them. However, if any additional allocation of funds from this Rs. 500 crore fund is required for coffee, I can assure the hon. Members that this will be made available. Coffee or rubber will not be made a suffer. ...*(Interruptions)* Let me finish. Then, you can certainly ask questions.

As for tea, a Special Fund was established with a corpus of around Rs. 250 crore during the Tenth Plan. That was for modernisation and rejuvenation of tea industry. It is because I believe that the kind of re-planting of tea bushes that ought to have taken place across the tea plantation industry, whether in South or in Assam or in North Bengal, did not actually take place in a timely fashion. It is no good pointing this out. We have to find an answer. Therefore, this Rs. 250 crore fund was established. But despite these steps, the tea industry, particularly the small growers, continue to be in some distress.

The Prime Minister had directed me, therefore, to announce that a special price subsidy would be provided to small tea growers, both in North and in South India, for a period of four months to start with and the subsidy will be a maximum of Rs. 8 per cent kilo of tea, based on the different prices that obtain whether in North or in South India. This subsidy of Rs. 8 will become payable immediately. This is dependent on the auction price, so it may be a little more in one region of the country. Of course, on the auction price etc., the Tea Board will work with us and we will do that. I am sure that it will go a very long way in helping the immediate needs of the tea industry.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): What about tea exports?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Once this subsidy of Rs. 8 per kilo is given, it is my conviction that export of tea will also become competitive.

We will try it out for four months. It has been done earlier. We want to do it again. I am convinced in my mind that with this support, the traditional agro-industry, which is also one of our prominent agricultural export items, will pick up again.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): What about the closed plantation industries? Several estates have been closed down. The management has just abandoned those estates. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can put your question after his speech. Please sit down now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I submit that it is not possible? I understand the hon. Member's point. His question is: "What about the plantations that have been closed down?" It is not the Central Government alone that has a role to play in the management of plantation industries. We are intervening. In fact, it should be the State Governments that ought to have taken the initiative and done all these things. It is the State Governments that are charging tax upon tea. I do not want to cite the names of States where it is being done. Very heavy taxes are being charged.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 11 districts of Maharashtra are in the grip of drought. What the Central Government are doing to fulfil the demand of Maharashtra.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask question later, presently it is not permitted to ask question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Probably the hon'ble Member is not aware of it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will talk to him you please continue your speech.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The Prime Minister had recently visited there.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Only Rs. 50 crore have been given, I demand that ...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is wrong. ...(Interruptions) I once again repeat it. Only 11 districts are affected. You please sit down, since you are from Mumbai so there is no trouble for you. You please sit down, so that I make my submission. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, you can seek clarifications after his speech. Please sit down now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: There is one more question. The hon. Minister has mentioned about the Price Stabilisation Fund. Mr. Minister, I do not know about it. Your facts may be correct. But from what we have gathered, the position is that the small and medium farmers could not just follow it. It is slightly complicated. If you can talk to the Rubber Board, you can find a way out. It has to be re-worked.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I follow what you are saying. I am addressing the total problem of the entire industry. There is a role that has to be played by the State Governments. I am sure the hon. Members will appreciate that when it comes to small, detailed difficulties or difficulties of a constituency proper, one thing has to be done.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I am not talking of the constituency proper.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: When it comes to small, detailed difficulties, if a particular bank has not operated, if the hon. Member were to write to us, we will address to it and correct the situation.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: About the whole scheme, a lot of question and doubts as to how it operates are there. The ordinary farmers could not follow it. That is what I said. If you could re-work it, it will benefit the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You please sit down. I am going to tell you about drought. 11 districts of Maharashtra are in the grip of drought.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can go ahead with your speech. If you go on replying there will be no end to it.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We have provided two lakh tonnes of wheat and two lakh tonnes of paddy. It has been done by the Prime Minister. Rs. 15000 crore market borrowing has been given. That has been given earlier. Even if the Government give everything, it is not acknowledged.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, you can put your questions after he completes his speech.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will now come to Venture Capital. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): If you permit, I will seek a clarification. Hyderabad is a beautiful city, a fast growing city. That is why, the Andhra Pradesh

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

Government has requested you to establish a Convention Centre at Hyderabad. So, I am seeking a reply to this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have discussed this with the hon. the Chief Minister. It is on the question of a Convention Centre. I would appreciate the hon. Member's commitment to his own State. But I have already discussed it with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That will certainly happen what is that. It is oral assurance, however, it will never be implemented. If it is demanded they will orally assure.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: They have themselves started on it. ...*(Interruptions)*

I want to announce a new initiative. It is on the Venture Capital. It is my belief that Venture Capital is a very useful, a very important instrument for providing self-employment. We have roughly about three lakh graduates coming out every year. It is not that all those graduates are technical-educated graduates. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not three lakh graduates but it is more than three crore graduates.

Sir, this is a very important aspect. The Government is fully seized of the issue of employment. The question of employment has to be addressed in a multi-model method. It is not a question of just enhancing Government jobs. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has not replied to my point. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have replied. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Again it is the same thing that "Jake rahi Bhawana Jaisi, Prabhu Murat dekhi Tin Taisi" Even it I clarify they will not understand. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: There has been a loss of eight lakh jobs in the organised sector during the last six months. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, on venture capital fund and on equity support for high-risk and high-return enterprises based on innovation and technology, I have already announced a number of venture capital funds focussing primarily on information technology and other hi-tech ventures. There is, for example, the SIDBI Venture Capital Fund and the Indian Advantage Fund promoted by ICICI. We have now recommended to SIDBI to establish a SIDBI Growth Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 crore. This would focus on small-scale units, whether They are in the pharmaceutical sector, biotechnology, light engineering, knowledge industries, software or other growth-based sectors and this Fund will be operationalised by April 2004. It is proposed to raise the corpus of this Fund to Rs. 500 crore in due course. I do believe that it would assist the small-scale units.

Now I wish to clarify one or two issues on direct and indirect taxes. Since it is not within the realm of the Interim Budget and out of strains of propriety, I did not include any changes in direct tax provisions requiring legislative amendments in my speech. But I delineated about the convictions of the Government, about the future directions that policy ought to have and I need to clarify this, in particular, because after the Press and some television channels had met me, it appears that there is a degree of misconception. I had mentioned that the regime of listed equities acquired on or after March 1, 2003 being exempt from long-term capital gains tax should be extended for a further period of three years so as to provide stability. I reiterate that this provision must be continued as it has facilitated investments in equity. I want to assure investors that when the Government extends this benefit through an appropriate legislative amendment, it would be available for a full year for listed equities acquired on or after March 1, 2004.

Similarly, there has also been some speculation about the status of tax regime on dividends. Let me assure hon. Members that there is no change in the regime of dividend distribution tax and for open-ended equity-oriented funds currently exempt from the levy of dividend distribution tax. Again it is our conviction that this exemption must continue and the benefit will be available again for a full year on or after March 1, 2004.

Sir, there is an announcement I have to make in regard to indirect tax and it relates to wood-free particle and fibre board.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he said that propriety does not permit him to tinker with the taxation measures.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is an indirect tax. This does not require an amendment to the Act.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, can you make all the policy announcements and implement them?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is done through notifications.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, from tomorrow, it appears that they would be a caretaker Government. It appears so. ...(*Interruptions*) Maybe from day-after-tomorrow, the Prime Minister will be a caretaker Prime Minister and he will be a caretaker Finance Minister. What new initiatives can he take as a caretaker Finance Minister? ...(*Interruptions*) That means, are you not going to dissolve the Lok Sabha then? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will answer that.

I would appeal to my hon. friend not to feign any agitation or anger on this issue.

I would answer that question to his satisfaction even without pretending to be angry. Almost all indirect taxes are managed through Notification. I will give you an example. I hope you will appreciate it. One of the most important items of daily use is vegetable oil for cooking. We are one country on earth that, for reasons of civilisation, does not use animal fat. Therefore, the management of oil prices is a very important aspect of managing the total price structure along with sugar and other thing.

We are heavily dependent on palmoline import. If palmoline goes up, we have to, through a Notification, continue to manage import of palmoline. If, for example, we reduce the duty too much, all my friends from Kerala will rise in revolt. ...(*Interruptions*) Now do not rise in revolt.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have not done it here.

Therefore, indirect taxes are managed in that fashion. All Governments have had to do this. Certainly, after the House is dissolved, we will not be doing these things. Be assured, Sir, that we will exercise the greatest discussion and restraint on this factor. ...(*Interruptions*)

That is why I am saying that an excise duty of eight per cent was imposed in the last Budget on wood-free particle and fibre board.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There is no direct or indirect tax on promises.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There is a very heavy duty that a promise pays.

I have received a representation for restoring the exemption. On environmental consideration, this suggestion has been accepted. Accordingly, the exemption from excise duty on such particle and fibre board is being resorted.

During the discussions today and even earlier, there were some issues raised about service tax. Now there is no reason for the hon. Member to threaten. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It was not a serious threat.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I see, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I was here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is under control.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The issue was of service tax on tour operators. Considering the supposed hardship faced by tour operators, an abatement of 90 per cent would be provided and given to such operators. The service tax would be charged on only 10 per cent of the gross amount charged by them from the passengers. This Notification will be issued shortly. I may add that instructions have actually been issued already not to insist upon recovery of the amounts due all further orders.

Regarding multiple levies on passenger tax and toll tax on tour operators, these issues really concern the respective State Governments. However, because the issue has been raised here, I would appeal to State Governments to look into this matter sympathetically.

There was a third issue about allocation of certain sums of money for fumigation of foodgrains and some money to be made available to the FCI. A provision already exists for this purpose. Any proposal or scheme that improves the storage of our foodgrains will be fully supported by the Ministry of Finance. That is why the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund has been established.

There were certain observations made about the market. In fact, as we try to do it in the Finance Ministry, we have, of course, regulatory mechanism. Then, we keep ourselves fully informed and abreast of what is happening in the market. But it is not advisable for hon. Members

[Shri Jaswant Singh]

to be so preoccupied with the markets that we study the fluctuations on a daily basis. It is much more the trends that ought to be our concern. The entire regulatory mechanism of the country and the Ministry of Finance are the beneficiaries of two Joint Parliamentary Committees on the subject.

The entire regulatory mechanism has also benefited by experience and by the advice of the two Joint Parliamentary Committees.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Rs. 3000 crore less market capitalisation!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, I would not go into that because if you were to reflect, for example, on today's ascent of the market, it should not be on a daily basis.

SHRI ANIL BASU: But not a feel good factor!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May be. As I said, yesterday, the economic management of the country is not market driven by the Sensex or the Stock Exchange.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Advertisement driven!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Advertisement is a very important part of it. There are certain facts that are indisputable. Different sectors of the economy have been doing exceedingly well, whether it is manufacturing or service sector. Fifteen hundred corporates have declared their results for the quarter ending December 2003. The 1500 corporates, whose figures are available, have shown an increase in the net profit by over 50 per cent of the corresponding period last year.

A record amount of investment has been made in the market during the last year. Second and perhaps a more important reason is the robustness of the systems and the procedures in the capital markets that we have been able to introduce on the advice that the two Joint Parliamentary Committees have rendered. Now, we have an amendment of the SEBI Act, the Repeal of the Unit Trust Act, Introduction of T+2 Rolling Settlement, which is amongst the fastest and the openers in the world. We have set up a Central Listing Authority during the last one year. In addition, the Indian market today is attracting international interest and other countries are actually looking at our system of settlement, clearing, risk management, etc. for adoption in their countries.

We are alert on the situation. I do wish to say that when hon. Members here talk of the market being bubbled, they must be having secret information about the operations of the market. On the empirical data available to the Government and the Regulator, there is no evidence at all that the apprehensions of the hon. Members are justified.

I wish to make one more announcement. The Prime Minister has directed me that Nagpur Airport, which is already a multi-modal international passenger and cargo hub, be made an international airport. This project was taken up by the Government for consideration some time back and the analysis of the situation indicates that Vidharbha as a region and Nagpur as the centre of the region enjoys certain advantages. ...*(Interruptions)* Please permit me to finish. I am very glad the West Bengal is amused by it.

So, Nagpur is the centre of that region and they have already selected locations. When I was holding the charge of Ministry of Defence, we facilitated so many things as we facilitated so many things from the Ministry of Defence for the Government of West Bengal.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why does he not go back to the Ministry of Defence? We can get certain things done.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I see.

Sir, Vidharbha is a backward area and a lot of work has already been done in this regard. Therefore, the Prime Minister has directed that along with the other international airports that are being announced, Nagpur airport, which has already become operational for international flights on account of Haj, may also with immediate effect be declared as an international airport.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Who is candidate from Nagpur?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Both of there's are not here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Presently both one from Congress.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Now the next will be from Shiv Sena and BJP. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, hon. Shri Dasmunsi has made certain observations relating to the Ministry of Defence. It is not for me to address the questions of weapon systems, the suitability or otherwise for one weapon system or another.

That is altogether a different enquiry. But, the hon. Member who has suggested that Defence savings are being utilised for reducing fiscal deficit and therefore Defence savings are being utilised for reducing fiscal deficit and therefore Defence modernisation is suffering, is perhaps overstating the case. The Defence outlay of Rs. 63,300 crore in the RE of 2003-2004 was higher than the actual expenditure last year. Actually there is an increase of 8 per cent. This year, it is Rs. 66,000 crore. As has already been announced, in addition, a Defence Modernisation Fund of Rs. 25,000 crore is being established.

I have covered all the major points that have been raised by the hon. Members. I express my gratitude to the hon. Members. Yet again, I do have one submission that certainly find fault with us. Do correct us where you think we are in error or need correction. But under the guise to constantly spreading vent, defeatism, despondency of despair in fact is self-defeating.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I have a question.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I have a question regarding declining employment situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me tell you that the normal practice is that there are no questions asked after the hon. Minister's speech. Only one or two Members may seek clarifications.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indian agriculture is being adversely affected after accepting the conditions of World Trade Organisations (WTO). Through you I would like to know from the Minister of Finance as to how much subsidy is being provided by the Government to agriculture sector in comparison to that provided to agriculture sector in America and Europe.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that I will be guided by whatever you

direct us. It is better if the hon'ble Members ask for all the clarifications together as has been asked about agriculture so that I may give the answer of all the questions otherwise it will start a new discussion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would humbly like to submit to the hon'ble Minister of Finance that while I had delivered my speech he was not present here. His colleague might have given him entire notes. In course of my speech I had asked three questions however the reply of not a single question was a given. The present Government worked for five years under the leadership of the Government. It was the responsibility of the Government to translate into reality the goal of the Ninth Five Year Plan. I had asked as to why the achievement in various sectors under the Ninth Five Year Plan were suppressed? You yourself had said in your speech that quarterly report.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no other debate. You can ask only one question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No Sir. My question is very specific. If you do not give me minimum protection, what is the point of sitting here? My question is this. The monthly economic report of the Ministry of Finance of December 2003 does not say what the Minister says. It says—I will take only two sentences: "The trends indicate that there is a decline in revenue receipt during April-October 2003-2004 as compared to April-October 2002-2003. There is an increase of 23.2 per cent fiscal deficit during April-October 2003-2004." What is the magic in December-January, that you disclose. If it is your own monthly Report up to December 2003 what is the jugglery of two months? If that two months' jugglery is a quarterly report, then that cannot be accepted as the totality of whole year's economic growth. That is the point. You inform us.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, these were the two Members whom I had promised that I will permit them to ask questions. No more questions can be asked. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no priorities of asking questions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: He has not stated about employment opportunities. It is a more serious problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I had admitted two questions. Please sit down. There will not be another debate being started.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, everybody admits that unemployment is a problem. The hon. Minister only refers to the venture capital. Nothing else. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can say about unemployment also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, what is his answer with regard to unemployment? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked him to speak on unemployment also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister I am not admitting the other questions, otherwise there will be another debate in this House, which I cannot admit.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, there is a fast declining unemployment situation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have been amply replied by the Minister. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he is non-serious. They have destroyed jobs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have requested the Minister to speak on unemployment also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, please allow me to seek a clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If I permit you, then I will have to permit ten other Members. Please sit down.

Now the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon'ble Members may please take their seats. The hon'ble Member had wanted to know whether the subsidy provided to the agriculture sector in India is at par with the subsidy provided in America and Europe or not? Different amount of subsidies are provided in different countries that I have clarified on several occasion. The subsidy provided to agriculture sector in India will not be reduced as subsidies are provided on fertilisers. The minimum support price mechanism is a form of subsidy. With the permission of the Prime Minister I have clarified it on many occasions. For example daily three dollar subsidy is provided on one cow in America. Three lakh 60 thousand dollars subsidy is provided for two years for not cultivating maize in the field. That means total of 360 billion dollars are provided every year as subsidy in Europe and America i.e. one billion dollar daily. Even after that suggesting to reduce subsidy on agriculture sector is completely irrational and India will not do that. The agriculture in India is not only a means of livelihood rather it is way of living. When we talk about agriculture we assert that the soul of India resides in villages and it is the place which gives shape to the living style. So the NDA Government are convinced that the Members need not be apprehensive of confused about all these things.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: My question was that how much subsidy is being provided in India in comparison to that provided in Europe and America. But the reply to this question has not been given.

MR. SPEAKER: You may not get that much information that you desire.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Dasmunsi has asked a clarification. I will reply in English. He asked, 'what kind of magic have you performed that you have projected a certain projection of revenue growth when you projected the third quarter figures of the last year and the full year's figure?' Sir, it is a well-known fact that revenue collection under any Government. In the first quarter, for example, the revenue collection figures will be very different from the last quarter. The revenue collection figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He has been caught. See he has been caught with the help his own document.

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I do not think the hon. Member. ...(*Interruptions*) The revenue collection figures, Sir, ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this is why I said that he is non-serious in his reply. ...(*Interruptions*)

19.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, after releasing the government documents they say that it is not correct. It is they who have given monthly bulletin.

[*English*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, in fact, this is not substantiable. This is not an issue. This is an empirically correct fact. Revenue returns will fluctuate when taxes are paid. When advances are not being given, they will fluctuate. It is quite clear. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will now go to the cut motions.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: The Government is misguiding the country over the issue of farmers. So I am my party boycott the House.

19.01 hrs.

(*At this stage Akhilesh Singh and some other hon. Members left the House*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply given by the Finance Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

(*At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.*)

MR. SPEAKER: A number of cut motions have been moved by hon. Members to the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2004-2005. I am going to put all

the cut motions together to the vote of the House, with the consent of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, the Government have done nothing for the farmers and poor people. So I boycott the House.

19.02 hrs.

(*Shri Ramdas Athawale then left the House*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2004-2005 to vote:

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2005 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 62, 64 to 70, 72, 73 and 75 to 103."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now dispose of Item No. 34, Supplementary Demands for Grants (General).

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, of certain further sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2004 in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof, against Demand Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 38, 40, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 59, 60, 62, 66, 67, 68, 70, 72, 73, 76, 77, 79, 80, 82, 83, 84, 87, 89, 90, 93, 94, 95, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102 and 103."

The motion was adopted.

19.04 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2004*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2004. The hon. Minister may now move for leave to introduce the Bill.

...(Interruptions) -

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, in the morning, you said that those who wanted to give notices of cut motions should give them within 15 minutes. On each head, we gave them separately. How can they be deleted?

MR. SPEAKER: They have not been deleted. They have been negatived. With the consent of the House, I read them out.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is a different matter that the cut motions have been defeated but the cut motions have not been taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: They were taken up together and the House negatived them.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: How can you take them up together?

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken them up together with the consent of the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Is this the way the Government should treat us?

MR. SPEAKER: This is the usual way of putting them together. If you wanted them to be taken up independently, instead of staging a walk out, you should have remained in the House and objected to it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, before you took up the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), we were in position to make our points. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, You came afterwards.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I go to the introduction of the Appropriation Bill.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those Members who wanted to put their notices should have been present in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is not the way. ...(Interruptions) I am very sorry to say that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Every procedure was followed yesterday and today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This House does not respect the Opposition. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, the House has all the respect for the Opposition.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is what you are doing on the penultimate day of the Session. The voice of the Opposition even to stage a walk out is ...(Interruptions) I have every respect for you. ...(Interruptions) You gave the order that those who have given the notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I said, 'together' and nobody objected to it. I took the sense of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir you gave the order in the morning. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I made the suggestion of putting all the cut motions together and nobody objected to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): We agreed to a short discussion. We agreed to the waiving of certain rules. ...(Interruptions)

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 4.2.04.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken the conclusion.

[English]

Now, I go to Appropriation Bill for consideration and passing. Shri Jaswant Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not at all. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You cannot bulldoze the whole system. The Rules Book and the procedure of notice. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is being perfectly followed. Yesterday also we did the same thing and today also we have done the same thing. Shri Jaswant Singh.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am sorry.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I never do it. I do not bulldoze the whole system. Shri Jaswant Singh, now, you can speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: But this is how the things must be done. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, Sir. We do not agree. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We know when we walked out. ...(Interruptions) We know when we walked out. We are aware of the procedure. It is very unfortunate.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House is now taking up Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, after this shining example of constructive and cooperative Opposition, I move this Bill.

I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services of a part of the financial year 2004-05.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services of a part of the financial year 2004-05."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I introduce* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg move:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services of a part of the financial year 2004-05."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for services of a part of the financial year 2004-05."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice. I may be allowed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I am raising a very important and urgent issue concerning thousands and thousands of retired employees of Central public sector undertakings. A Group of Minister was constituted in the year 2002 to consider the payment of statutory dues to the Central public sector undertakings. After rolling back of superannuation age from 60 years to 58 years, the problem has become more acute. For the last several years, for five or six years, these retired employees have not received Gratuities and Provident Funds and even the salaries and wages are due for several months. I have the entire list of the public sector undertakings where these outstanding dues are more than Rs. 2,500 crore. In the case of Andrew Yule, the statutory due is Rs. 9,47,00,000.

*introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

M/s. Bharat Brakes and Valves Limited has been closed two years back. Even after closure, the employees of this company, who retired from service, did not received their statutory dues. The amount due is Rs. 23 crore. M/s. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited has not yet been closed. The statutory due in the case is more than Rs. four crore. M/s. Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineering Limited and has been closed down three years back. The statutory due in this case is Rs. 59 lakh. The same is the case with M/s. Birds, Jute and Exports Limited which has been closed down two years back. *...(Interruptions)* In the case of Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. The amount due is Rs. six crore and in the case of Burn Standard Company Limited it is Rs. 26 crore. The amount in the case of Hindustan Cables Limited is Rs. 81 crore; in the case of Hindustan Copper Limited it is Rs. 24 crore, in the case of Hindustan Steel Works Construction it is Rs. 83 crore. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): What about West Bengal? *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (Kumari Mamata Banerjee): They have closed the public sector in Bengal. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I have the list from Maharashtra also. The companies there are Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai, NTC (MN) Limited, Mumbai and NTC (SM) Limited, Mumbai. Then, coming to Delhi, the companies are Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited, Cement Corporation of India Limited Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation, Hospital Services Cons. Limited, etc. I have the entire list of public sector. *...(Interruptions)* I will send you a copy.

Sir, I would like to know one thing. When a Group of Ministers was constituted to consider this issue, why, after two years, no decision has been taken by the Government of India to clear the outstanding dues to the retired employees of the CPSUs. These employees are today not getting their statutory dues. I may mention that they are statutory dues. We have the Act. Sir, you were the Minister of Heavy Industries; you know the problem of all these CPSUs. As the employees have not received their dues for years together, they are starving today. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you only have to make a specific point at this stage.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, even some employees have committed suicide. Six employees of Burn Standard Works at Howrah, who did not receive their wages for six months, and the retired employees who did not get their statutory dues, committed suicide. The workers are committing suicide for not getting the statutory dues. *...(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the hon. Minister about this. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, at least 30 State Government public sector undertakings in Bengal have been declared closed. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I would like to know what the Government of India is doing. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, may I read the rule for your information? The rule is very specific. You have to be very brief on this issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, Sir. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance as to when the entire outstanding dues to the retired employees of the central public sector undertakings, which comes to a figure of Rs. 2,500 crore, would be cleared and would be paid to the workers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, your notice was not received in time. But since you have given a notice, you can speak for only one or two minutes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, do you want me to respond to this? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Hon. Minister, I have been allowed by the hon. Speaker.

Mr. Minister, I am extremely grateful to you for announcing this subsidy of Rs. 8 for the small tea gardens. But, as a matter of fact, the medium size tea gardens of Assam, West Bengal and Kerala are now closed. The proprietors have declared a lockout illegally and ran away. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): In all three states the Congress has played the role.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, In West Bengal, the intra-union fight of the CPI(M) trade unions has caused death of large number of workers very recently. In this tea industry, a very disastrous incident took place recently. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): I do not want to go into that dispute. Mr. Minister, I am grateful to you. You have addressed the problem. In view of the fact that these medium tea gardens are also closed and that the labourers are suffering and there are deaths and there are various diseases, you may kindly reconsider whether you can include the medium tea gardens also in it. This is my humble appeal to you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will first respond to the second part about the tea estates. I did not mention it, but the Rs. 500 crore fund that we have established is in fact for such purposes. The current announcement relates to the small estates because they are the worst sufferers. We are addressing the entirety of the tea industry. As the hon. Member knows, I had, in fact, taken a decision to send a team specially to visit that area, but unfortunately, for various reasons, that could not be done at that stage, but be assured, Sir, that we will address this problem also.

On the other aspect, which was rather like a water torture, Sir, I would submit that the GoM's recommendations on the statutory dues of the PSU employees have been accepted by the Government. Now, these have gone to the respective Ministries and as soon as the Ministries send their recommendations, the Government will act on them. But it is necessary that so far as statutory dues are concerned, the State Governments also act appropriately. Provision will be made accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2004-05, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The questions is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION BILL*

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004.

MR. SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004 be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 4.2.04.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

FINANCE BILL, 2004

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I beg to move*

"That the Bill to continue for the financial year 2004-2005 the existing rates of income-tax and the levy of the National Calamity Contingent duty and the National Calamity Contingent Duty of Customs on certain items, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to continue for the financial year 2004-2005 the existing rates of income-tax and the levy of the National Calamity Contingent duty and the National Calamity Contingent Duty of Customs on certain items, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

19.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 5, 2004/Magha 16, 1925 (Saka).

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Tenth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
